Complete citation of E.H. Bryan, Jr.'s The Plants of Guam¹

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Abstract— Edwin H. Bryan, Jr.'s monograph *The Plants of Guam* (1936–1941; 1956–1960) was an important addition to the botany of Guam and the Mariana Islands. It was also unique in Micronesian botany in that it was serialized twice in the popular press, appearing as a total of 191 brief articles in two now discontinued periodicals lacking wide circulation. This has made bibliographic referencing of the work challenging; no catalog of the series' contents or article titles exists. This note recounts the publication and citation history of *The Plants of Guam* and provides a complete bibliography of articles.

I run onto some subject I would like to learn about personally, a subject I believe others would like to know about, and I write out the material as fast as I learn about it myself. ... My friends on Guam wanted and needed popular information on Guam plants and fishes; I knew very little about either, but was willing to try to learn!

Edward H. Bryan, Jr., 1958

Introduction

Edwin Horace Bryan, Jr. (1898-1985) was a biologist and naturalist affiliated during most of his life with the Bernice Pauhi Bishop Musuem in Honolulu, Hawaii. He participated in numerous collecting expeditions throughout the tropical Pacific islands and wrote extensively on the flora and fauna of the region (Bryan 1980). He wrote The Plants of Guam (1936-1941; 1956-1960) by his own admission (Bryan 1958) because he wished to learn more about Guam, the largest and southernmost island in the Mariana Islands of Micronesia. During a six-year period, he wrote three book-length treatments of Guam's birds, fishes, and plants, as well as at least 11 other articles on the island's natural history and indigenous culture (see bibliography in Bryan 1980). While his botanical account relied heavily upon those of Safford (1905) and Merrill (1914; 1919), the author also made a significant collection of plants now housed at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, and included in his account important new records for Guam and the region. Bryan's flora was also lauded (Stone 1970) for its fresh and unintimidating style designed for a general audience and was the first in the region to provide dichotomous keys and numerous figures in the form of line drawings for distinguishing species within the more speciose taxa, such as the ferns, grasses, and legumes. The account also provides records of (mostly introduced) taxa no longer found in the Marianas, as well as locality records for formerly more widely distributed native species. Hence, it remains an important work on the botany of Micronesia from the mid-20th century.

Nevertheless, Bryan's flora of Guam was seldom cited in the botanical literature of its time (e.g., Fosberg 1960) and is essentially ignored today (e.g., Whistler 1995; Vogt & Williams 2004; McConnell & Gutierrez 2006; Raulerson & Rinehart 1918). This appears largely due to its unique position in Micronesian botany in having been serialized in the popular press. The articles appeared

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in two local periodicals no longer in print, a magazine and a newspaper, making access to them difficult. Hard copies and microform materials (microfilm and microfiche) of the periodicals are curated at few libraries worldwide, remain incompletely digitized, and when available online, often lie behind a paywall. A few of these articles are partially to wholly illegible, having been scanned from deteriorating microform. These aspects have also made bibliographic referencing of the work challenging. No table of contents or complete bibliography of the component articles exists. Further, the few published summary citations are inconsistent; some include errors of transcription.

Fortunately, hard copies of both series in their entirety are curated at the University of Guam's Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center. Hence, with these resources I provide in this note corrected summary citations of the two published versions of Bryan's flora, as well as individual citations to include titles of all articles of both versions.

Publication History

Bryan's account of the plants of Guam was first published as a series of articles in a popular local magazine The Guam Recorder. Publication of the articles, as well as the magazine, ceased before the series could be completed when the island was invaded in 1941 during World War II. The quarto-sized periodical ran monthly with issue numbers having separate pagination until 1939 when it switched to pagination by volume and year. Beginning in November of 1936 The Plants of Guam appeared over a six-year period in 45 issues of six volumes as 45 articles of about 1500 to 2500 words from 1-6 pages in length, including a total of three figures. These articles are divided into 31 numbered sections called "parts" broadly grouping the higher taxa under discussion, e.g., orchids or grasses, plus an unnumbered article-length Introduction and a Conclusion. The parts are indicated by Roman numerals beginning with Part II, while the initial section of three articles on ferns lacks a parallel designation. These parts, however, sometimes also consist of potentially multi-article subsections also termed "parts" in Arabic numerals. For example, the 38th article in the series appearing in the June 1940 issue (Fig. 1A) is the second article of part 3 of Part XXVI, which covers the legumes. Finally, the Conclusions section, lacking a part number, appears unexpectedly midway through the series in the August 1939 issue between parts XXIV (appearing in July) and XXV (September). (Perhaps relatedly, this article, like most of those appearing in the August 1939 issue, is also for some reason missing the author's byline.)

