Memoirs of the Torrey Botanical Society 29: 48–69, 2020.

John Torrey and the Torrey Botanical Society: Two hundred years studying the flora of the New York City region[1]

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Abstract. The flora of the New York City region has been studied for more than 200 years by John Torrey (1796–1873) and the Torrey Botanical Society, making it the longest continuous floristic study in the New World. Torrey studied and collected plants from the New York City region in the early 1800s, and his *Catalogue* was published in 1819. Additional reports by Torrey on the local flora were published in the 1820s and in his state flora in 1843. During the 1850s Torrey and a group of plant collectors from New York City studied the local flora, and in 1867 the Torrey Botanical Club was founded with John Torrey serving as the first president. After Torrey's death in 1873, Nathaniel Lord Britton (1859–1934) served as chairman of the Club's Local Flora Committee for 47 years. The committee was inactive from 1947 to 1959, but individual Club members continued to report on the local flora in the Club's journals. A revival in local floristic studies began in 1960 but waxed and waned until around 1990, when floristic studies in the Torrey Range surged. Club members continue researching, studying, and preparing specimens of and reporting on the plants that occur in the New York City region.

Key words: flora, history of botany, John Torrey, New York City, plant diversity, Torrey Botanical Club, Torrey Botanical Society, Torrey Range

Throughout its 150-year history, a primary goal of the Torrey Botanical Society has been documenting with herbarium collections and publications the flora of New York City and its vicinity. This passion was cultivated by John Torrey in the early 1800s and passed on to the first members of the Club and continues to be present in current members. Nathaniel Lord Britton organized and directed the Club's local flora studies for more than half a century. Subsequently, members of the Club's Local Flora Committee continued studying and collecting the local flora.

The geographic region studied by John Torrey and the Torrey Botanical Society has been variously known as the Torrey Club Range, Torrey Botanical Club Range, Local Torrey Range, and Torrey Range, and boundaries have changed throughout the Club's history (Barnhart 1915, Svenson and Latham 1938, Gleason 1943, Lehr 1960b, Hand 1966, Lamont and Fitzgerald 2001). Throughout the John Torrey era (early 1800s to 1873), the Torrey Range included the region within 30 miles of New York City. Under the leadership of N. L. Britton, the boundary was extended in 1883 to a radius of 100 miles around New York City. Around 1990, the Torrey Range was redefined as including the region within an approximately 50-mile radius of Columbus Circle, New York City. Maps of the Torrey Range have been published in Poggenburg *et al*. (1888), Taylor (1915), and Moore *et al*. (2002).

This article provides an overview of floristic studies in the New York City region by John Torrey and the Torrey Botanical Society and chronicles times when fieldwork and publications waxed and waned. The final section of this article includes a detailed summary of floristic studies in the Torrey Range by members of the Local Flora Committee during the past 50 years. The nomenclature in this article follows Werier (2017).

Early Floristic Studies in the Torrey Range. Early writers on the flora of the Torrey Range include Cadwallader Colden (1688–1776), appointed Surveyor-General of New York in 1717 and asked to compile a list of the flora and fauna of the state. However, due to budget cuts, his list never was completed (Vail 1907). Colden did manage to publish in 1749 the first contribution to the flora of the Torrey Range based on studies he made with his daughter, Jane Colden (1724–1766), near their estate, Coldenham (a wilderness tract of

[1] We are grateful to Andrew Greller, Gerry Moore, and David Werier for reviewing the manuscript and providing helpful suggestions; Stephen Young for reviewing and contributing to Table 1; Robert Naczi for data on the status of *Sagittaria subulata* (L.) Buchenau at Croton Point, NY; Tom Nelson and James Fowler for sharing their orchid images in Fig. 2; Susan Fraser for assistance in preparation of Figs. 1 and 3 and the cover image of this volume; and Beth Brand for assistance in researching J. Harry Lehr.

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3,000 acres) in the Newburgh region of the Hudson Valley, NY. Translating their plant studies into Latin, he sent them to none other than Linnaeus himself, who had them published under the name *Plantae Coldenghamiae* (s.n., 1749–1751) and named a genus in the borage family, *Coldenia*, in Cadwallader's honor. Together, the Coldens introduced European scholars to the flora of New York State.

Jane Colden is credited by scholars as being the first American female botanist. Asa Gray (1810–1888) called her the "first botanist of her sex in her country" (Colden 1843). She partook of a lively correspondence with European and American botanical and horticultural figures in her study of the Linnaean system of plant classification. Colden exchanged letters, specimens, and drawings with male botanists of the time, including John Bartram (1699–1777), John Ellis (1710–1776), and Alexander Garden (1730–1791). Peter Collinson (1694–1768), writing to Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778), commented, "She is perhaps the first lady that has so perfectly studied your system. She ought to be celebrated [by having a taxon named in her honor]."

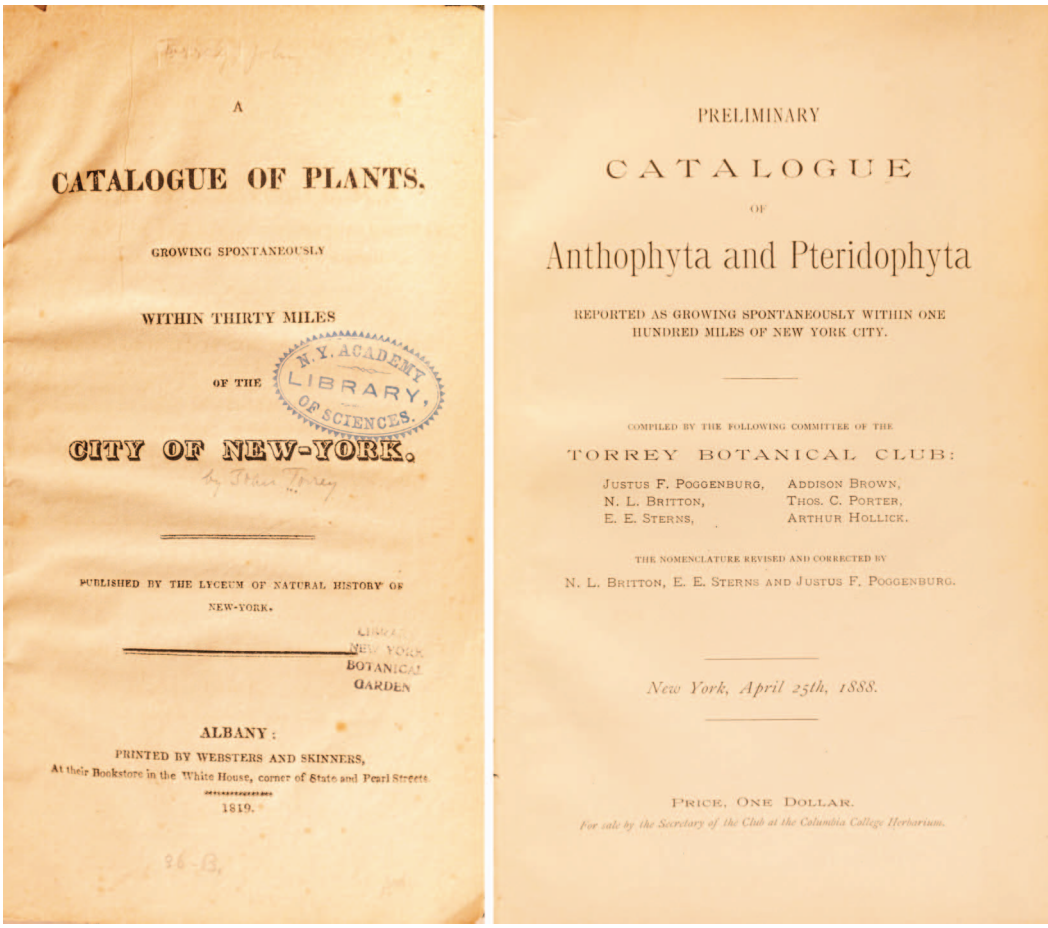
Colden is best known for her untitled manuscript, written about 1753 to 1758, on New York plants of the Newburgh region (Smith 1988). The manuscript, housed in the British Museum, contains detailed descriptions (in English) and pen-and-ink illustrations of 340 plant species arranged in the Linnaean sexual system of classification. After Colden's death in 1766, the manuscript was not mentioned again until 1801 and remained relatively unknown to North American botanists until Addison Brown (1830–1913) reported at a meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club in 1892 on seeing the manuscript (Smith 1988). The manuscript was later researched in detail by Club member Anna Murray Vail (1863–1955). Rickett and Hall (1963) asserted that some of Colden's descriptions likely contributed to Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum*, making her the only woman to have contributed to this foundational taxonomic work. Vail (1907) noted numerous references to Colden in the correspondence of Linnaeus and in other contemporary records and biographies. She was well known to her contemporaries, and her "botanical accomplishments were appreciated" (Vail 1907). In spite of her foundational and international contributions to the field of botany, Jane Colden has not yet had a taxon named in her honor in the nearly 300 years since her birth.

Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam and the Hudson River valley were known to have carried on a lively trade in medicinal, edible, and ornamental plants. However, they did not undertake a systematic study of the regional flora. Lawyer and landowner Adriaen van der Donck (1620–1655) wrote in 1655 in his *Description of New Netherland* of several indigenous flowering plants—"sun flowers, red and yellow lilies, mountain lilies, morning stars, red white and yellow maritoffles [ladyslippers] and several species of bell flowers," noting that they would be of great interest to people who cherish flowers.

Earliest writers on the flora of New York include the naturalist John Eatton Le Conte Jr. (1784–1860), who wrote a Latin flora of the plants of Manhattan Island in 1812 that appeared in the *American Medical and Philosophical Register*. Jacob Green (1790–1841) wrote his *Catalogue of Plants Indigenous to the State of New-York* in 1814, and James Macauley (1798–1856) wrote a chapter on the trees, shrubs, and plants of New York in 1829 that appeared in *The Natural, Statistical and Civil History of New York*.

Early authors on the flora of the Torrey Range include Caspar Wistar Eddy (1790–1828), writing in 1807 his *Plantae Plandomenses*, which was a catalogue of plants found growing on the North Hempstead, Long Island, estate of Samuel L. Mitchell (1764–1831), first professor of natural history at Columbia College (Columbia University). Samuel B. Mead (1798–1880) published in 1831 his *Catalogue of Plants Growing in the Vicinity of North Salem Academy*, and in 1856, Peter D. Knieskern (1798–1871) would be among the first to write on the New Jersey state flora in his *Catalogue of Plants Growing Without Cultivation in the Counties of Monmouth and Ocean, New Jersey*.

While Abraham Halsey (1790–1857) wrote on the lichens of the New York City region in 1824 and Charles Rawolle (1812–1867) and Egbert L. Viele (1825–1902) both wrote on the flora of Central Park in 1857, it is John Torrey's first publication in 1819, *A Catalogue of Plants, Growing Spontaneously Within Thirty Miles of the City of New-York* (Fig. 1), that can be dated as the earliest systematic study of the New York City regional flora, an area that would become known as the Torrey Range.


A

CATALOGUE OF PLANTS.

GROWING SPONTANEOUSLY

WITHIN THIRTY MILES

OF THE

CITY OF NEW-YORK.

PUBLISHED BY THE LYCEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY OF NEW-YORK.

ALBANY:

PRINTED BY WEBSTERS AND SKINNERS,

At their Bookstore in the White House, corner of State and Pearl Streets.

1819.

PRELIMINARY

CATALOGUE

OF

Anthophyta and Pteridophyta

REPORTED AS GROWING SPONTANEOUSLY WITHIN ONE HUNDRED MILES OF NEW YORK CITY.

COMPILED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE OF THE

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB:

JUSTUS F. POGGENBURG, ADDISON BROWN,
N. L. BRITTON, THOS. C. PORTER,
E. E. STERNS, ARTHUR HOLLICK.

THE NOMENCLATURE REVISED AND CORRECTED BY

N. L. BRITTON, E. E. STERNS AND JUSTUS F. POGGENBURG.

New York, April 25th, 1888.

PRICE, ONE DOLLAR.

For sale by the Secretary of the Club at the Columbia College Herbarium.

FIG. 1. (left) Title page of John Torrey's *Catalogue* (1819) and (right) Poggenburg *et al*. (1888). Images courtesy of LuEsther T. Mertz Library, The New York Botanical Garden. Photographed by Marlon Co.

Early 1800s–1873. John Torrey Era: Torrey's *Catalogue*, early floristic work of the Torrey Botanical Club. John Torrey was born in New York City on August 15, 1796. As a youth, he was interested in the plants of the New York City region, especially fungi and bryophytes. In 1815, Torrey began studying at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. By 1817, he was appointed to prepare a catalogue of the plants growing in and around New York City by the newly founded Lyceum of Natural History; now known as the New York Academy of Sciences, it is the third-oldest scientific organization in America and one of New York City's oldest and most enduring cultural institutions. In addition to his floristic and taxonomic contributions, John Torrey was an important mentor to younger botanists, especially Asa Gray, and was a gifted teacher, an indefatigable investigator, and a genial and unselfish individual who won the affection of all who knew him.

John Torrey is considered the actual author of the *Catalogue*, although the work was attributed to all three members of a committee tasked with writing the flora: "The resolution of the Lyceum to prepare a Catalogue of Plants growing in this Neighborhood was passed May 5th, 1817. Dr. C. W. Eddy, Mr. D'Jurco V. Knevels, and myself, were appointed a Committee to carry the resolution into effect" (Torrey 1819). Torrey presented his *Catalogue* to the Lyceum in 1817, but publication was delayed 2 years: "And although the following pages were reported as early as December 22, 1817, unavoidable obstacles have delayed its publication until the present time" (Torrey 1819).

Torrey (1819) described the region included in the *Catalogue* and noted some frequently visited localities:

> Though our Catalogue embraces all the plants which have been observed within thirty miles of the city, yet our herborizations have been mostly confined to its immediate vicinity. The island of New-York has been pretty well explored, particularly the woods from Manhattanville to Bloomingdale, the banks of the Hudson, and the low grounds near Greenwich. The woods within a few miles of Brooklyn, and the sea shore about Bath [Long Island], have been frequently examined. Few places have afforded us more plants, than the vicinity of Hoboken and Weehawk [NJ], and the neighboring marshes. Many excursions have been made to these places, but much remains to be discovered. The cedar swamp, near New-Durham [NJ], is particularly deserving of notice. . . . Many of our most rare and interesting plants were obtained in this place, as our catalogue bear evidence.
>
> Staten-Island has not been often visited, though there is reason to expect much from the peculiar soil which predominates over a considerable part of it. . . .

Additional localities visited by Torrey (1819) are reported as follows: near Bergen, NJ; Clark's Woods, 3 miles from the city; Coney Island; swamp behind Elgin Garden (Rockefeller Center); near Elizabethtown, NJ; near Fishkill, NY; Flushing, Long Island; near the French tan yards (on the banks of the Hudson River at 42nd Street); Hackensack Meadows, NJ; Haerlem [*sic*]; about Harsimus, NJ; near Kingsbridge, NY; Long Branch, NJ; Love-lane (Brooklyn Heights, Kings Co.); Whippany Creek, near Morristown, NJ; near New-Utrecht, Long Island; Newark Meadows, NJ; Passaic River, near Fairfield, NJ; Patterson Falls, NJ; near Powles-Hook, NJ; about Sandy Hook, NJ; Schooley's Mountain; and near South-Amboy, NJ.

Torrey's *Catalogue* is arranged according to the Linnaean sexual system of classification. It includes 442 species of vascular plants, 29 mosses, 3 liverworts, 25 lichens, 27 fungi, and 5 algae and reveals New York City's diverse flora in the early 1800s. For example, Torrey reported 24 taxa of orchids (Fig. 2) of which only five are now considered extant (Lamont 2007) and at least 60 native plant species now considered extirpated from the New York City region (Table 1).

