

## BOOK REVIEW

*Pocket Guide to Trees and Shrubs in British Columbia*, by E. H. Garman. British Columbia Forest Service Publ. B. 28, 3rd. (revised) edition. Queen's Printer, Victoria, B.C. 1963. Pp. 137. \$1.00.

Botany has its taxonomic quicksands, but botanists live in a more manageable world than entomologists, witness the short simple keys in this booklet. A stapled, single-folded paperback, 5x7½ inches, this updates an already useful publication, originally appearing in offset 30 years ago. The first printed edition by Dr. B. G. Griffith was dated 1937. Exhausted and revised in 1953 and 1963, it has reappeared printed in 1964. The work deserves to last and shows every sign of doing so.

The author sidesteps the problem of too-small and hence poorly printed range maps, by inserting a map of the province on the middle page carefully printed on glossy paper. It shows forest type boundaries overprinted with the broad groups of trees found. Latitude and longitude are shown, from which it is easy to locate obscure places, the coordinates for which are given in the text in brackets, where the figures are easily ignored in reading but are indispensable if needed. Also in the middle section are 12 glossy colored photographs on 6 pages, showing some needles, pollen flowers and cones, mature and immature.

The text is firmly tied to older and more ambitious works, with 44 references and a system of abbreviations that saves space in citing illustrations, e.g. NT 54 is p. 54 of *Native Trees of Canada*. The system is satisfactory but there should be a

table of abbreviations; they are hard to identify from mention in one of the prefaces or buried in the text.

There is a good glossary and an index giving common and systematic names in 4 different type faces, a method simpler in use than it sounds. The keys are dichotomous, indented but not numbered. The descriptions are well planned and written. Some interesting historical notes are included, with individual records and locations of exceptionally old or tall or large trees. Heights of tall trees and their diameters are given in feet or inches. This choice probably bothered the author, for the measurements of smaller forms are given in meters and millimeters. Nevertheless it is a good and workable compromise.

Engelmann and white spruce are rescued from the splitters and regrouped by Prof. T. M. C. Taylor as subspecies of *P. glauca*. The longest key, to 34 different willows, is adapted from a key to northern species by Dr. H. M. Raup of Harvard. There are a few exotics. American and English elm are included because they have been widely planted notably on Vancouver Island and at Agassiz. The Himalayan blackberry, gorse, Scotch broom and rowan appear. A useful inclusion is a key for winter identification to genus of angiosperm trees.

This is a really pocket-sized guide book for the layman that is well-printed, authoritative and easily read. Since it also is sensibly priced it is a must for hikers, campers, assorted nature lovers and especially for ecologically-minded entomologists.

—H. R. MacCarthy