

Gleanings

Taxonomy: Impediment or Expedient?

Q.D. Wheeler, P.H. Raven and E.O. Wilson,

Science 303: 285 (January 16th 2004)

A concise editorial on the need for taxonomy to conserve, manage, understand and enjoy the natural world. Research support is going to construct molecular phylogenies while thousands of species are endangered or worse. Ecologists know the problem and know the vital role of taxonomy to facilitate biodiversity studies and conservation. Taxonomy needs to redirect itself at individual, research societies and institutional levels. It is naïve to see IT as liberating data from herbarium cabinets, when most data is outdated or unreliable and there are too many wrongly identified specimens and many that represent undescribed taxa. World wide scientific descriptions are surely big science and inventory work is being speeded up, e.g. NSF Planetary Biodiversity Inventories. The present research generation is the first to see the dangers to biodiversity and the last to be able to document planetary diversity.

The biology of Canadian weeds. 122. *Lactuca serriola* L.

S.E. Weaver and M.P. Downs

Canadian Journal of Plant Science 83 (3): 619-628 (2003)

The biology of Canadian weeds. 123. *Senecio vulgaris* L.

D.E. Robinson, J.T. O'Donovan, M.P. Sharma, D.J. Doohan and R. Figueroa

Canadian Journal of Plant Science 83 (3): 629-644 (2003)

The latest articles in a continuing series that has been progressing through the Canadian weed flora for several decades

The Canadian Botanical Association (CBA/ABC) Bulletin, the Association's quarterly newsletter, has published a series of short articles on a wide variety of Canadian species. The initiative for this work and most of the papers have come from scientists working in the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada laboratories at the Central Experimental farm in Ottawa.