

Preface

This work was initiated in a limited way about twenty years ago by the senior author with a grant from the National Science Foundation for study of aquatic plants in Florida. Subsequently, funding was obtained from the Institute of General Sciences, National Institutes of Health. During the several years those grants were in force, efforts were given to field exploration, collecting of voucher specimens, preparation of illustrations, and to preliminary drafts of keys and descriptions for some families and genera.

From 1963 to 1973 the senior author's departmental duties changed in such a way that research on the project languished. During that ten-year period, Dr. Donovan S. Correll and Dr. Helen B. Correll, then of the Texas Research Foundation, commenced and saw to fruition their comprehensive book, *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southwestern United States*, first published in 1972 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and reprinted (in two volumes) in 1975 by the Stanford University Press. While the Corrells were engaged in research leading to that publication, we offered them the opportunity to use whatever illustrations we had which were appropriate to their work. They did indeed use a large number of these illustrations, and a little salve was thus applied to the senior author's conscience.

Upon his retirement from Florida State University and then chiefly under the auspices of Tall Timbers Research, Inc., the senior author reactivated research on aquatic and wetland plants. Dr. Wooten, then temporarily in residence at Tallahassee, particularly encouraged renewal of the effort, and her collaboration in it was agreed upon. At that time it was decided to expand the geographic area of coverage to include a block of states of the southeastern United States that would juxtapose against the eastern boundary of that area incorporated in the Correll's project, namely, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Gratitude is hereby expressed for the following grants from federal agencies which supported the basic early stages of the work: NSF G-4321 and Division of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Public Health Service RG-6305.

Artists who drew nearly all of the illustrations done under our supervision are Mr. Grady W. Reinert and Ms. Barbara N. Culbertson. Their participation is remembered with much pleasure, no little appreciation, and a full measure of admiration for their talents. We extend our thanks also to Ms. Melanie Darst who prepared a few illustrations during the final stages of collation of illustrative materials. Gratefully we acknowledge the privilege of using plates from Clyde Reed's *Selected Weeds of the United States* (1970) and illustrations from Hitchcock and Chase's *Grasses of the United States* (1951). The editor of the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* kindly agreed to our use (slightly modified) of plates from the paper on *Smilax* by the late Professor W. C. Coker (1944). To Robert Kral, Dr. John W. Thieret, and to Dr. Robert E. Haynes and Mr. Alan Wentz go our thanks for use of plates from their published works. We thank Dr. Carroll E. Wood, Jr. who made available three plates from Wilson (1960) in the *Journal of Arnold Arboretum*. We express our sincere gratitude to the Drs. Correll for their very considerable encouragement, advice on technical matters, for use of drawings prepared for their book by Vivien Frazier, and for use of orchid plates.

Over the years persons who were at one time or another graduate students in botany at Florida State University gave valuable assistance, both directly and indirectly, some of it fruits of their labors, more particularly enrichment to life. These include Robert Kral, William D. Reese, Ronald W. Pursell, Paul W. Redfearn, Jr., Luis Almodovar, Ronald Phillips, Grady W. Reinert, Albert Latina, Norlan C. Henderson, Richard S. Mitchell, H. Larry Stripling, Richard D. Houk, William F. Fryar, Sidney McDaniel, and Victoria I. Sullivan.

No small measure of credit is due, and is given with appreciation, to the Tall Timbers Research for aid of staff and services, for use of facilities, and for the stimulative interest of the Director, Dr. Edwin V. Komarek, Sr., who has shown the senior author every personal and professional courtesy and has provided the freedom to work without imposing extraneous interruptions.

Contributions of parts of this work by Dr. Donovan S. Correll, Dr. Robert Kral, and Mr. Howard L. Clark are acknowledged with much gratitude.

During the last several years, we have enjoyed on numerous occasions a pleasurable and profitable association in field work with a highly skilled amateur botanist, Mr. Angus Gholson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Resource Manager for Lake Seminole, Chattahoochee, Florida.

Close friends (and some not so close) know to what extent Mrs. Godfrey's dignity and patience have been stretched taut and thin by her husband's professional preoccupations, not to mention his general idiosyncratic behavior. Her indulgences do not go unappreciated.

In preparation of this work, judicious use has been made of a great deal of information in published works of botanical colleagues: taxonomic revisions, manuals and floras, floristic studies. Availability of these publications has helped greatly to make the task practicable, and this is gratefully acknowledged.

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