

**FLORA OF EASTBOURNE. BEING  
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE  
FLOWERING PLANTS, FERNS,  
ETC., OF THE CUCKMERE  
DISTRICT, EAST SUSSEX**

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Flora of Eastbourne. Being an Introduction to the Flowering Plants, Ferns, Etc., of the Cuckmere District, East Sussex by F. C. S. Roper

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**F. C. S. ROPER**

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FLORA  
OF  
EASTBOURNE.

"The study of Natural History, as a corrective of the belief that definitions are essential to substantial truth, might be of great use; and the advantage which might thus be obtained is such as well entitles this study to a place in a liberal education. We may further observe, that in order that Natural History may produce such an effect, it must be studied by the inspection of the *objects* themselves, and not by the reading of books only. Its lesson is, that we must in all cases of doubt or obscurity refer, not to words or definitions but to things. The Book of Nature is its dictionary: it is there that the natural historian looks to find the meaning of the words which he uses. So long as a plant, in its most essential parts, is more like a rose than anything else, it is a rose. He knows no other definition."—DR. W. WHATELL, "Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences."

"Validius est nature testimonium quam doctrine argumentum."

ST. AMBROSE.

## P R E F A C E .

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THE study of Natural History has made such rapid progress during the last twenty years, and the works of Prof. Babington, Mr. Bentham, Dr. Hooker, Mr. Watson and others, have directed so much attention to Botanical Studies; that doubtless there are many visitors to, as well as residents in Eastbourne, who will find a guide to the local flora an assistance, in pointing out the plants known to occur, and the localities in which the rarer species may probably be found.

The counties of Dorset and Surrey have their local Floras; and though no complete Botany of Kent has yet appeared, the works illustrating the Flowering Plants and Ferns of Tunbridge Wells, give the greater part of the species likely to occur in that county. But at present no attempt has been made to give a complete list of the plants occurring in Sussex, and the eastern portion of the county appears to have been especially neglected. If the present first attempt at a local Flora should assist in directing the attention of the student of nature to a more careful study of the wonderful works of creation around us, it will fully accomplish the object I have in view. It must, however, only be considered an outline of the flora of the Cuckmere district, as a large portion of the country on the North and West has only this year been added to the district of the Eastbourne Natural History Society, and at present is only partially explored.

My object in printing it has been chiefly for the use of local botanists, in the hope that the more distant parts may be as fully worked up, as those in the immediate neighbourhood of

Eastbourne. It may be considered by some simply as a catalogue of my own Herbarium, but my wish has been to confine it to those plants which have been found during the last few years. I wish to express my thanks to the Rev. E. S. Dewick, the Rev. H. E. Maddock, the Rev. A. K. Cherrill, Mr. W. W. Reeves, and Mr. Costick, for the localities of a few plants, to which their names are appended in the Flora; and to Miss Hall and Miss Van Sommer, for allowing me to examine their collections, and for some valuable information. But I am especially indebted for several interesting species, and for kindly pointing out the localities of many rare plants, to Miss A. Woodhouse, who has been some years a resident, during which time she has paid great attention to our local botany, and without whose assistance the appearance of the work would have been delayed for several years. I have also gratefully to acknowledge much kind assistance and advice from Mr. H. C. Watson, who, in addition to sending me copies of his later works, has most kindly examined my collections of Rushes, Carices, and Grasses. And I am much obliged to Mr. Hemsley for lists of plants formerly collected in the district, which I hope he will shortly publish in a complete Flora of the county. I have to thank Prof. Babington for kindly sending me a specimen of the rare *Bupleurum aristatum*, which has only once been found in the county, and then within a few miles of Eastbourne. I am also particularly indebted to Mr. H. E. Rumble, for the map which so well illustrates the geology and outlines of our district, which he has kindly reduced for me from the Ordnance Geological Survey.

*Palgrave House, Eastbourne,*  
20th April, 1875.



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## INTRODUCTION.



EASTBOURNE is situated on the coast of Sussex, at the base of the Chalk Downs, which rise immediately to the West, forming the noble promontory of Beachy Head, and stretch away thence for eight miles to the Signal House beyond the Cuckmere. The country for about seven miles to the eastward is occupied with the low marshy land of the Pevensey Levels, beyond which another seven miles is composed of undulating Wealden Beds forming low cliffs on the shore, and terminating at St. Leonards. The town is sixty-three miles from London and twenty-four miles east of Brighton.

LIMITS OF THE DISTRICT.—The district of the Cuckmere to which the following Flora is limited, comprises about one-third of Mr. Watson's vice-county of East Sussex, and forms one of the seven drainage districts, into which Mr. Hemsley proposes to divide the county, should he carry out his long talked of plan of publishing a Flora of Sussex. It is bounded on the West by the district of the Ouse, to the North and East by that of the Rother, and on the South by the sea. The actual boundary is clearly traceable on the Ordnance Map, and commences at the Signal House on the coast immediately west of Cuckmere Haven, follows the road through Chinting, Alfriston, and Berwick to Upper Dicker, then bends to the west by the road across Dicker Common to Stone Cross. It there turns north, following the road between Laughton Common and Vert Woods to East Hoathly and Hawkhurst Common, west of

Passingworth Woods to Cross-in-Hand. Here, turning to the east, it follows the road north of Heathfield Park by Cade's Street to the Three-Cups-Corner; turns slightly to the south to Newcastle Farm, and then north by Dallington to Cade's Green, thence it follows the high road by Battle, Hoads Wood, and Silver Hill to St. Leonards, immediately west of Warrior Square. These outlines are well shewn on the accompanying map which has been reduced from the Ordnance Survey.

This district, lying between the parallels of  $50^{\circ} 45'$  and  $50^{\circ} 59'$  N. Lat. and  $0^{\circ} 7'$  and  $0^{\circ} 34'$  E. Long., forms an irregular triangle, of which the southern or coast line is about 22 miles, the West or Cuckmere side about 16 miles, and the third side running from north-west to south-east about 19 miles. The entire area may probably be fairly estimated at 160 square miles.

**DRAINAGE.**—The drainage of the western and largest portion of this district is effected by the Cuckmere and its tributaries. This river has two principal sources—one in Heathfield Park at the extreme north of the district, whence it runs by Warbleton and Grove Bridge to Hellingly, receiving two or three small streams on either side; the western source is in Passingworth Woods near Waldron, whence it flows in a south-easterly direction about midway between Waldron on the north, and East Hoathly and Chiddingly on the south, until it enters the eastern branch near Hellingly Place. The united stream then takes a southerly course by Michelham and Arlington to Berwick, whence it winds through a marshy alluvial tract in a valley of the Chalk Downs, passing Alfriston, Littlington, and West Dean, to the coast at Cuckmere Haven, where it is supposed to have formerly caused a mere or lake, which gave rise to its name. The outfall at Cuckmere Haven is bounded on the east and west by chalk cliffs of considerable altitude, and is frequently choked up by the shingle which the set of the tide, under the action of a south-west wind, accumu-