Bryan's *The Plants of Guam* with some revision and including many more original line illustrations was later republished beginning in 13 November 1956 in the local newspaper the *Guam Daily News*, the immediate forerunner of the still-running *Pacific Daily News*, now entirely online. The series appeared this time over five years in 146 issues of as many articles of about 500 to 1000 words or two to three half columns of text spread over one or two pages (Fig. 1B). These articles are individually numbered (e.g., "35th in a series", "No. 135 in a series"), however later numbers could be appended by an upper-case alphabetic designation to indicate the continued discussion of a taxonomic group. There are many more *lapsus* in the newspaper edition than in the magazine series. The 1st, 35th and 49th articles are not provided numbers, the 70th article is labeled as the 10th, the 102nd as the 163rd, and the 119th as the 19th. Further, articles numbered 18, 37, 49, and 60 lack subtitles to indicate their taxonomic scope. The 116th article was printed several months early, between articles 105 and 106. The genus names *Malpighia* and *Phyllanthus* in the subtitles from, respectively, articles 136 and 138-B are misspelled. The Conclusions section printed in the earlier edition of *The Guam Recorder* is missing from the *Guam Daily News* version.

As before, the second series appearing in the *Guam Daily News* was not completed. Multiple attempts to extend the serial on behalf of the author by B.C. Stone, then botanist at the University of Guam, were unsuccessful (Stone 1970: 3). Stone suggested that this was due "perhaps to lack of space in the newspaper", writing "it may perhaps be assumed that the newspaper was unable to arrange the publication because of adverse financial conditions". An anonymously compiled

annotated bibliography appended to Bryan (1980) indicates only that the manuscript was "transferred to Dr. Benjamin C. Stone and the series never completed". According to Fosberg & Sachet (1975a—b), the manuscript consists of "[s]ets of unnumbered page proofs" housed at three U.S. repositories: the Arnold Arboretum Library, the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, and in the files of the late F.R. Fosberg, Department of Botany, National Museum of Natural History. The transfer of the manuscript and the cease in publication in 1960 coincided with Mr. Bryan assuming the directorship of the newly instituted Pacific Scientific Information Center at the Bishop Museum (see Bryan 1966). Hence, his attentions were likely now concentrated elsewhere. Then, with the publication of Stone's *The Flora of Guam* in 1970 in this journal, *Micronesica* (founded by Stone in 1964), the completion of Bryan's *The Plants of Guam* as a comprehensive resource to the island's systematic botany became less pressing.

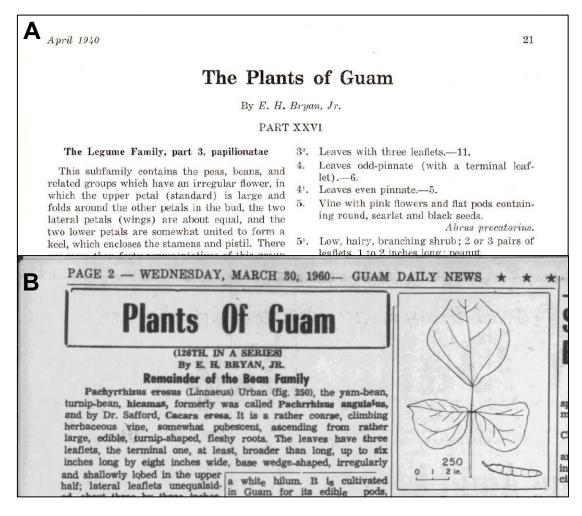


Figure 1. Incipits of representative articles from Bryan's *The Plants of Guam* from the series in A) the magazine *The Guam Recorder* and B) the newspaper *Guam Daily News*. Reproductions courtesy of Guampedia (www.guampedia.com) and Newspapers.com, respectively.