The *Catalogue* includes scientific names, synonyms, common names, flowering dates, habitat, locations where observed, various notes (flower color, rarity status, etc.), and a series of symbols indicating nativity status and other information (Fig. 3). Reveal (2014) discussed the annotations Torrey added to his personal copy of the *Catalogue* and the impact they had on regional floras (Torrey 1823–1824, 1826). After submitting the *Catalogue* in 1817, Torrey continued studying the local flora, recording observations in a 30-page, handwritten journal titled *Calendarium Florae for the year 1818* [and 1819 and 1820] *and for the vicinity of the City of New York* (Atha *et al*. 2020b, this volume).

Dissatisfied with the Linnaean system of plant classification, Torrey's *Catalogue of North American Genera of Plants* followed the newer natural system of Antoine Laurent de Jussieu (1748–1836), becoming the first author in North America to adopt natural families (Torrey 1826–1827, 1831). Torrey and his protégé Asa Gray collaborated for many years in advocating for the use of a natural system of classification in America.

Because of his reputation and interest in the flora of New York, Torrey was appointed in 1836 to take charge of the Botanical Department of the New York State Natural History Survey. Torrey (1839) described his duties:

> When I received my commission as Botanist, no specific duties were assigned to me, except to make a thorough examination of the vegetable productions of the State, and to collect seven full sets of each species; preserving them in such a manner as to exhibit as nearly as possible the botanical characters of the plants, and to arrange and name the whole as standard collections for reference. This work I have in a great degree accomplished.

In 1839, Torrey published the first checklist of plants of New York State, *Catalogue of Plants, Indigenous to the State of New-York*. Although it is titled "Indigenous to the State," the catalogue included native and naturalized, nonnative species. Four years later, Torrey (1843) published *A Flora*

Table 1. Sixty flowering plant species (nomenclature updated) reported by John Torrey (1819) now considered extirpated from within 30 miles of southern Manhattan Island, NY. Based on fieldwork in the Torrey Range by Andrew Greller, Eric Lamont, Gerry Moore, David Werier, and Stephen Young.

1. *Aletris farinosa* L.
2. *Angelica atropurpurea* L.
3. *Aplectrum hyemale* (Muhl. *ex* Willd.) Nutt.
4. *Arethusa bulbosa* L.
5. *Calopogon tuberosus* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb. var. *tuberosus*
6. *Castilleja coccinea* (L.) Spreng.
7. *Cirsium altissimum* (L.) Spreng.
8. *Clematis ochroleuca* Aiton
9. *Comarum palustre* L. F
10. *Coptis trifolia* (L.) Salisb.
11. *Cornus canadensis* L.
12. *Crotalaria sagittalis* L.
13. *Cypripedium parviflorum* Salisb.
14. *Cypripedium reginae* Walter
15. *Dasiphora fruticosa* (L.) Rydb.
16. *Drosera filiformis* Raf.
17. *Eryngium aquaticum* L. var. *aquaticum*
18. *Galearis spectabilis* (L.) Raf.
19. *Gaultheria hispidula* (L.) Muhl. *ex* Bigelow
20. *Gentianopsis crinita* (Froel.) Ma
21. *Geum rivale* L.
22. *Gillenia trifoliata* (L.) Moench.
23. *Helianthus angustifolius* L.
24. *Helonias bullata* L.
25. *Heteranthera reniformis* Ruiz & Pav.
26. *Hydrastis canadensis* L.
27. *Liatris scariosa* (L.) Willd. var. *novae-angliae* (Lunell) Gandhi, S.M. Young & P. Somers
28. *Liparis liliifolia* (L.) Rich. *ex* Lindl.
29. *Lithospermum virginianum* L.
30. *Lobelia kalmii* L.
31. *Lysimachia thyrsiflora* L.
32. *Malaxis unifolia* Michx.
33. *Melanthium virginicum* L.
34. *Menyanthes trifoliata* L.
35. *Morus rubra* L.
36. *Narthecium americanum* Ker Gawl.
37. *Orontium aquaticum* L.
38. *Oxalis montana* Raf.
39. *Parnassia glauca* Raf.
40. *Pedicularis lanceolata* Michx.
41. *Platanthera ciliaris* (L.) Lindl.
42. *Platanthera cristata* (Michx.) Lindl.
43. *Platanthera grandiflora* (Bigelow) Lindl.
44. *Platanthera orbiculata* (Pursh) Lindl.
45. *Platanthera psycodes* (L.) Lindl.
46. *Polygala incarnata* L.
47. *Polygala senega* L.
48. *Rhododendron canadense* (L.) Torr.
49. *Rotala ramosior* (L.) Koehne
50. *Sabatia campanulata* (L.) Torr.
51. *Sabatia dodecandra* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb. var. *dodecandra*
52. *Sagittaria graminea* Michx. ssp. *graminea*
53. *Sagittaria subulata* (L.) Buchenau
54. *Solidago patula* Muhl. *ex* Willd.
55. *Solidago rigida* L. var. *rigida*
56. *Stylosanthes biflora* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.
57. *Symphyotrichum concolor* (L.) G.L. Nesom var. *concolor*
58. *Tomostima reptans* (Lam.) Al-Shehbaz, M. Koch & Jordon-Thaden
59. *Triphora trianthophora* (Sw.) Rydb. ssp. *trianthophora*
60. *Utricularia striata* LeConte *ex* Torr.

of the State of New-York in two volumes that was for a long time the most comprehensive for any state in America.

In the mid-1850s, Torrey and an "informal band of collectors" met with some regularity in New York City for fieldwork on the local flora (Burgess 1900). By the time the Torrey Botanical Club formed in 1867, founding members had been studying and collecting the local flora for a decade. During the Club's early years, members focused primarily on preparing an updated catalogue of plants within 30 miles of New York City and developing a local herbarium. Barnhart (1918) noted, "The founders of the Club were mostly collectors, and their efforts were primarily devoted to the botanical exploration of the vicinity of New York City." Early members brought plant collections to Club meetings held at the Herbarium of Columbia College, where John Torrey presided from 1867 through his death in 1873. Contributions to a "Revised catalogue of plants growing within thirty miles of New York City" appeared in the first issue of the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* (*Bulletin*) in January 1870 and continued in every numbered issue until June 1872 and then at irregular intervals until September 1874 (Leggett 1870–1874). A review of Leggett's publications on the local flora is provided by Moore (2020, this volume). Highlights of early floristic studies in the Torrey Range by Club members were summarized by Burgess (1900):

> One of the most valued results from the labors of the Torrey Club has been the work of individual members on the local flora. Early local catalogues prepared by members, later than the catalogue by Torrey in 1817, were those on Staten Island by Drs. N. L. Britton and Arthur Hollick, on Stissing Mountain by Lyman O. Hoysradt, on West-

> chester Co. by O. R. Willis, on Manhattan Island by O. W. Morris, on Central Park by Prof. E. A. Day (the latter two in manuscript) and, in recent months, on Long Island by Dr. S. E. Jelliffe, extending the earlier partial catalogues of E. R. [S.] Miller, Henri W. Young and others. Most valuable work contributory to the New York local flora was done by Mr. W. H. Leggett, C. F. Austin, Dr. T. F. Allen and Mr. H. Schrenk in earlier years, and in recent periods by Rev. Mr. Lighthipe, Mrs. Britton, Miss Sanial, Mr. E. P. Bicknell, and especially by Dr. Britton, who is still the head of the club's Committee on the Local Flora.

1874–1934. Nathaniel Lord Britton Era: A Second Catalogue, Local Flora Committee, 50-Year Anniversary. Nathaniel Lord Britton was a tireless and prolific author. He approached technical writing as he did many of his other interests—with determination and productivity—and he produced a great volume of material in his lifetime. Barnhart (in Merrill 1934) recorded 853 publications by Britton between 1877 and 1936, including 73 papers published in the Club's *Bulletin* and *Torreya*.

