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A Checklist of the Vascular Flora of Poweshiek County, Iowa

By NORMAN H. RUSSELL

In spite of the fact that Poweshiek County has been the collecting ground for such eminent professional or amateur botanists as H. W. Norris, Frank W. Johnson, and Henry S. Conard, no list of county plants, verified by herbarium specimens, has yet appeared in print. In addition, references to plants of Poweshiek County in the various papers on different genera in Iowa have been very scarce. The first edition of the "Grinnell Flora" by H. S. Conard was a list of the plants, both wild and cultivated, of Grinnell and "vicinity," but the geographical limits of its coverage are uncertain. In addition it included only the commoner plants and voucher specimens of many of them were apparently not filed at Grinnell.

Since about 1880 a collection of several thousand Iowa specimens has accumulated in the Grinnell College herbarium, of which approximately 1500 were Poweshiek County collections. The majority of these were unmounted and many were unlabeled, not identified, or with names now not in use. Most were collected by the three men mentioned above and the present author. In the course of putting this herbarium into proper order, the majority of the determinations have been checked, and the nomenclature has been brought up-to-date for all, following, for the most part, the recent treatments by H. A. Gleason in the Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora. It is thought that a checklist of these plants will prove valuable not only to future Grinnell botanists but also to all those interested in the plants of central Iowa.

Though the majority of the determinations are those of the present author, certain of the groups of plants have been worked over by specialists, whose decisions have been followed in nearly all cases. Appreciation is expressed, in retrospect, to the following for their identifications: C. L. Gilly for the Family Cyperaceae, particularly the genus *Carex*; Ernest Beal for the aquatic monocotyledons; Carleton Ball for the genus *Salix*; Tom Cooperrider for the ferns; Dan Nicolson for the genus *Asclepias*; and, finally, Dr. Henry S. Conard for determinations in many difficult groups. The author is indebted to Dan Nicolson for a check of the Iowa taxonomic literature for Poweshiek County citations.

In the following checklist both the plant families and the genera and species within them have been arranged alphabetically. Though this is not in keeping with ordinary taxonomic practices, it should certainly make the checklist much more easily used both by students and by professional taxonomists. The checklist includes 699 species,