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**The Web of the Spider. Laura Barr Lougee. Bloomfield Hills, Michigan: Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1964. 44 pp. \$3.50.**

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### REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE

WILD FLOWERS OF THE UNITED STATES: Volume 1, THE NORTH-EASTERN STATES (in two parts). Harold William Rickett. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1966. x, 559 pp. \$39.50.

Many entomologists are faced with the problem of identifying a plant that an insect has been gathering nectar from, feeding on, or pollinating. Unless he is armed with a working knowledge of botany, and can handle the cumbersome keys in our modern floras, he must resort to a specialist or a picture book.

This sumptuous folio, the first of a five-volume series for the United States, excels as the latter. It is even more than a picture book, however, for it includes numerous keys and excellent line drawings to aid in the identification of some 1700 of the 3000 species of flowering plants in the northeast (excluding grasses, sedges, rushes, woody plants, and "a number of unattractive weeds with small greenish flowers which are not likely to excite the interest of the amateur."), more than half again as many species as have been treated in any previous popular handbook on northeastern wild flowers. In addition to the excellent illustrations, Dr. Rickett has included comments on the distribution, habitat, and other information to aid identification of each species. He also includes substantial and interesting comments on each plant.

The coverage of this volume is from Maine to Minnesota, south to Virginia and Missouri. Virtually every herbaceous wild flower brought to one's attention in Michigan will be found here. From foreword to index, this publication of The New York Botanical Garden is a fine example of the book maker's art. The 180 color plates were printed in four to seven colors by offset lithography in England, where the special paper was also made.

*Wild Flowers of the United States* is an important addition to any entomologist's library, if he can afford the price. J.P.D.

THE WEB OF THE SPIDER. Laura Barr Lougee. Bloomfield Hills, Michigan: Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1964. 44 pp. \$3.50.

It is a relief to find such a straightforward and objective work as Lougee's *The Web of the Spider*. Her brief but lucid descriptions of spider anatomy, silk production and web construction will induce appreciation and observation of these much-maligned animals.

The slender book is divided into twelve major sections, plus a conclusion and suggestions for further study. Each section is enhanced by photographs and other illustrations; these would have been more meaningful if line drawings had been labeled and living specimens had been used. Some subject areas will be understood only if the reader has previous specialized knowledge. Yet every reader will gain profit from this enjoyable book.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA ENTOMOLOGISTS. Edited by John H. Masters. Vol. 1, No. 1, [October?] 1966; No. 2, not received; No. 3, Feb. 1967; No. 4, Aug. 1967. Free to members of the A.M.E., who pay \$2.75 a year for active and \$1.75 for corresponding memberships, which are open to all by contacting John T. Sorensen, 5309 37th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55417.

As does Michigan, Minnesota includes a series of life zones from Upper Austral in the south, through the 'transition' to Canadian in the northeast, including occasional Hudsonian bog areas. More western species sometimes colonize in Minnesota, and the diversity of habitats results in a good variety of species in an interesting collecting area.

Our brothers in Minnesota have long taken advantage of this good fortune, but only recently has a newsletter appeared to document their activities. It is a folded 24-page silk-screen mimeograph production with heavy stock covers. The inexpensive format has the usual drawback of muddy type, but a definite improvement can be seen through the course of publication, due to the utilization of better materials. The *Newsletter* accepts contributions "on any aspect of entomology in any part of the world," but "priority in publication will be given to papers of the North Central Region and to papers by members of the Association."

The first issues have been dominated by the lepidopterists. Papers generally fall into two categories; area lists and accounts of collecting trips. Many of these are quite informative and useful, especially the month-by-month account of "Butterfly Collecting in Arizona" by John H. Masters in No. 3. Annotated lists of the Lepidoptera and Coleoptera of Minnesota are appearing serially, and there have been several papers on individual species of Coleoptera. Book reviews appear in No. 4, pp. 97 [*recte* 95]-96.

The usual errors common to newsletters appear. Frequently scientific names are not underlined in the absence of italics, while others are. Linnaeus' name is consistently given as 'Linneaus' throughout a paper in No. 3, pp. 61-65; 'sulfer' consistently appears for 'sulphur' or 'sulfur'