Merrill's (1934) biography of Britton remains the most useful and comprehensive treatment of his works as well as summary of his life and career. Within the Torrey Range, Britton's most noteworthy contribution was *An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions* coauthored by Judge Addison Brown and published in three volumes between 1896 and 1898. This work was the first fully illustrated flora of any part of North America. Gleason (1960) posited that the work for this publication began in 1891, as Britton's published scientific papers began in that year to have more of a focus on the region of the *Illustrated Flora*. In writing of the manual, Gleason (1960) commented,

> The production of such a work is a huge task, and Britton must have devoted every available moment to it. Every statement was the result of observation or measurement. Every name, every citation, every record of geographic distribution required careful verification. No reader of these lines can appreciate the time-consuming nature of such work unless he has personally engaged in taxonomic research. Those who have had such experience may well marvel that so much could be accomplished in five years.

Gleason continued,

> While his development of the New York Botanical Garden stands as Britton's greatest contribution to botanical science in general, and his work on the flora of the West Indies as his greatest addition to botanical knowledge, the *Illustrated Flora* will always remain his highest service to botanists, both professional and amateur, of the northeastern United States, the region of greatest population and of greatest concentration of educational institutions.

Born in New Dorp, Staten Island, on January 15, 1859, Britton's interest in botany developed at an early age, "for it is recorded that even as a child he knew the names of local plants in a way that seemed very mysterious to his parents" (Merrill 1934). In October 1877, he was elected a member of the Torrey Botanical Club at age 18. That same year, he authored his first scientific paper, published in the Club's *Bulletin*, in which he discussed 33 species of noteworthy plants from Staten Island (Britton 1877). He had been recording observations for at least 2 years. Some of his more notable finds include (nomenclature updated) *Castilleja coccinea* (L.) Spreng., near Silver Lake; *Euphorbia lathyris* L., roadside near New Dorp; *Hottonia inflata* Elliott, pond near Mariners' Harbor; *Lathyrus palustris* L., swamps along the salt meadows near New Dorp; *Ludwigia sphaerocarpa* Elliott, swamps near New Dorp; *Nicotiana rustica* L., growing as weed at Concord; *Parnassia glauca* Raf., swamp near Silver Lake; *Pedicularis lanceolata* Michx., swamp near Silver Lake; *Stachys hyssopifolia* Michx., swamps near New Dorp; *Stylosanthes biflora* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb., cedar woods near Richmond; and *Tipularia discolor* (Pursh) Nutt., woods near Egbertville.

Britton published numerous short notes in the Club's *Bulletin* on the flora of the New York City region from 1877 to 1886, after which they rapidly decreased and eventually ceased. In 1879, Britton and Charles Arthur Hollick (1857–1933) published *The Flora of Richmond County, New York*. During the early 1880s, Britton was employed as botanist and assistant geologist by the Geological Survey of New Jersey, and in 1881, he published *A*

FIG. 2. Orchids reported by John Torrey (1819) from the New York City region (nomenclature updated). All photographs by Tom Nelson except *Spiranthes vernalis* by James Fowler. (a) *Aplectrum hyemale* (Muhl. *ex* Willd.) Nutt. (b) *Arethusa bulbosa* L. (c) *Calopogon tuberosus* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb. var. *tuberosus*. (d) *Corallorhiza odontorhiza* (Willd.) Poir. (e) *Cypripedium acaule Aiton*. (f) *Cypripedium parviflorum Salisb. var. parviflorum*.

Preliminary Catalogue of the Flora of New Jersey (Britton 1881). His first new species of plant, *Cyperus rusbyi* from New Mexico, was described in 1884, and his first taxonomic treatment was published in 1885, "A revision of the North American species of the genus Scleria."

Gleason (1943) noted Britton's dedication to the Torrey Botanical Club: "During this time [early 1880s] he seldom missed a meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club, and his interest in botany, increased and encouraged by the Club, soon led to his determination to choose botany for his future career." Gleason continued, "But let us remember, as Britton himself remembered, that to the Torrey Botanical Club he owed his botanical inspiration and that to the Club he returned his thanks by his final generous provision for its permanent endowment."

In 1883, the boundary of the Torrey Range was extended from a radius of 30 miles to one of 100

FIG. 2 (continued). (g) *Cypripedium parviflorum* Salisb. var. *pubescens* (Willd.) O.W. Knight. (h) *Cypripedium reginae* Walter. (i) *Galearis spectabilis* (L.) Raf. (j) *Goodyera pubescens* (Willd.) R. Br. (k) *Liparis liliifolia* (L.) Rich. *ex* Lindl. (l) *Malaxis unifolia* Michx.

miles around New York City. At the Club's December 1887 meeting led by Britton, a committee of six was appointed to prepare a list of plants found within a 100-mile radius of New York City that would serve as the basis for a new local descriptive flora. Five months later at the Club's May 1888 meeting, the committee reported that the catalogue had been finished and distributed.

On April 25, 1888, the Torrey Botanical Club issued *Preliminary Catalogue of Anthophyta and Pteriodophyta Reported as Growing Spontaneously Within One Hundred Miles of New York City* (Fig. 1) by the Committee on the Local Catalogue comprising Justus Ferdinand Poggenburg (1840–1893), N. L. Britton, Emerson Ellick Sterns (1846–1926), A. Brown, Thomas Conrad Porter (1822–1901), and C. A. Hollick. Greene (1888) referred to the work as the Torrey Club Catalogue, but later it became known as the Britton, Sterns, & Poggenburg Catalogue (Barnhart 1933). The region covered in the *Preliminary Catalogue* included all of Connecticut, southeastern New York, all of New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania. Two maps showing the range, drawn by C. A. Hollick, accompanied the catalogue. A more detailed map of the region was later prepared by Sereno Stetson (1879–1952) in 1910 and published in Taylor (1915). The artificial nature of the

