op. cit. 30: 164. 1978); **Ch. incurvata** (Benth.) Irwin & Barneby, comb. nov. (*Cassia incurvata* Benth. in Martius, Fl. Bras. 15(2): 137. 1870).

Acknowledgments

Our continuing work on the systematics of *Cassieae* is currently supported by NSF Grant DEB 7818365 to New York Botanical Garden. The illustrations were prepared by Barbara Angell.

BOOK REVIEW

The Pteridophytes of Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota, U.S.A.

Aleta Jo Petrik-Ott. 332 pp., illus. Beihefte zur Nova Hedwigia, Heft 61. Vaduz, J. Cramer. 1979. \$50.00.

The publication of a modern fern flora for the heart of the Great Plains is a welcome addition to our knowledge of the floristics of this interesting region. This excellent, well illustrated work, requiring ten years to complete, began at a time when I myself was ranging throughout the same area in search of goldenrods, so I can appreciate the vastness and complexity of the area studied. The bold type makes the work easy to read and the area maps of the four-state region studied as well as the North American range maps make a survey of the species range instantly apparent. The complete exsiccatae will be welcomed by herbarium curators and will be valuable to fern enthusiasts in general. The newly prepared illustrations by the author indicate a strong devotion to detail and the very complete bibliography, as well as the glossary, will make the work useful to amateurs and professional pteridologists alike.

Particularly interesting and welcome are the numerous anecdotal accounts given by the author which give us a smattering of the botanical history of the area, ranging from the famous Charles Bessey to the obscure (for most of us) plant enthusiast and amateur.

Though not at all detracting from the scientific value of the book, one wonders about the geographical arrangement from south to north (a more common procedure in the southern hemisphere) when most North American botanists use a north to south arrangement of geographical entities.

A minor detraction from the general excellence of the work is the failure to mention in the introduction the number of taxa involved in the study. This is so consistently done by both monographers and writers of floristic works that most of us have come to expect it.—THOMAS B. CROAT, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166.