

BOOK REVIEW

ROY L. LEHMAN, RUTH O'BRIEN, AND TAMMY WHITE. 2009. **Plants of the Texas Coastal Bend.** (ISBN 978-1-60344-130-9, pbk.). Texas A&M University Press, John H. Lindsey Bldg., Lewis Street, 4354 TAMU, College Station, Texas, 77843-4354, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.tamupress.com; 800-826-8911). \$29.95, 368 pp., includes CD-ROM, 65 line drawings, 1 b/w photo, 6" × 9".

This second printing of *Plants of the Texas Coastal Bend* by Lehman et al. expands and updates the classic text *Flora of the Texas Coastal Bend* (1975) by Fred B. Jones. The "Texas Coastal Bend" includes all or parts of twelve Texas counties, including Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Goliad, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio and Victoria. The text includes nearly 70 individual drawings and comes with a compact disc with more than 750 color photographs. In all, about 1,150 species and varieties are included. The book is limited to trees, shrubs, vines, and wildflowers, but does not cover grasses as they have been well treated in other books.

The book is broken down into three main parts: an introduction (how to use keys, limits of the region, geology, climate, history of vegetation), the keys to the families, and species descriptions. These main parts are followed by an appendix that provides a list of color photographs on the companion CD, a glossary, bibliography, and index. The book is organized by botanical class and then alphabetically by family, genus and species. The plants are characterized by appearance, size, habit, occurrence, soil preference, flowering period, and for non-native species, place of origin. The scientific nomenclature follows Jones, Wipff, and Montgomery's (1997) *Vascular Plants of Texas*. Common names are provided, as well as extra information on rare and threatened plants. The keys were designed to be simple enough for amateur naturalists or botany students to correctly identify plants in the region.

To say that this book comes with a "companion" CD would be a bit of an understatement. Practically speaking, the reader will likely be using the CD images and the text keys' simultaneously when identifying plants. The CD's plant images are excellent and quite helpful for narrowing down plant identification. The CD that came with this review copy did contain a few errors. For some images, the file extension is not complete and the image will not display. Luckily, there is an easy fix. For example, opening up the folder for Asteraceae, you will see many images and a few blank ones. For the blank images, they have a file name, such as "Cirsium texanum flower white.jp." Change to "Cirsium texanum flower white.jpeg" and the image will appear.

Overall, this is a solid resource for those botanizing the Texas coastal bend. The book is predominantly made up of the keys and species descriptions, thus it is not a practical field guide, but more helpful in the herbarium. If you work in the Gulf Coast of Texas, this book will be indispensable for making accurate and scientific plant identifications, whether you are a trained botanist, an amateur naturalist, or layperson.—Kevin Janni, SWCA Environmental Consultants, 3901 Arlington Highlands Blvd, Suite 200, Arlington, TX 76018, kjanni@swca.com and Research Associate, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 1700 University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A.