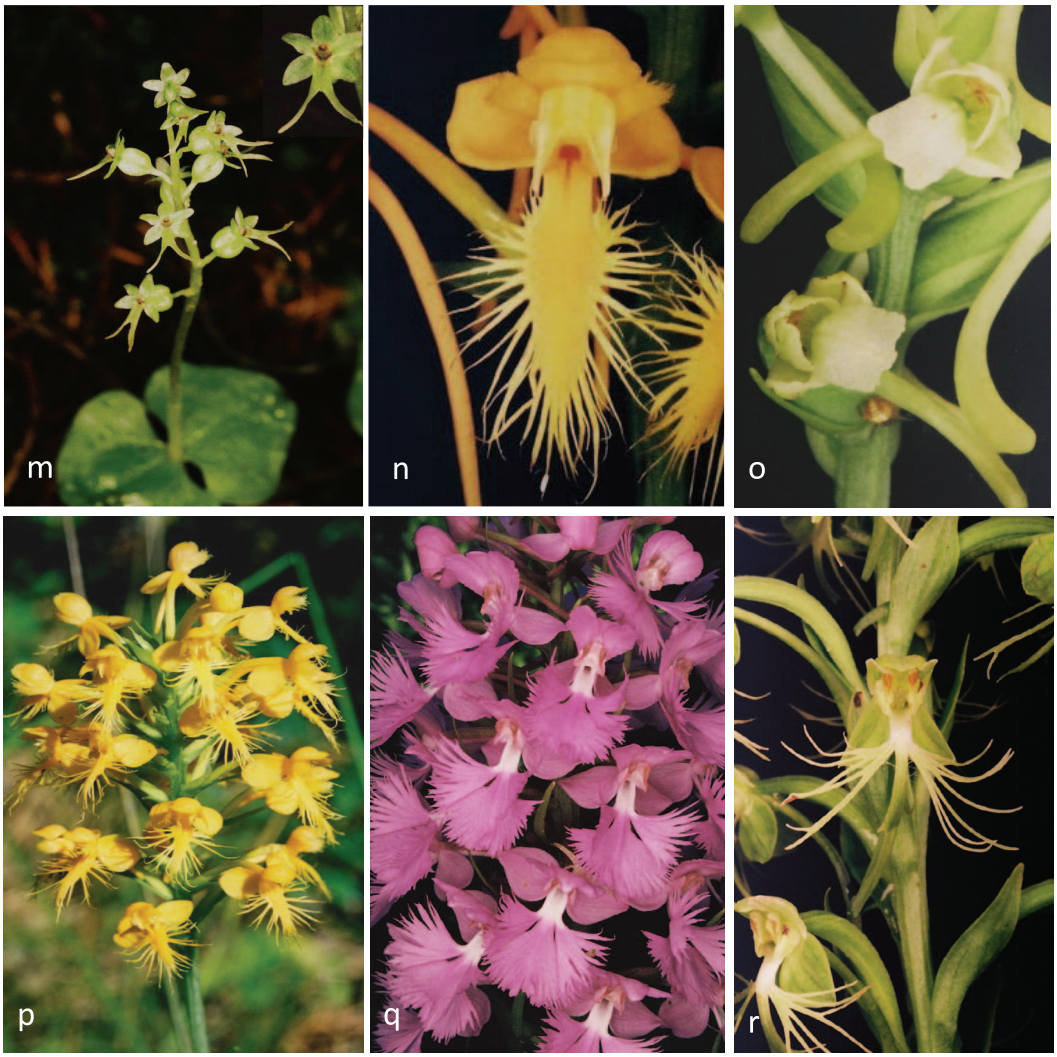


FIG. 2 (continued). (m) *Neottia cordata* (L.) Rich. (n) *Platanthera ciliaris* (L.) Lindl. (o) *Platanthera clavellata* (Michx.) Luer. (p) *Platanthera cristata* (Michx.) Lindl. (q) *Platanthera grandiflora* (Bigelow) Lindl. (r) *Platanthera lacera* (Michx.) G. Don.

boundary was criticized by Taylor (1915): "When making a botanical survey, an area such as this, determined wholly by political boundary lines has many disadvantages over purely natural vegetation regions, such as the pine-barrens, for instance. But it has seemed advisable to adopt the range as outlined by the committee in spite of obvious drawbacks."

The *Preliminary Catalogue* was intended to be a working list, "a mere check-list" (Barnhart 1918), with blank pages to record notes on additions and corrections to the flora. More than 2,000 species of vascular plants were included; unlike Torrey's *Catalogue* of 1819, mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi, and algae were not included. Britton, Sterns, and Poggenburg were responsible for the work's nomenclature, and many innovations were published. Greene (1888) hailed the work as the "opening of a new era," but Britten (1888) and Alphonse de Candolle (1888) attacked it and considered it "mischievous." Britton (1888) responded with a spirited defense. The *Preliminary Catalogue* represented the beginning of the Brittonian (American) schism; consequently, two nomenclatural codes coexisted in American botany journals and books for the next several decades.

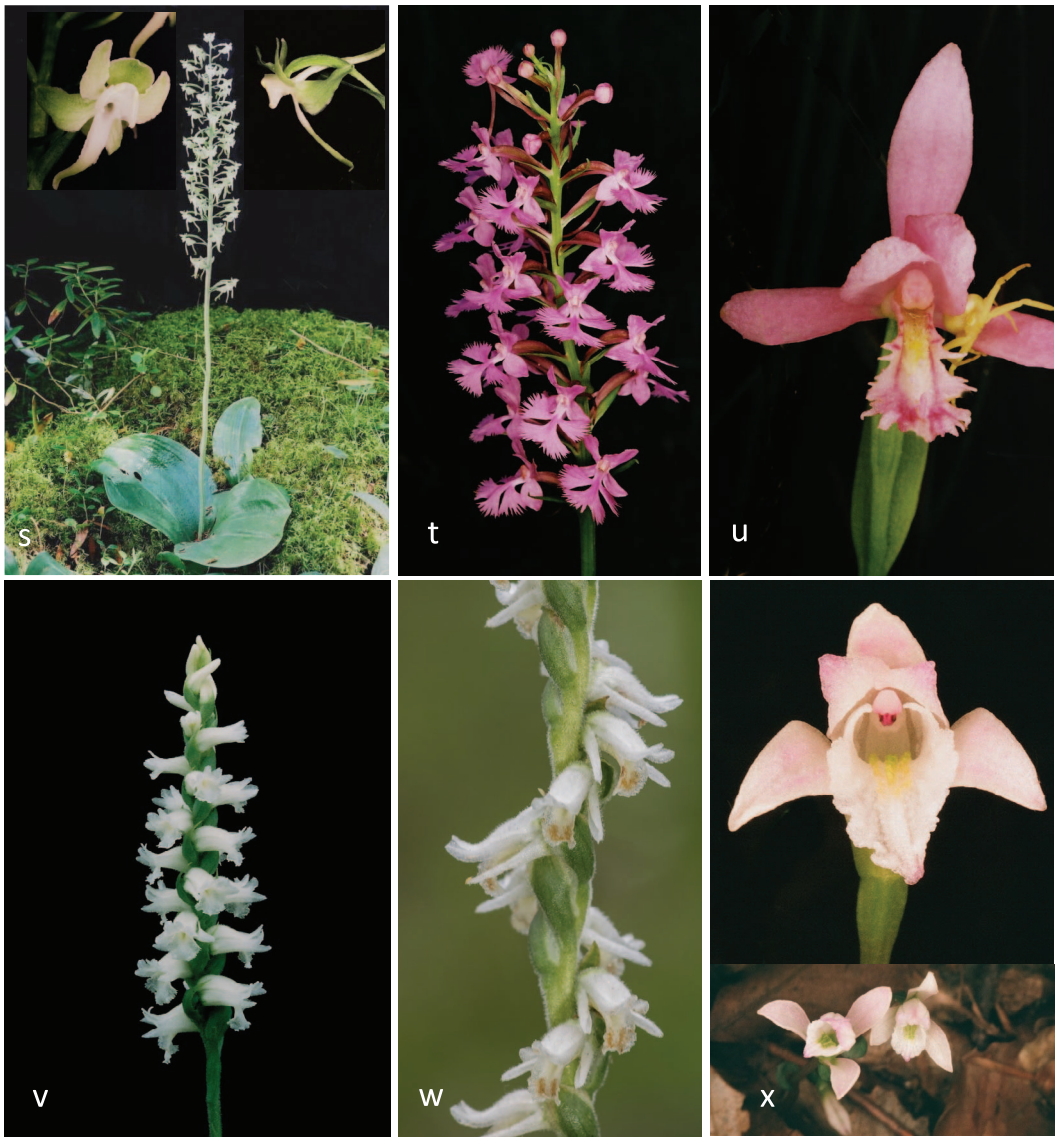


FIG. 2 (continued). (s) *Platanthera orbiculata* (Pursh) Lindl. (t) *Platanthera psycodes* (L.) Lindl. (u) *Pogonia ophioglossoides* (L.) Ker Gawl. (v) *Spiranthes cernua* (L.) Rich. (w) *Spiranthes vernalis* Engelm. & A. Gray. (x) *Triphora trianthophora* (Sw.) Rydb.

Nicolson (1991) remarked, "Within months [of the death of Asa Gray in January 1888] Nathaniel Lord Britton began to show the first inklings of a drastic 'new' nomenclature, shocking the Old Guard. The Candollean Code was under attack and promised to flood the new Index with unnecessary names."

The same year the *Preliminary Catalogue* was published (1888), the Club established the Local Flora Committee. The committee has taken on various names, such as Committee on the Local Flora and Local Flora and Vegetation Committee, but the charge has always been more or less the same—to prepare and publish lists of plant species occurring in the New York City region. Nathaniel Britton served 47 years as the committee's first chairman from 1888 to 1934 (Table 2).

