

Foreword

Historical Background of the Society

In 1913, the California Botanical Society was founded in Berkeley, CA, by Dr. Willis Linn Jepson. In 1916, he commenced publication of a new journal entitled *Madroño, A West American Journal of Botany*. Thus, Dr. Jepson was the first president of the Society and the first editor of *Madroño*. *Madroño* is now the oldest, continuously published botanical journal in the western United States. Membership dues paid to the Society support the journal.

The Society and its journal have survived the Great Depression, numerous recessions, two world wars, numerous other armed conflicts, and in California, an unknown number of earthquakes, fires, and floods. With the completion of Volume 43, *Madroño* marked 80 years of service to the botanical community. Through 1996, 43 volumes were published consisting of 282 numbers, 13,554 numbered pages and 234 supplemental pages. The style, format, and size of *Madroño* have changed over the years.

Madroño publishes research papers, notes, range extensions, memoria, book reviews, and announcements of interest to botanists. Geographical coverage includes Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, China, the Pacific islands, and all areas of the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. Topics include anatomy and morphology, biogeography, botanical history, cytology, ecology, ethnobotany, floristics, paleobotany, phylogeny, physiology, pollination and reproductive biology, and of course, taxonomy. All major botanical groups are treated including angiosperms, bryophytes, gymnosperms, pteridophytes, lichens, algae, fungi, etc. The pages of *Madroño* are an incredibly rich source of data covering all aspects of botanical research with an emphasis on western North America and Mexico.

Purpose of the Eighty-Year Index

Through 1996, 43 volumes of *Madroño* were published. However, the journal had not been abstracted and thus its contents were not readily accessible to researchers. Although each volume is indexed, incidental references to taxa, including lists and tables, are not included. In 1996, I presented a proposal to the Society to compile a “master” index of all published volumes. The original intent was for a master index to be compiled from the indices of each volume. The purpose of the Index is to provide researchers ready access to a list of all articles published in *Madroño* since its inception in 1916. This seemed a straightforward task and we expected it would take about six months to complete.

Development of the Index

Taxonomic names, article titles, and figures listed in the volume indices were the main building blocks of the database. Numerous decisions were made regarding how to handle various stylistic issues, for example whether to follow the older convention of capitalizing species named for individuals (e.g., *Lathyrus Jepsonii*) or to follow the modern convention. The modern style is followed.

A relational database (Microsoft® Access) was used to compile entries from each volume index. The development of database algorithms to sort for multiple authors in an alphabetical context proved to be an excruciatingly tedious process as the Access program was pushed to its limits. My staff at Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc. performed the initial data entry during 1996-1998. I made all subsequent entries.

Although the project started as a compilation of the indices for each volume, the scope and complexity soon grew when it was decided to organize the data into specific sections: authors and titles, subjects, noteworthy collections, and reviews of books and articles. To provide greater flexibility, we decided to cross-reference as many citations as possible. Because the data were being entered into a relational database, we believed that this additional complexity could be managed. However, the programming presented new challenges.

Organization

The Index consists of four main sections: Authors and Titles, Subject Index, Noteworthy Collections, and Reviews of Books and Articles. A fifth section provides a list of all volumes and numbers published between 1919 and 1996. A list of California Botanical Presidents, 1916-2000, follows the Foreword.

Page references are denoted by a combination of a volume and page number (e.g., 23:42). Sub-specific taxa are listed alphabetically, e.g., cf., f., ssp., and var. The word “fig.” in an entry refers to a page number and not the figure number within the article. References to pages in Madroño Supplements are indicated by an “S” between the volume and page number, e.g., 30:S67.

Most volumes included a Dedication, whereas Tributes only periodically appeared. In the Subject Index, names of botanists are listed alphabetically and are also summarized under Dedications, Tributes, and Portraits. In Section 1, *Authors and Titles*, multiple-authored articles are cross-referenced by each author.

Proofing

As with any journal, typographical errors of taxonomic names and other entities are inadvertently published. Despite the best efforts of Madroño editors and authors, typographical errors sporadically occur in articles, in volume indices, in the table of contents, etc. Typos often occur in tables and lists. A notable gaff occurred in Volume 1, No. 6, wherein pages 99-102 are repeated again from Volume 1, No. 5.

A second stage of complexity began with the effort to establish a process to minimize typographical errors. I noted that there was the potential for compounding errors due to the fact that records in the database were twice removed from the primary data, i.e., the article itself. The Madroño editor who compiled the volume index was one potential source of error and Sycamore Environmental staff who entered data into the database were another source. I soon determined that the only way to reliably verify the correctness of the database records was to check the primary data – the article itself.

As volumes were completed, they were exported from Access to Microsoft® Word to perform spell checking. All words in the database that ‘hung up’ on the spell checker, which was the vast majority, were assumed to be incorrect. To verify the spelling of words in the database, I examined the article in which they appeared. After the spelling was either verified or corrected, the word was added to a Word custom dictionary. Typos that appear in articles, e.g. *Carex* “*nebrascensis*,” *Corallorhiza*, etc., were corrected in the database. Some 13,500 pages within the 43 Madroño volumes were eventually perused through this {laborious and painstaking} process. Who could guess it would take years to complete? By 1999, four Word custom dictionaries had been filled to capacity. Over 143,000 ‘words’ make up the Index. (In addition to names, Microsoft® Word counts a volume and page reference, e.g., 25:32, as one word.) The effort to try and ensure accuracy and format consistency of over 143,000 words that occur in over 23,000 lines of text was quite a “thrill!” Despite my best efforts, I assume responsibility for the errors that have undoubtedly survived the editorial process.

