

1958

Book Review: Botanical Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West, 1790-1850, Susan Delano McKelvey

Philip A. Munz

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/aliso>



Part of the [Botany Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Munz, Philip A. (1958) "Book Review: Botanical Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West, 1790-1850, Susan Delano McKelvey," *Aliso: A Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 5.
Available at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/aliso/vol4/iss1/5>

Senecio integerrimus Nutt. var. **major** (Gray) Cronquist, comb. nov.*S. eurycephalus* var. *major* Gray, Pac. R.R. Rep. 4: 111, 1857.*S. major* Heller, Muhlenbergia 1: 118, 1905.*S. lugens* var. *megacephalus* Jepson, Man. Fl. Pls. Calif., 1152, 1925.**Stephanomeria virgata** Benth. var. **tomentosa** (Greene) Munz, comb. nov.*S. tomentosa* Greene, Bull. Calif. Acad. Sci. 2: 152, 1886.*Ptiloria tomentosa* Greene, Pittonia 2: 131, 1890.**Stephanomeria pauciflora** (Torr.) Nutt. var. **parishii** (Jepson) Munz, comb. nov.*S. runcinata* var. *parishii* Jepson, Man. Fl. Pls. Calif., 998, 1925.*S. cinerea* Blake, Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci. 33: 272, 1943.**Malacothrix saxatilis** (Nutt.) T. & G. var. **commutata**
(T. & G.) Ferris, comb. nov.*M. commutata* T. & G., Fl. N. Am. 2: 487, 1843.**Agoseris apargioides** (Less.) Greene var. **eastwoodae** (Fedde) Munz, comb. nov.*A. eastwoodae* Fedde, Just Bot. Jahrb. 31: 808, 1904.

BOOK REVIEW

BOTANICAL EXPLORATION OF THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI WEST, 1790-1850. SUSAN DELANO MCKELVEY. 1144 pages, 11 maps. Arnold Arboretum. 1955.

This book seems to me not to have received the attention that it merits. Covering a period of sixty years and a region from the northern to the southern boundaries of the United States and from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, Mrs. McKelvey writes of the activities of the plant collectors whose findings formed the foundation on which was based the early knowledge of our western plants. One reads about the Lapérouse expedition, about Haenke and Née, Menzies, Lewis and Clark, Von Langsdorff, Bradbury, Nuttall, Eschscholtz and von Chamisso, James, Douglas and Douglass, Scouler, Berlandier, Coulter, Pitcher, Tolmie, Drummond, Wyeth, Parry, Geyer, Lindheimer, Hartweg, Fendler and many others. Mrs. McKelvey devotes her pages primarily to the botanical work of these collectors and cites long passages from their manuscript journals. She thus establishes the actual localities from which many species were obtained and makes available a vast amount of material heretofore accessible in only a few great libraries. The monographer can in many cases determine from her book type-localities which have been in doubt. Documented as it is, this volume is of inestimable value and will for many years be most useful to students of plants of western North America.

But the book is more than that! It has much general information about the botanists themselves, the auspices under which they travelled, the country they explored, their adventures and stories, the Indians they met—in short, much of general interest as well as botany and political history. It is beautifully printed on excellent paper and contains eleven carefully prepared maps. It covers a prodigious amount of research and should be available to every student of western botany. Mrs. McKelvey has earned the gratitude of all of us in bringing together so well, so accurately and so interestingly such a vast array of information.—PHILIP A. MUNZ.