At its inception, the Local Flora Committee was organized into two subcommittees, one dealing with the phanerogams and the other with cryptogams. Initially, three members served on each subcommittee; in later years, the number some-

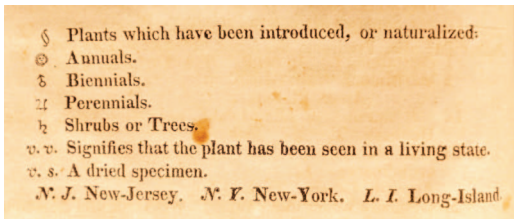

§ Plants which have been introduced, or naturalized.
⊙ Annuals.
♂ Biennials.
♃ Perennials.
♄ Shrubs or Trees.
v. v. Signifies that the plant has been seen in a living state.
v. s. A dried specimen.
N. J. New-Jersey. N. Y. New-York. L. I. Long-Island.

FIG. 3. Legend of symbols from John Torrey's *Catalogue* (1819). Image courtesy of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, The New York Botanical Garden. Photographed by Marlon Co.

times increased. This structure continued throughout Britton's tenure as chairman. From 1915 to 1936, additional "Special Committees on Local Flora" were listed in *Torreya*, but their specific responsibilities were not recorded by the Club.

Elizabeth Gertrude Knight Britton (1858–1934) served 47 years on the cryptogam subcommittee from 1888 to 1934 (Table 2). For highlights of E. G. Britton's other contributions to the Torrey Botanical Club and American botany, see Jackson and Boom (2020, this volume) and Moore (2020, this volume). Three other members of the Local Flora Committee during N. L. Britton's term were Fanny Augusta Mulford (1855–1939), Eugene Pintard Bicknell (1859–1925), and Kenneth Kent Mackenzie (1877–1934).

Fanny Mulford was born in Nevada City, CA, and moved as a child with her family to Hempstead, Nassau County, Long Island, in 1866. She was elected a member of the Torrey Botanical Club in 1896 and remained a member for 40 years. She served on the Local Flora Committee from 1900 to 1925 and was a guide for several field meetings in 1906 and 1907. Mulford collaborated with E. G. Britton as an activist for the protection of wildflowers and was a charter member of the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America. She contributed to Taylor's (1915) "Flora of the vicinity of New York" by collecting rare and noteworthy plants from western Long Island (Lamont 2016). In 1919, she donated her personal herbarium of approximately 4,000 specimens to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden herbarium (Gager 1920); additional collections are held at the herbaria of The New York Botanical Garden, Missouri Botanical Garden, and the United States Botanic Garden. *Viola mulfordae* Pollard was named in her honor. Many plant species collected by Mulford from 1895 to 1918 are now considered extirpated from western Long Island (Young 2019), including *Amianthium muscitoxicum* (Walter) A. Gray, *Arethusa bulbosa* L., *Gentiana saponaria* L., *Hypericum adpressum* W.P.C. Barton, *Isotria medeoloides* (Pursh) Raf., *Liparis liliifolia* (L.) Rich. *ex* Lindl., and *Platanthera ciliaris* (L.) Lindl.

Eugene Bicknell was born in Riverdale, NY. He did not attend college and entered into business at an early age, becoming a partner in a banking firm. His surviving diaries record his keen observations as an enthusiastic ornithologist in late 19th-century suburban New York. In 1878, he was one of 10 naturalists who organized the Linnaean Society of New York. Gradually, his interest shifted from the study of birds to that of plants. In 1880, he was elected a member of the Torrey Botanical Club and served on the Local Flora Committee from 1900 to 1925. Bicknell rarely attended scientific or social meetings, yet in his lifetime he published more than 70 botanical articles (57 in the Club's *Bulletin*) and another 26 on ornithology. His acute sense of observation led him to describe new plant species from the Torrey Range, including *Amelanchier nantucketensis* E.P. Bicknell, *Carex annectens* (E.P. Bicknell) E.P. Bicknell, *Crocanthemum dumosum* E.P. Bicknell, *C. propinquum* (E.P. Bicknell) E.P. Bicknell, *Linum intercursum* E.P. Bicknell, *Sanicula trifoliata* E.P. Bicknell, *Sisyrinchium atlanticum* E.P. Bicknell, *S. fuscatum* E.P. Bicknell, *Triosteum aurantiacum* E.P. Bicknell, and *Viola pectinata* E.P. Bicknell. Between 1908 and 1919, he published, in 20 installments in the *Bulletin*, "Ferns and flowering plants of Nantucket." He was a founding member of The New York Botanical Garden, eventually becoming a member of its Board of Scientific Directors. Bicknell is commemorated in the names of many plant and animal species. His plant collections and library were gifted by his wife to The New York Botanical Garden.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Iowa, Kenneth Mackenzie received a law degree from Columbia University in 1906 and became a corporate attorney in New York City. In 1903, he was elected a member of the Torrey Botanical Club and served on the Local Flora Committee from 1909 to 1934. He collected plants in many parts of the United States and Canada and was an authority on the genus *Carex* (Cyperaceae); he published more than 70 papers and described a vast number of species in this genus. Some *Carex* species described by Mackenzie from the Torrey Range

Table 2. Local Flora Committee members, 1888–1945.

Phanerogam Subcommittee		Cryptogam Subcommittee	
Year	Name	Year	Name
1888–1934	Britton, N. L.	1888–1934	Britton, E. G.
1888	Sterns, E. E.	1888–1898	Steele, M. O.
1888	Poggenburg, J. F.	1888–1899	Jelliffe, S. E.
1889–1899	Porter, T. C.	1899–1905	Underwood, L. M.
1889–1904	Rusby, H. H.	1900–1936	Howe, M. A.
1900–1925	Bicknell, E. P.	1905–1925	Murrill, W. A.
1900	Hulst, G. D.	1907	Williams, R. S.
1901–1907	Mulford, F. A	1907–1914	Dowell, P.
1905	Eggleston, W. W.	1909–1941	Hazen, T. E.
1907	Harper, R. M.	1915–1939	Levine, M.
1907	Schneider, R.	1922	Chamberlain, E. B.
1909–1934	Mackenzie, K. K.	1922–1945	Evans, A. W.
1909–1911	Burgess, E. S.	1922–1941	Seaver, F. J.
1909–1913	Morris, E. L.	1926–1941	Anderson, G. P.
1909–1921	Curtis, C. C.	1930–1941	Haynes, C. C.
1912–1936	Taylor, N.	1937–1945	Bartram, E. B.
1922–1929	Nichols, G. E.	1937–1945	Benedict, R. C.
1922–1941	Denslow, H. M.	1937–1939	Dodge, B. O.
1922–1929	Griscom, L.	1937–1945	Hagelstein, R.
1922–1937	Long, B.	1937–1945	Karling, J. S.
1923–1930	Ferguson, W. C.	1937–1945	Matzke, E. B.
1926–1936	Cheney, R. H.	1937–1945	Pfeiffer, N. E.
1932–1945	Rusk, H. M.	1937	Small, J. K.
1937–1941	Svenson, H. K.	1937–1941	Thomas, W. S.
1937–1945	Alexander, E. J.	1939–1945	Dole, W. H.
1937–1941	Bonisteel, W. J.	1939–1943	Copeland, J. J.
1937–1941	Camp, W. H.	1939	Bainfield, W. M.
1937–1941	Fogg, J. M., Jr.	1940–1945	Bold, H. C.
1937–1945	Gleason, H. A.	1943–1944	Thomson, J. W., Jr.
1937–1938	Moldenke, H. N.	1944–1945	Metzner, J. J.
1938–1939	Cain, S.	1944–1945	Lewis, F. R.
1938–1939	Drushel, J. H.	1944–1945	Nearing, G. G.
1938–1941	Edwards, J. L.	1945	Wynne, F. E.
1938–1941	Fulling, E. H.		
1938–1939	Smith, V. S.		
1939–1941	Fay, D.		
1939–1941	Friend, E.		
1940–1941	Bulter, E.		
1940–1945	Graves, A. H.		
1940–1941	Rickett, H. W.		
1940–1945	Smith, O. B.		
1943–1945	Hulbary, R. L.		
1943–1945	Murphy, J.		
1943–1945	Robbins, W. J.		
1943–1945	Zimmerman, P. W.		

include *Carex abscondita* Mack., *C. aggregata* Mack., *C. bushii* Mack., *C. cryptolepis* Mack., *C. hirsutella* Mack., *C. hirtifolia* Mack., *C. longii* Mack., *C. merritt-fernaldii* Mack., *C. mesochorea* Mack., *C. molesta* Mack., *C. normalis* Mack., *C. projecta* Mack., and *C. rugosperma* Mack. In 1932, Mackenzie presented his herbarium of 43,000 specimens to The New York Botanical Garden along with 1,000 illustrations and funding for publications. In the last decade of his life, he served on the Board of Managers for The New York Botanical Garden. He amassed an impressive botanical library at his estate in northern New Jersey that was bequeathed to the Horticultural Society of New York and eventually sold in a series of sales between 1963 and 1997. His New Jersey estate, Skylands, became the site of the New Jersey State Botanical Gardens.