Citation History

Large systematic compendia, such as *The Plants of Guam*, are referenced in the literature in three main ways, each favoring a different form of citation. First, historical or biogeographical overviews of a region's botany may only need to reference the work as a whole. In this case, a short-form citation of the entire series is sufficient. For example, Stone (1964) in a note on additions to Guam's flora and later in a paper (Stone 1971) on the hardiness of the Mariana Island flora to frequent disturbance by typhoon winds cited *The Plants of Guam* in this manner. The compact citation included only the first and last volume and issue numbers for the series in *The Guam Recorder* and only the start and end dates for the series in the *Guam Daily News*. Merrill (1947) in an annotated bibliography of Pacific botany, Wagner & Grether (1948) in the first account devoted to Guam's ferns, and Glassman (1948) in a review of Guam's main plant communities cite the early series in similar ways. Only the latter author included page numbers, but errs in leaving out the second set of non-sequential pages from the first article.

Secondly, a large systematic work might be cited repeatedly by a likewise comprehensive effort. In this case, numerous species entries in the earlier work are referenced, which from a series would also be spread across multiple volumes and dates. Publishing a series such as *The Plants of Guam* in the short-article format of a popular magazine or newspaper further increases the burden of bibliographic detail and citation length. Regardless, Stone (1970) in his *Flora of Guam* eschews a bibliography altogether and gives only a general description of the two series (ibid., p. 3), while citing articles from both periodicals only by author and date, e.g., "Bryan, 19 March 1958". Fosberg & Sachet (1975a) in their *Flora of Micronesia* deal with this issue by providing a summary citation in their bibliography, while in the species accounts, clearly identifying the relevant articles, e.g., "Bryan, *Guam Recorder* 13(12): 13, 1937". In a later monograph (Fosberg & Sachet 1975b), they restricted citations in the text to "Bryan, Plants of Guam [unpub, 1946?]" (square brackets in the original). The remaining monographs from their *Flora* further streamlined citations to only Bryan's specimen sheets, all held at the Bishop Museum (Fosberg & Sachet 1977, 1980; Fosberg et al. 1993).

The initial approach of Fosberg & Sachet (1975a) had been previously adopted and so was perhaps inspired by Walker & Rodin (1949) in their paper on new records of phanerogams to Guam. The latter authors have also provided the most complete citation of *The Plants of Guam* of which I am aware, referencing all articles from the series appearing in *The Guam Recorder* by part number, year, volume, issue, and page numbers. However, they place the Conclusions among the articles of Part XXIV concerning the Lauraceae, Hernandiaceae, and Brassicaceae. In another *lapsus*, the issue and page numbers have been reversed between parts XXVII and XXVIII. There has been no comparable citation as far as I know for *The Plants of Guam* series appearing in the *Guam Daily News*.

The third way in which a large systematic compendium might be referenced is *in partim parvum*, in small part, say, only once from a specific page. For a highly serialized monograph, such as *The Plants of Guam*, this would mandate citing a single article instead of, or in addition to, the entire work. This may have dissuaded most authors from including citations of this form. In fact, the only example from the literature of which I know is the one motivating the present paper. In Kerr (2023), I sought published accounts of indigenous names for three distantly related species of trees native to the Mariana Islands. However, there existed no summary of the species covered in the two incomplete series of Bryan's work nor was there a list of article titles that might have provided a clue. Hence, sourcing a species account entailed examination of nearly all 191 articles comprising both series of the difficult to obtain work. This may explain Fosberg & Sachet's (1975a–b) ultimate preference for citing only Bryan's specimen sheets (Fosberg & Sachet 1977, 1980; Fosberg et al. 1993).

Bibliography of Bryan's The Plants of Guam

Below are given in chronological order the short-form, expanded, and individual article citations of both series of *The Plants of Guam*. Here and in the Literature Cited section that follows, missing dates and elements of titles, "sic" indicating a misspelling in the original article, and annotations are placed in square brackets.

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