Book Review

In and around the Pine Barrens. In 1911 a comprehensive local Flora appeared as Part II of the Annual Report for 1910 of the New Jersey State Museum. Now it is newly published in book form and as "The Plants of Southern New Jersey"* by Witmer Stone is probably still the major definitive work for this region, its availability on a much wider scale is welcome. Its function as a local manual and a study in the geographical distribution of plants is amply fulfilled and to this may be added a detailed historical and botanical record of the Pine Barrens of New Jersey.

The Flora covers almost all of the coastal plain of Southern New Jersey which Stone divided into five distinct floral zones, the "Middle", "Coastal Strip", "Cape May", "Maritime" and the "Pine Barrens", the latter a botanically interesting region of some 3000 square miles occupying part of four counties and characterized by stunted vegetation, sandy soils, cedar swamp, streams and mosquitos. Even in his day Stone was worried by the eroding influence of civilisation in this area; but happily, in 1972, the Torrey Botanical Club, after a field trip to the Pine Barrens, reported the co-operation of the Highways Department in allowing roadside plants to flower and fruit. We learn too, from the foreword by Elizabeth M. Woodford, that "large portions of the Barrens are still untouched".

Stone obviously had a deep feeling for all forms of natural history and for a portrait of the author one cannot do better than read this same foreword. Even so, on browsing through the book, one soon becomes aware of how Stone's personality, his warmth and feeling, pervaded this humanized Flora. The seventy-four page introduction is very readable and goes into comprehensive and illuminating detail on the floral zones, and there are many facts and figures and lists of plants for comparison of the various elements within and outside the area concerned.

The "Systematic Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Southern New Jersey" follows the introduction. An unusual feature of the catalogue is the keys, in which the genera (except the larger ones) and species of a family are all contained within one key, an unusual but useful and time-saving device. Each species includes a note on the flowering and fruiting period and its distribution within New Jersey. In addition there are notes on habit and habitat and these are often expanded into interesting and informative narratives. Some such examples can be found under *Schizaea pusilla*, *Pinus rigida*, *Chamaecyparis thyoides* and *Magnolia virginiana*.

The nomenclature has apparently been changed in only a few instances and no doubt many changes would be required to bring it up to date. Nevertheless, a comparison with Onagraceae in the *North American Flora* (ser. 2, 5: 1–278, 1965) shows that of seventeen taxa, ten names would remain unchanged, four would be in synonymy with a change of specific or generic name, two would change the generic name but retain the specific epithet, and one is still known as *Chamaenerion* or *Epilobium*.

The catalogue is followed by a bibliography, list of localities, a glossary and a combined index of botanical and common names. There are also 129 plates of photographs, paintings and drawings taken from the original edition and these have reproduced extremely well. The lay-out and type size are visually pleasing, and for a book of this size and quality $25 is not too unreasonable for a library, although rather expensive for the private buyer.

It is now 34 years since Witmer Stone died and this volume is surely a commendable memorial to his abilities and qualities.

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* The Plants of Southern New Jersey. By Witmer Stone. 1911. 815pp. 129 plates. Reprint 1973. 9″. Quarterman Publications, Inc. Massachusetts, U.S.A. Price $25.