Early members of the Local Flora Committee focused on expanding the *Preliminary Catalogue* into "a comprehensive Flora of the Metropolitan District" (Burgess 1899) and "a full and definite catalogue with ecological and quantitative features as well as accurate localities" (Burgess 1900). It would take 27 years to complete this comprehensive flora (Taylor 1915).

Norman Taylor (1883–1967) was elected a member of the Torrey Botanical Club in 1905 and served on the Local Flora Committee from 1912 to 1936. Among his contributions was a series of 10 papers titled "Local flora notes" published in the Club's *Bulletin* and *Torreya* (Taylor 1909a, b; 1910a–e; 1911a–c). Taylor's (1915) *Flora of the vicinity of New York* represented "the culmination of our forefathers' study of the local flora" (Taylor 1917). The work treated 2,651 species of vascular plants, of which 613 (23%) were nonnative. Taxonomy and nomenclature largely followed the second edition of Britton and Brown's (1913) *Illustrated Flora*, as did keys to genera and species. Each species entry included scientific name (common names were excluded), synonyms (for some species), habitat, distribution (throughout entire range and within the Torrey Range), frequency (abundant, common, frequent, occasional, rare, very rare), nativity status, and various notes on infraspecific taxa, morphological variation, and so on. Fernald (1915) was critical of Taylor's discussion of factors affecting the distribution of species, commenting, "It is impossible to avoid the impression that the author is floundering in water too deep for him," but he conceded that the 602-page catalogue of plants "is bound to be much referred to by future workers, for it draws together a vast amount of material from scattered sources." Indeed, Taylor's catalogue continues to be a standard reference for modern botanists studying the flora of the Torrey Range.

The Club's 50-year anniversary in 1917 capped an era of prodigious study of the local flora. Afterward, members of the Local Flora Committee continued publishing papers in *Torreya* (Harper 1917a,b, 1946; Denslow 1919, 1923, 1927, 1941; Ferguson 1919, 1922, 1924a, b, 1925a, b, 1926, 1928; Gleason 1930, 1937; Moldenke 1931, 1941; Edwards 1932). The committee remained active until Britton's death in 1934.

1935 to Present. A Decline and Resurgence. In 1935 and 1936, the Local Flora Committee was without a chairman for the first time since its formation. Henry K. Svenson (1897–1986) served as chairman from 1937 to 1940 followed by W. H. Camp (1904–1963) in 1941 and Edwin B. Matzke (1902–1969) in 1943. The committee was without a chairman in 1942 and from 1944 to 1946.

Committee members continued publishing papers on the local flora in *Torreya* from 1935 to 1945, including "Notes on some New Jersey plants" (Edwards and Clausen 1935), "The Cladoniae of New Jersey" (Evans 1935, 1938, 1940), "Plants from the estuary of the Hudson River" (Svenson 1935), "The flora of the Watchung Mountains" (Moldenke 1936), "Wool-waste grasses at Yonkers" (Gleason 1937), "Local flora notes" (Svenson and Latham 1938), "Guide to the lichens of the New York area" (Nearing 1939), "Weeds of New York" (Monachino 1940), "Report of the Local Flora Committee" (Svenson 1940, 1941), "Local flora notes" (Monachino 1941), "A recent study of the orchid flora of Connecticut" (Denslow 1941), and "Damage to trees in New York City in the hurricane of September 14, 1944" (Graves 1945).

The number of papers pertaining to the local flora published in *Torreya* precipitously declined in the mid-1940s, as did the number of pages included in each volume. In January 1946, the Club discontinued publication of *Torreya* as a separate journal; instead, it was included as a section within the *Bulletin*.

In 1947, the Club dissolved the Local Flora Committee and tasked the Field Committee with compiling lists of plant species observed on field trips. The Local Flora Committee was inactive from 1947 to 1959. During the mid-1950s, the Field Committee began to experience a decline in interest. David E. Fairbrothers (1925–2012), chairman of the Field Committee from 1955 to 1957, reported, "A definite lack of interest has been shown by members of the Torrey Botanical Club in their field program during the past two years" (Fairbrothers 1956). Joseph V. Monachino (1911–1962), chairman from 1958 to 1961, added, "The field program of the Torrey Club was in danger of being discontinued" (Monachino 1959).

Despite these challenges, notes on the local flora continued to be published by Club members in the *Bulletin*. Some regular contributors during this time include Harry E. Ahles (1951, 1952), Murray F. Buell and Helen F. Buell (Buell *et al*. 1954; Buell 1955), David Fables (Fables and Houda

Table 3. Local Flora Committee chairs, 1960–2020.

Year	Name
1960–1970	Lehr, J. H.
1971–1988	Greller, A. M.
1989–1991	Stalter, R.
1991–2001	Clemants, S. E.
2001–2002	Fitzgerald, J. M.
2003–present	Lamont, E. E.

1951; Fables 1954), David E. Fairbrothers (1958, 1960), Harold N. Moldenke (1947, 1948, 1950), Joseph V. Monachino (1955, 1957, 1958a, b, 1959), Carl D. Monk (1957, 1959), and John A. Small (Small and Martin 1958; Small 1959).

J. Harry Lehr (1901–1987) was instrumental in the resurgence of the Local Flora Committee and served as chairman from 1960 to 1970 (Table 3). Clum (1968), in his review of Club activities from 1942 to 1967, reported,

> The notes which Mr. Harry Lehr, our Chairman of the Local Flora Committee, has contributed from time to time are also full of new locations for certain plants, or sometimes they tell of finding two or more plants together in such a position that difficult species or varietal distinctions can easily be seen. The details of these reports are too much to give here, but they are very valuable to anyone interested in our local flora and its changes.

Lehr's principal floristic work pertaining to the Torrey Range was "An annotated preliminary catalogue of the vascular flora of Rockland County, New York" published in the Club's *Bulletin* (Lehr 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960a, 1961a, 1962a, 1963a, 1964b, 1965, 1966b, 1967, 1968a, 1969, 1979). He also contributed notes on the local flora (Lehr 1960b, 1961b, 1962b, 1963b, c, d, e, 1964a, 1966a, 1968b) and updated a bibliography of Torrey Range floras (Lehr unpublished).

Lehr initiated a change in the organization of the Local Flora Committee that has continued to present. Whereas the committee comprised numerous members serving on various subcommittees during N. L. Britton's tenure as chairman, the committee during Lehr's tenure may best be described as "a committee of one."

The Club's 100-year anniversary in 1967 marked the beginning of a new era of interest in the local flora. That interest waxed and waned until around 1990, when floristic studies in the Torrey Range surged. During the 50 years following Lehr's tenure, five field botanists (four from Long Island) chaired the Local Flora Committee.

Andrew M. Greller (1941–) chaired the Local Flora Committee from 1971 to 1988 (Table 3). Greller's research interests in the Torrey Range focus largely on forest ecology and natural vegetation of Long Island and Staten Island (Greller 1972, 1975, 1977b, 1989a, 2017; Greller *et al*. 1978, 1979, 1982, 1990, 1992, 2000, 2006, 2011; Greller and Garcia 1986; Greller and Lamont 2012). His floristic studies on Long Island include floras of the forested portion of Cunningham Park, Queens County (Greller 1977a); Kalbfleisch Field Research Station of the American Museum of Natural History, Suffolk County (Greller 1989b); West Hills County Park, Suffolk County (Greller and Clemants 2001); and Caumsett State Historic Park, Suffolk County (Greller *et al*. 2005). His interests also include fossil plants from Long Island (Greller 2008, 2019). Largely due to Greller's interest in ecology, the Local Flora Committee was renamed the Local Flora and Vegetation (LF&V) Committee in 1976.

