

## Northeast Gulf Science

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Volume 3  
Number 2 *Number 2*

Article 10

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12-1979

### Review of: L. O. Sorensen, A Guide to the Seaweeds of South Padre Island, Texas

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DOI: 10.18785/negs.0302.10

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#### Recommended Citation

Pecora, R. A. 1979. Review of: L. O. Sorensen, A Guide to the Seaweeds of South Padre Island, Texas. *Northeast Gulf Science* 3 (2). Retrieved from <https://aquila.usm.edu/goms/vol3/iss2/10>

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## Reviews:

L.O. Sorensen, **A Guide to the Seaweeds of South Padre Island, Texas.** 123 pp. ISBN 0-89787-101-4, Gorsuch Scarisbrick, Publishers, Dubuque, Iowa, 1979. \$6.95.

Various aspects of the morphology, distribution and ecology of marine algae are given in this nontechnical, illustrated guide for the identification of the algae of South Padre Island, Texas. The spiral bound text, which is small enough to be used as a pocket field guide, contains information on the collection and preservation of marine algae; a map of the study area; systematic lists of green, brown and red algae; keys for identification; figures and descriptions of the most abundant taxa; a glossary; and a bibliography.

It is unfortunate that the shortcomings of this informative manual detract from its intended use. Several common rules have been violated in the construction of the keys which make them unsatisfactory. For example, the key to the identification of the brown algae does not begin with a dichotomous couplet — a fact that resulted in the exclusion of *Giffordia* from the key. The phrase "not as described above" is used four times in a key of seven brown algae and 17 times in a key of 29 red algae. Taxonomic names in the keys should have been followed by page numbers to the appropriate description and figure. While most errors in the text are not serious, several such as the listing of *Rosenvingea* as *R. sanctae crucis* in the key and as *R. orientalis* in the text and the omission of *Penicillus capitatus* and *Giffordia mitchelliae* from the keys are disconcerting to the reader. I am puzzled by the author's use of the words algae, alga and algal. Although the line

diagrams are well done and pleasing, several including those of *Chaetomorpha linum*, *Giffordia mitchelliae*, *Bangia fuscopurpurea*, *Gracilaria foliifera* and *Polysiphonia subtilissima* add nothing to the understanding of these plants. Surely, illustrations showing detail as viewed with a hand lens could have been included for these taxa. The glossary provides clear, brief definitions for the technical terminology used in the text. The bibliography includes only ten entries and thus does not include important references to many general and regional treatments of the algae.

It is regrettable that Sorensen, a competent phycologist, did not have adequate assistance in proof reading, editing and reviewing the manuscript of his book. As a result this text does not adequately meet the needs of those interested in studying the algal flora of the western Gulf of Mexico.

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## REFEREES

Below is a list of scientists who volunteered their services as referees for Northeast Gulf Science during 1979. To them we are sincerely grateful.

Dennis Allen	University of South Carolina
J. L. Barnard	NMNH, Smithsonian Institution
Susan Bell	University of South Carolina
Don Blanchard	U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile
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