

**EDMONSTON'S FLORA OF
SHETLAND: COMPREHENDING A LIST
OF THE PREVALENT WILD-FLOWERS,
HORSE-TAILS, CLUB-MOSSES AND
FERNS OF THE SHETLAND ISLES**

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C. F. ARGYLL SAXBY

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EDMONDSTON'S
FLORA OF SHETLAND

(FIRST EDITION—LINNEÆAN SYSTEM, ISSUED 1845)

COMPREHENDING A LIST OF THE
PREVALENT WILD-FLOWERS, HORSE-TAILS, CLUB MOSSES
AND FERNS OF THE SHETLAND ISLES

SECOND EDITION—NATURAL CLASSIFICATION

EDITED AND REVISED

BY

C. F. ARGYLL SAXBY, F.S.Sc. LONDON

ALSO

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH COMPILED

FROM HIS MOTHER'S

LIFE OF THOMAS EDMONDSTON, MEMB. BOT. SOC.,
EDIN., ETC.

*Professor of Botany in the Andersonian University of Glasgow,
Naturalist on H. M. S. "Herald," 1845*

Edinburgh and London

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EDITORIAL PREFACE

AS the first edition of this "Flora" stood, it was almost valueless from many points of view. The general arrangement was obsolete, the nomenclature was in many cases different from modern terms owing to change of opinion concerning species and variety. There were several inaccuracies of detail, natural to the age of the young author, and attributable also to the state of botanical knowledge in his day.

The chief value of the work lay in the fact that it was the first attempt to systematically study the Flora of the islands; and, while one cannot deny the fact that errors of identification and judgment crept into the pages, we cannot but admire the energy and enthusiasm which prompted a mere lad to undertake such a tremendous task.

Strange to say, although botanists galore have within recent years made annual visits to Shetland, and much valuable information

has been given by them in botanical journals, no systematic study seems to have been made from month to month by any resident or visitor, and no handbook has been published as in the case of almost every other Scottish county.

It is therefore necessary that attention should be directed to the fact that Edmondston's "Flora" published in 1845, and the present edition fifty-eight years later, are the only attempts of the kind in existence, as far as the editor can ascertain.

Owing to the writer's unfamiliarity with several of the islands, the confirmation of much of Edmondston's notes has been referred to the notes of others published in the aforementioned scientific journals.

This work has been greatly assisted by advice from Dr I. B. Balfour, F.R.S., etc., Edinburgh, G. S. Boulger, F.L.S., F.G.S., Professor in City of London College, Bryant Sowerby, F.R.S., and W. H. Beeby, F.L.S.

While gratefully acknowledging the letters of advice sent by each of these gentlemen, special thanks are due to Mr Beeby, who not only advised, but also lent a set of his published notes for comparison.

Mr Beeby has done much to make known the Flora of Shetland, and his notes include many plants that were neither included in Edmondston's list nor observed by the writer, whose visits to the islands were unfortunately not at the best season for botanical research.

Where it has been possible, without incorporating too much of the eminent botanist's original matter, the most important of these additions have been included in the present list, followed by his name: and there they may perhaps be allowed to remain until superseded by the work on the same subject which we hope his more experienced pen will soon give to the world. One or two little additions have also been made to the catalogue by the editor, but he wishes it to be understood that, as far as it has been possible, the "Flora" has been left in its original form, with the exception of the introduction. He exercised the editorial right only to confirm by authorities, augment and translate; but where an individual opinion is expressed, it has been given so as to leave no doubt as to the author.

It only remains to add that the biographical sketch is compiled from a "Life