The following summary by Greller (personal communication) highlights the times during his term and refers to an event that influenced future floristic studies in the Torrey Range:

> The 1970s and 1980s were a turbulent time of eco-political activity in the NYC area and floristic research was not in fashion. The Torrey Club took the position that political activity should be left to civic groups created for that purpose, but occasional letters of support for conservation actions originated in the Local Flora & Vegetation Committee. The most important accomplishment of the Committee was the creation of what became known as the New York Metropolitan Flora [NYMF] project. The last NYC regional flora had been assembled by the TBC Local Flora Committee and published in 1915 by Norman Taylor. In 1988 Club members Karl Anderson [1938–] and Naomi Dicker [1926–2009] urged Greller, then President of the Club, to begin the organization of a new flora project in the Torrey Range. A notice to regional botanists informed them of TBC plans to organize a new assessment of the flora of the NYC vicinity and invited them to participate.

Greller chaired a conference "Matters of Interest to New York City Area Field Botanists" held at The New York Botanical Garden on December 8, 1988. Approximately 100 botanists from throughout the Northeast attended. After hours of brainstorming, Dr. Steven E. Clemants [1954–2008], supported by the BBG [Brooklyn Botanic Garden] Vice President for Science, Dr. Stephen K-M Tim [1937–1998], agreed to undertake the project. A number of publications resulted from the project, extensive new collections were made by BBG botanists, and a website was created for the digitized records of BBG Herbarium collections and for an atlas of the local flora. The work was never completed due to the dissolving of the BBG Science Department by the new BBG President. Greller resigned his chairmanship of the LF&V Committee in favor of a person who would facilitate the new flora project on behalf of the Torrey Club.

Richard Stalter (1942–) was appointed chair of the LF&V Committee in 1989 and tasked with coordinating Club participation in the new flora project. During his 2-year term, he prepared a checklist of the vascular flora of Long Island and distributed it to local botanists (Stalter, personal communication). Stalter's research interests in the Torrey Range include floristic and ecological studies along New Jersey's coastal plain (Stalter 1979, 1980, 1994; Stalter and Serrao 1983; Stalter and Greller 1988; Stalter and O'Connor 1994; Stalter and Lamont 2000) and islands in southeastern New York and adjacent New Jersey (New York Harbor), including Ellis Island (Stalter and Scotto 1999), Fire Island (Stalter *et al*. 1986), Gardiners Island (Stalter and Lamont 2015), Great Gull Island (Stalter and Lamont 2005), Hoffman Island (Stalter and Munir 2002), Liberty Island (Stalter and Tang 2002), Long Island (Stalter 1981; Stalter and Lamont 1987, 2002, 2014; Stalter and Greller 1988; Stalter and Rachlin 2018), Manhattan Island (Stalter 2004; Stalter and Kincaid 2008), Plum Island (Lamont and Stalter 2013), and Swinburne Island (Stalter and Munir 2002).

Following the December 1988 conference at The New York Botanical Garden, Steven Clemants implemented the NYMF project at BBG, where he was on staff as research taxonomist. The next two decades witnessed the most prolific study of the local flora in 75 years. Botanists from BBG collected thousands of vouchers from the Torrey Range (deposited at BKL) and published papers on the local flora in the Club's *Journal* and elsewhere (Moore 1989, 2004, 2009 a, b; Clemants 1990a, b, 1992, 1999, 2001, 2002; Clemants and Ketchledge 1990; Delendick 1990, 1994; Clemants and Glenn 1994; Glenn 1995, 2001, 2008, 2009; Clemants and Marinelli 2002; Moore *et al*. 2002; Barringer and Clemants 2003; Barringer and Pannaman 2003; Clemants and Moore 2003, 2005; Steward *et al*. 2003; Barringer 2004, 2011; Glenn and Barringer 2004; Clemants and Gracie 2006; Clemants and Handel 2006; Nelson and Barringer 2006). A website, https://www.bbg.org/collections/nymf, was created to disseminate new data generated by the NYMF project.

In 1991, Clemants was appointed chair of the Club's LF&V Committee (Table 3). The boundary of the Torrey Range was redefined to include all counties within roughly a 50-mile radius of New York City, including southeastern New York (Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester counties), all of northern New Jersey south to Mercer and Monmouth counties, and Fairfield County, CT. This range matched the range of the NYMF project (Moore *et al*. 2002).

Patrick L. Cooney (1947–) was appointed chair of the Club's Field Committee in 1996. In 1999, he became editor of the Club's website, where he posted "a vast number of plant lists for virtually every important park or preserve in the metropolitan area covered by TBS" (Cooney 2001). In Cooney's opinion, "The expansion of the TBS website created a conflict of interest between TBS and the New York Metropolitan Flora project headquartered with BBG and Steve Clemants" (Cooney 2001).

In 2001, Clemants stepped down as chair of the LF&V Committee, and his graduate student Judith M. Fitzgerald (est. 1937–) finished his term. Fitzgerald was the first woman to chair the committee. Her Ph.D. thesis "The ecology, geology, and history of Inwood Hill Park in northern Manhattan, New York County, New York" was published in the Club's *Journal* (Fitzgerald and Loeb 2008).

Eric E. Lamont (1953–) was appointed chair of the LF&V Committee in 2003; during his tenure, the name of the committee was changed back to Local Flora Committee. The Torrey Range continued to include the region within a 50-mile radius

around Columbus Circle, New York City (Moore *et al*. 2002).

In 2001, Lamont and colleagues began publishing in the Club's *Journal* a series of papers titled "Noteworthy plants reported from the Torrey Range" (Lamont and Fitzgerald 2001; Lamont and Young 2002, 2004, 2006; Lamont and Glenn 2009; Lamont *et al*. 2011, 2014). Each paper contained short reports on about 20 native and nonnative vascular species; noteworthy reports included new records for the Torrey Range, status of rare species, range extensions, extirpations, population fluctuations, and other observations. Additional papers on the local flora by Lamont and colleagues include floristic studies (Lamont and Stalter 1991, 2013; Lamont 1995a, 1998), reports of new species in the Torrey Range (Lamont and Young 2005; Lamont and Feder 2017; Lamont *et al*. 2013), the status of orchids on Long Island (Lamont *et al*. 1988; Lamont 1996, 2000, 2007; Lamont and Stalter 2007), the status of and keys to goldenrods (*Solidago* and *Euthamia*) of Long Island (Lamont 1992, 1994a, b, 2008), and accounts of some early Long Island botanists and naturalists (Lamont 1995b, 2016).

Club members Brian M. Boom (1954–) and Daniel E. Atha (1962–), both on staff at The New York Botanical Garden, recently implemented the New York City EcoFlora project. The project seeks to compile new and original data on the City's flora and ecological dynamics and enhance the ecological literacy of all New Yorkers. Since 2017, citizen scientists have documented more than 370,000 plants, fungi, and animals across all five boroughs of New York City and uploaded observations with photographs to iNaturalist. Atha, Boom, and colleagues have been researching, studying, preparing specimens of, and reporting on the vascular plants that occur in New York City (Atha *et al*. 2010, 2014a, b, 2016a, b, 2017, 2018a, b, c, 2019a, b, 2020a, b; Atha 2017, 2018, 2019a, b, 2020; Atha and Boom 2018).

In conclusion, 2017 marked the 150-year anniversary of the Torrey Botanical Society, and in celebration, the society hosted a symposium and published this volume. Additionally, the society is pleased to have published in its *Memoirs* "Catalogue of the vascular plants of New York State" (Werier 2017). This 542-page catalogue follows in the tradition of John Torrey and all members of the Club who have studied the flora of the Torrey Range.

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