

# JOURNAL OF THE

# Tennessee Academy of Science

# VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 3

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CONTENTS	
Doctor Frederick T. Wolf, New President of the	
Tennessee Academy of Science. W. McA. Deacon	185
Hanor A. Webb, Honorary Member of the	
Tennessee Academy of Science	187
Frances R. Bottum, Honorary Member of the	
Tennessee Academy of Science	189
George R. Mayfield, Honorary Member of the	
Tennessee Academy of Science. A. F. Ganier	190
Carl Tabb Bahner, News Editor of the Journal of	
the Tennessee Academy of Science	192
In Memoriam, Mike Wright, 1914-1953.	
Edward J. Kormandy	193
News of Tennessee Science. Carl Tabb Bahner	194
Report of Representative to Academy Conference and	
Council of the American Association for the	
Advancement of Science. C. L. Baker	195
The Role of Philosophy in Science. Willis Moore	199
An Occurrence of a Pleuropterygian Shark in the	
Chattanooga Shale of Tennessee. Stuart W. Maher	
and David H. Dunkle	202
	203
Notes on Southern Appalachian Fungi, XII. L. R. Hesler	212
Earthquakes in Tennessee and Nearby Sections of	
Neighboring States—1851 to 1900. Berlen C.	
Moneymaker	222
The Preparation of the Benzenesulfonate of 2, 4,	
6-tri-t-butylphenol, a Hindered Phenol. D. E. Pearson,	
W. G. DePierri, Jr. and Lamar Field	234
FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER.	
J. T. Johnson	235
National Science Fair Exhibits by Tennessee Students	
Problematical Graphic Equations. Elise June Peters	235
Basic Points in the Classification of Minerals.	
Richard H. Palmer	236
My First Year in Astronomy. Nicholas Kent Demuth	238
Relations of Animals to Habitat. Lydia Sue Shipe	239
Geotropism, Douglass Gray Saunders	240
	243
Absence of Alterations in Gross Morphology or	7-3
Developmental Rates of Daphnia magna Subjected	
to Antuitrin-S. George C. Kent, Jr. and Stanley Hodges	262
Book Review: Chemical Properties of Organic Compounds	
by Marvell and Logan	264

JULY, 1955

# **JOURNAL**

## of the

# Tennessee Academy of Science

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New subscriptions, changes of address, and applications for membership should be addressed to the Secretary. Personal items, news of events in the scientific world, and other notes suitable for our "News of Tennessee Science" department should be addressed to the News Editor.

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#### FERNS OF TENNESSEE (With The Fern Allies Excluded)

JESSE M. SHAVER, PH. D., SCI. D.

Emeritus Professor of Biology and Formerly Head of the Department of Biology George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville 5, Tennessee

At last, after more than 13 years' work and 50,000 miles travel along the roads and trails and through the woods and swamps of all of the counties in Tennessee, Dr. Shaver has gotten out his fern book.

In a review of the first chapter, Some General Notes on Ferns, when it was first published (Jour, Tenn. Acad. of Science), the late Dr. C. A.

Weatherby of the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University wrote:

Dr. Jesse M. Shaver . . . has produced a veritable vade mecum for amateurs in ferns, at least if they happen to live in or visit Tennessee. It contains, within the limits of a 25-page article, sections on the folklore of ferns, their life history, the making of blueprints and other such "nature prints" of fern leaves, the names of ferns (with an interesting little essay on the pronunciation of the Latin ones), photographing ferns, fern gardens, and growing ferns from spores. There are instructions at once concise, clear and in considerable detail for all of these activities which require them. In addition there is a good account, with map, of the chief floristic areas in Tennessee, lists of the species of ferns most characteristic of each, and a bibliographhy. It is hard to think of anything a beginner in the study of Tennessee ferns would need to know about, including the Fern Society, which is not touched upon. - American Fern Journal, 33 (1):34, 1943.

The second chapter is entitled Descriptions of The Ferns of Ten-NESSEE. It constitutes most of the book and treats of the different species of ferns one by one in order. All of the species are carefully described and beautifully illustrated by line drawings and most of them by photographs of the plants in their natural habitats. Many of the drawings are in reality plates (although called figures) for each is usually composed of several separate drawings with some greatly enlarged to show characteristics of importance in identification. There are 113 of these plate-like figures, 74 of the habit photographs of ferns, and 54 Tennessee maps giving county distribution within the state. As the various fern studies that make up this chapter were completed, they were published in journals. Then they were reviewed by Dr. C. V. Morton of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington in the American Fern Journal. One of these

reviews contained this statement:

Dr. Jesse M. Shaver . . . is the principal authority on the ferns of Tennessee . . . Dr. Shaver's work is careful and thorough; as Dr. S. F. Blake remarked, his treatment is altogether the most elaborate publication on ferns in American literature . . . If these papers could only be all brought together in book form when the work is completed (the present book shows that this has been done) they would undoubtedly be among the most frequently consulted and cited works.

Dr. Shaver's treatment includes detailed descriptions, distributional maps, photographs of the plants in situ, and most excellent line drawings with mag-

nified details. Volume 41 (3):94-96, 1951.

The third chapter, Fern Distribution in Tennessee, supplements the data previously given in the maps by adding a specific location for each fern in each county in which the fern has been found.

In the GLOSSARY, there is a genuine attempt to define adequately all

technical terms used in the book.

There is an Index to Latin Names of Genera and Species and also an Index to Common Names.

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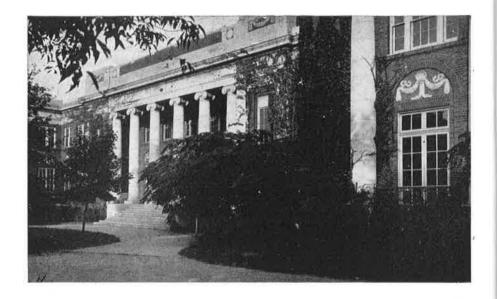
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## DOCTOR FREDERICK T. WOLF



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