

Gentry's Río Mayo Plants, The Tropical Deciduous Forest and Environs of Northwest Mexico

Revised and edited by Paul S. Martin, David Yetman, Mark Fishbein, Phil Jenkins, Thomas R. Van Devender, and Rebecca K. Wilson

The Río Mayo is a region of northwestern Mexico approximately the size of the state of Connecticut. It is a region characterized by vegetation from coastal and continental, desert and tropical domains and thus is unique in its species richness and diversity. Howard Scott Gentry first traveled to the Río Mayo in 1933. He traveled there as a collector, collecting insect specimens for the University of California and plant specimens for Stanford and the University of Michigan. Over the next four years Gentry spent 27 months in the region documenting its natural history, geology and biology. Until this time the Río Mayo was a relatively unknown region, familiar only to the natives and a few miners and ranchers. Fieldwork was very challenging physically. Gentry is described "with a pick and a burro laden with plant presses, often accompanied by a guide he moved unhurriedly through the topographically convoluted sierras amassing

the details he recorded in his writings". His fieldwork resulted in a book published by the Carnegie Institute in 1942 and entitled *A Study of the Flora and Vegetation of the Valley of the Río Mayo, Sonora*.

In 1991, Dr. Gentry contacted Paul Martin and endorsed the revision of the Río Mayo plants. Prior to his death in 1993, he collaborated with some of the authors to prepare this revision. Paul Martin is very familiar with the Río Mayo and has made many trips (which he refers to as "week-long Sunday drives") to the area. The other authors have also traveled extensively in this region.

The revised book contains a new introduction, historical background, and a review of geography and vegetation. The changes to the region due to lumbering, agriculture and increased grazing are described. The original field-oriented focus is retained in the revision. Local knowledge and plant uses are emphasized. The book has been expanded to include information on 2800 taxa, more than double the original 1200.

The University of Arizona Press, Southwest Center Series, September 1998. 570 pp. (7x10) with 17x22 inch removable map. \$75.00 cloth (ISBN 0-8165-1726-6)

Dudleya and *Hasseanthus* Handbook

Paul H. Thomson

This book is the culmination of an independent, fifteen year study of the genera *Dudleya* and *Hasseanthus*. The study, writing, design and publication of this handbook is exclusively the work of the author. Most of the book is devoted to *Dudleya* with explanations about the cousin *Hasseanthus*, its differences and a discussion of some *Hasseanthus* species at the end of the book.

The author initially attempted to collect species from as many locations as possible (either through his own collecting efforts or the generosity of others). He grew them in Bonsall, California, making careful written and photographic records and has published his results in this book.

Mr. Thomson's collection grew to 700+ plants, 400 of which were killed by freezing temperatures. He managed to rebuild some of the collection only to have 300+ plants destroyed by very high temperatures. Despite these problems, he retained his collecting interest and continued work on the book. He states his primary objective is to present the information on these genera in a non-technical manner that will interest and enlighten the reader.

His book contains four pages of black and white photographs demonstrating emerging stalk variation. Sixty-three pages of exceptional color photographs make this handbook a valuable tool for studying *Dudleya* and *Hasseanthus*. Non-traditional views are expressed in many sections. The book contains useful information and represents a compilation of many observations not available elsewhere in one work.

Bonsall Publications, 4339 Holly Lane, Bonsall, California 92003, October 1993. 248 pp. \$40.00.