



*Pinus lambertiana*

# BOOK REVIEWS

## GYMNOSPERMS of the United States & Canada

*TAXON: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PLANT TAXONOMY* Review -

"Look at me" shouts this unique and pictorially spectacular book written by Elray S. Nixon and illustrated by botanical artist Bruce Lyndon Cunningham, who is renowned for his distinctive poster-art style. A hundred or more years ago he would have been producing artwork for botanical wall charts, which would have been very welcome, because rather few involved gymnosperms (see R. Schmid, 1990, Wall charts (Wandtafeln) — remembrance of things past, *Taxon* 39: 471–472; see also *Taxon* 53: 232). Nixon and Cunningham, respectively, briefly describe and extensively illustrate 6 families, 20 genera, and 115 species of gymnosperms: 3 families, 17 genera, 101 species of conifers (respectively, 2/5 genera/species Taxaceae, 6/66 Pinaceae, 9/30 Cupressaceae), plus 12 species of *Ephedra* (Ephedraceae), *Zamia integrifolia* (Zamiaceae), and the alien *Ginkgo biloba* (Ginkgoaceae). Genera and species are alphabetically arranged within the families. Taxa and nomenclature follow *Flora of North America*, volume 2 (1993). The genera accepted are the traditional ones; thus one will not encounter such recently accepted spin-offs of *Cupressus* as *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* for *Cupressus macrocarpa* or *Callitropsis nootkatensis* for *Cupressus nootkatensis* or *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*.

### The Midwest Book Review -

"The variance of trees and plant life throughout North America is astounding. "Gymnosperms of the United States & Canada" is an illustrated guide to classification and identification of the Gymnosperm, or the naked seed of the trees of the United States and Canada. Identifying these things often referred to as cones, these full color illustrations are sure to give a more complete understanding of these seeds and the trees they belong to. A top pick for any nature collection focusing on the many types of trees throughout Canada and the United States, "Gymnosperms of the United States & Canada" is a core pick, enthusiastically recommended."

### The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University Review-

"Pine trees are the most often cited example of a gymnosperm. But what about the other gymnosperms? How do we know when we see one? Do all gymnosperms have cones? These questions and many others are answered in "Gymnosperms of the United States & Canada". Abundant illustrations, easy-to-follow keys, and clear descriptive text make this guide a great resource when learning about the gymnosperms in your area."

### Library Journal Book Review -

"Focusing on the conifers, cycads, ginkgo, and Gnetum of the United States and Canada, Nixon (*Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of East Texas*) organizes the 115 profiled species alphabetically by genera, detailing distinctive physical traits. Accompanying descriptions are Cunningham's (*Winter Key to Deciduous Woody Plants of East Texas*) lively, full-color illustrations, with multipage spreads providing genera-specific imagery that clarifies morphological variations. An illustrated, 100-term glossary, delineating cone, leaf, bud, and bark characteristics, renders this highly accessible to curious lay readers, while its informational rigor makes it equally useful for naturalists. A vital modernization of David Pearce Penhallow's 1907 *Manual of North American Gymnosperms*."

OTHER REVIEWS COMING. . .

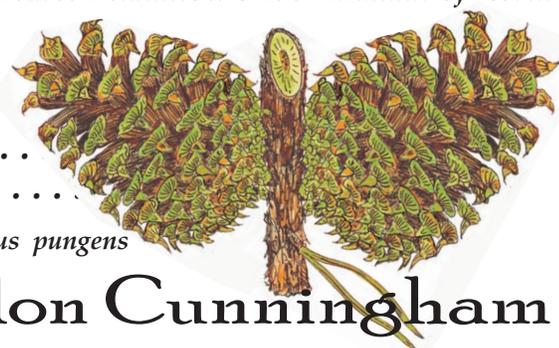
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN REVIEW. . .

FLORAL OF NORTH AMERICA REVIEW. . . . .

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN REVIEW. . . . .

by Elray S. Nixon

Illustrated by Bruce Lyndon Cunningham



*Pinus pungens*