

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.  
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF  
NEBRASKA: CONDUCTED BY THE  
BOTANICAL SEMINAR, PARTS 1-4**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649528912

University of Nebraska. Botanical Survey of Nebraska: Conducted by the Botanical Seminar,  
Parts 1-4 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VARIOUS**

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.  
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF  
NEBRASKA: CONDUCTED BY THE  
BOTANICAL SEMINAR, PARTS 1-4**



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA,

---

**BOTANICAL SURVEY OF NEBRASKA.**

Conducted by the Botanical Seminar.

---

I.

**Preliminary:**  
**The Plan and Scope of the Survey.**

LIBRARY OF THE GRAY HERBARIUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE GIFT OF

*C. E. Bessey*

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA,

1892.

Published by the Seminar.

# BOTANICAL SURVEY OF NEBRASKA.

CONDUCTED BY THE

Botanical Seminar of the University.

---

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

HON. CHAS. H. MORRILL, President of the Board of Regents.

JAMES H. CANFIELD, Chancellor of the University.

CHARLES E. BESSEY, Professor of Botany.

## MEMBERS OF THE SURVEY:

JARED G. SMITH, M.A.      ROSCOE POUND, M.A.      ALBERT F. WOODS, M.A.  
HERBERT MARSLAND, B.Sc.      PER A. RYDBERG, B.Sc.      FRED CLEMENTS.

## BOTANICAL ADVISOR:

CHARLES E. BESSEY, Ph.D.

## SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

ALBERT F. WOODS.

## HERBARIUM COMMITTEE:

ALBERT F. WOODS.      PER A. RYDBERG.      FRED CLEMENTS.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

ROSCOE POUND.      ALBERT F. WOODS.      HERBERT MARSLAND.



## PRELIMINARY: THE PLAN AND SCOPE OF THE SURVEY.

The object of this, the first publication of the Botanical Survey of Nebraska, is introductory only. It is intended to serve as a preface and introduction to the future publications of the Survey.

Although the general plan of the Survey was agreed upon in June of this year, and no little collecting done in accordance with it in July and August, the Survey was not formally organized till August 24. At that time the organization set forth on the preceding page was effected. As there indicated, the Survey will be entirely under the control of the Seminar. The Seminar selects the members and assigns the work, and its members will bear the entire expense of the Survey. But in the conduct of it they will be advised and assisted by the gentlemen who have kindly consented to act as the advisory committee, and in botanical and scientific matters they will rely largely on the advice and assistance of Dr. Bessey.

In entering upon the Survey, the Seminar is fully aware of the difficulties which must necessarily beset such an undertaking when conducted by private means and enterprise. But if there are difficulties attending the conduct of the Survey by private enterprise, there are also undoubted advantages. The members need never fear to do purely scientific work, they need not spend their time in strengthening their official rather than their scientific position, and they need not be distracted from more important matters by the burden of continually demonstrating to doubting Thomases the practical nature of their undertaking.

No apology for the undertaking of such a survey is needed. The changes which are taking place in the flora of the state have already been noted by Mr. Webber in the preface to his catalogue. The rapid settlement of the western portions of the state is undoubtedly accelerating these changes, and requires that those regions be examined at once, while the native flora is intact. The



number of collectors and persons interested in botany in the state is increasing, and they demand that the local flora—for the determination of which, as regards the Anthophytes, two manuals are required in many parts of the state—be systematically set before them, and that the lower plants of the state be made accessible to them. At present, but a limited number can form any acquaintance with the larger part of the plant life of the state. Mr. Webber's catalogue and the supplements to it have been of very great assistance to botanists and collectors in Nebraska. But they are not enough, and, besides, are far from representing the whole flora of the state, as is shown by the additions made almost daily. To continue to add to Mr. Webber's catalogue in a haphazard way will needlessly and indefinitely postpone the complete presentation of our flora which is desirable. Systematic botanical exploration of the state will bring such a catalogue much sooner, make it a far better one, and cannot fail to develop many things of practical as well as scientific importance.

It would be greatly to the public interest to have a state Natural History Survey. But the time when such a survey can be conducted with public funds seems far distant. The next best thing is a private survey. This the Seminar has undertaken for the botanical part, believing that the time when such a survey should be had is at hand.

It is the intention of the Seminar to make a thorough and complete survey of the state, extending over several years and covering all forms of plant life. Those parts of the state which are less known will be carefully explored, and, as far as possible, complete collections will be made there. Distinct cases have been provided in the Herbarium of the University for the Survey Herbarium, and several collections of fair size and no little importance have been made already. The plan is to make the Survey Herbarium a complete representation of the flora of the state, to indicate there, as far as possible, the distribution of each species, to determine the floras of the various regions of the state, and to provide for the botanists of the state a herbarium for the study

of the local flora as well as complete and accurate lists and catalogues, and monographs of the more difficult groups. . At the close of the Survey the Herbarium will be presented to the University. And during the progress of the Survey it will be accessible to all persons, prepared to use it, who wish to study the plants of Nebraska or any group of them.

In addition to the reports, catalogues of local floras and monographs of particular groups, principally of the lower plants, will be published. Several such monographs are now in preparation, and more are contemplated. These will make possible a more thorough acquaintance with the plant life of the state by the public generally, and, it is hoped, enable the public schools of the state to do much which at present they cannot do for lack of the numerous and expensive books which such work requires. But the Seminar will aim to make the work of the Survey scientific rather than popular.

While the Survey is essentially a private undertaking, conducted by a private organization and carried on with private means, the members of the Seminar recognize that their connection with the State University, most of them being graduate students at that institution, puts them under obligation to the public. They will endeavor, therefore, to give such practical direction to the Survey as will be consistent with a purely scientific aim. The grasses of the state, the trees and woody plants, injurious and beneficial fungi and their observed effects, and other matters of interest to Agriculturist and Horticulturist, will receive special notice. But the bulletins of the Agricultural Experiment Station are the place for the most of such work, especially the popular side of it. The Survey must often treat them on an equality with matters of little economic or purely scientific importance.

With no intention of being unduly radical, the Seminar will endeavor to have the publications of the Survey fully represent the most recent development of Botany in all directions. The Survey is intended for scientific purposes, and its publications for scientific eyes, primarily. Furthermore the Seminar cannot

assent to the doctrine that the public are too weak to stand a draught of modern scientific results, unless strongly diluted with ancient and untenable ideas, no longer held even by those who continue to put them off upon others.