Additional Citations

There are many taxonomic names that occur in articles that do not appear in volume indices. This is especially true for names in tables or species lists. We added many of these names to the database wherever it seemed appropriate to do so. However, we did not attempt to cite every page in an article in which a particular species name occurred, nor did we try to list all species mentioned in a table.

The Madroño volume indices generally do not include specific categories of information. Examples of excluded data are incidental references to taxa, taxa mentioned in lists and tables, and taxa not included in a title but otherwise occurring in an article. Although we had incorporated hundreds of references from these excluded categories, I knew that more could be added. The announcement of the Index first appeared in Madroño (Vol. 48:219; 2002). Prior to printing, I decided to take *one last look* to see if any additional references could be added that do not appear in volume indices. By scanning virtually every page, references to thousands of additional figures, maps, and taxonomic names were added to the Index that do not appear in

volume indices. As a result of this process, over 11,000 additional words were entered into the Subject Index. (Words include names as well as their volume and page references.)

In summary, the Eighty-Year Index provides thousands of references that do not appear in volume indices. Additional citations include taxonomic names, sections and subsections, genus and species names, figure references, and references to distribution maps. Thus, the original goal of providing a simple compilation of article names and other data as presented in volume indices has been far exceeded.

Summary of Data

This Index provides a rich source of data by providing access to 80 years of botanical research, observations, and commentary. Information in the Index is presented in four sections: 1) Authors & Titles (45 pages, 2,799 entries, and 36,008 words); 2) Subject Index (163 pages, 18,226 entries consisting of 1 to 40 records per entry, and 93,077 words); 3) Noteworthy Collections (8 pages, 866 entries, and 2,902 words); 4) Reviews of Books and Articles (11 pages, 1401 entries, and 11,251 words). Section 5 presents a list of all volumes and numbers published between 1919 and 1996. A list of California Botanical Presidents, 1916-2000, is included. In summary, the Index consists of 227 pages, 143,264 words, and 23,292 individual entries. In the Subject Index each entry consists of 1 to 40 records. Entries for the other sections consist of one record each. The author with the most records in the Authors & Titles section is H. L. Mason (96) followed by W. L. Jepson (87).

The paucity of records for certain common or widespread species is surprising, e.g., *Platanus racemosa*, *Sambucus mexicana*, and *Tamarisk* sp., to name a few. Taxa for which there are few or no records can be thought of as a starting point to initiate basic taxonomic, ecological, or other types of research.

Acknowledgments

Without the financial support and commitment provided by Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., the Index could not have been completed. Jeffery J. Little provided expertise for the database programming, data reporting, and formatting. I thank the Board of Directors of the California Botanical Society for approving the concept to prepare the Index. Dr. Wayne Ferren, President of the Society when this project began, provided unwavering support and encouragement. I appreciated Jim Shevock's enthusiasm for the project. Dr. Steven Timbrook, of Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation, graciously provided an electronic copy of 1,410 records of the indices for Volumes 34 through 43, which were incorporated into the database.

R. John Little, Ph.D.
President, California Botanical Society (1997-2000)

April 2002

California Botanical Society Presidents: 1916-2000

1916-1929	Willis L. Jepson	1968-1969	Elizabeth McClintock
1930-1937	George J. Peirce	1969-1970	Harry Thiers
1937-1938	F. W. Foxworthy	1970-1971	Marion Cave
1938-1940	Howard E. McMinn	1971-1972	Lawrence R. Heckard
1940-1941	Ira L. Wiggins	1972-1973	Douglas Post
1941-1942	Ernest B. Babcock	1973-1974	Paul C. Silva
1942-1943	A. R. Davis	1974-1975	T. C. Fuller
1943-1944	H. S. Reed	1975-1976	John H. Thomas
1944-1945	E. B. Copeland	1976-1977	Dennis R. Parnell
1945-1946	Lee Bonar	1977-1978	Winslow R. Briggs
1946-1947	Palmer Stockwell	1978-1979	Michael F. Baad
1947-1948	Howard E. McMinn	1979-1980	Grady L. Webster
1948-1949	Adriance S. Foster	1980-1981	Wayne Savage
1949-1950	Thomas H. Kearney	1981-1982	Robert Ornduff
1950-1951	LeRoy Abrams	1982-1983	Watson M. Laetsch
1951-1952	George F. Papenfuss	1983-1984	Isabelle Tavares
1952-1953	Milo S. Baker	1984-1985	Rolf W. Benseler
1953-1954	William C. Steere	1985-1986	Charles F. Quibell
1954-1955	N. T. Mirov	1986-1987	Frank Almeda
1955-1956	Lincoln Constance	1987-1988	Dale McNeal
1956-1957	William M. Hiesey	1988-1989	John L. Strother
1957-1958	Rimo Bacigalupi	1989-1990	Robert W. Patterson
1958-1959	John M. Tucker	1990-1991	Thomas Duncan
1959-1960	James R. Sweeney	1991-1992	James R. Shevock
1960-1961	Herbert G. Baker	1992-1993	Barbara Ertter
1961-1962	Baki Kasapligil	1993-1994	Peggy Fiedler
1962-1963	Roxana S. Ferris	1994-1995	Wayne Ferren
1963-1964	Herbert L. Mason	1995-1996	Wayne Ferren
1964-1965	G. Ledyard Stebbins	1996-1997	Wayne Ferren
1965-1966	Annetta Carter	1997-1998	R. John Little
1966-1967	Malcolm A. Nobs	1998-1999	R. John Little
1967-1968	Carl W. Sharsmith	1999-2000	R. John Little