

JOURNAL  
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JULY, 1955

# JOURNAL of the Tennessee Academy of Science

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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 bibliography. 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 TENNESSEE. 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 magnified 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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**DOCTOR FREDERICK T. WOLF**



—Photo by Walden S. Fabry