

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

**GLOSSARY
OF THE
BRITISH FLORA**

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

GLOSSARY OF THE BRITISH FLORA

BY

H. GILBERT-CARTER

M.A. (CANTAB.), M.B., CH.B. (EDIN.)

*Formerly Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden
and University Lecturer in Botany*

Honorary Associate of the Linnean Society, London

WITH A PREFACE BY

CHARLES E. RAVEN

D.D., F.B.A.

THIRD EDITION

CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1964

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition
H. Gilbert-Carter
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by
Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521114882

© Cambridge University Press 1950, 1955, 1964

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First edition 1950
Second edition 1955
Third edition 1964
This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-05081-4 hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-11488-2 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT
I DEDICATE THE THIRD EDITION OF
THE *GLOSSARY* TO A GROUP
OF GENEROUS FRIENDS WHO MADE
ITS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NOTE TO THE PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

An opportunity to make available an enlarged new edition of the Glossary has been presented by an occasion which this volume most appropriately commemorates—the eightieth birthday of its author. Some of his friends felt that there could be no better or more fitting tribute to Humphrey Gilbert-Carter's long and continuing interest in the etymology of botanical names than a new edition of his excellent little volume; to enlarge it so that it might be of maximum use to a new generation of students now familiar with 'C. T. & W.' in its second edition seemed to be a valuable and symbolic act. We are pleased to record that the Press, the author, and a group of his friends who have helped to make it possible all find in this a happy and appropriate occasion for celebration.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition
H. Gilbert-Carter
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION	<i>page</i> viii
PREFACE <i>by</i> CANON C. E. RAVEN	ix
INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST EDITION	xi
INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION	xvii
BIBLIOGRAPHY	xxii
APPROXIMATE 'RESTORED' PRONUNCIATION OF THE LATIN LETTERS	xxiv
GLOSSARY	1
APPENDIX	89

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

By adding about 150 entries to the new edition and improving the definitions of some of the old ones I have attempted to make this edition a fit companion to the second edition of the Clapham, Tutin, Warburg *Flora of the British Isles*.

I have now come to realize fully that most botanists of all countries will continue to pronounce the scientific names of plants as native words. For Italians this is identical, and for Spaniards nearly identical, with Church Latin (p. xii). For southern English it differs widely from all other pronunciations and is often ambiguous or misleading. It is called by Myles the 'Old Method' (p. xx). Recently at a meeting of a learned society a discussion about the dialect names of the woodlouse was in progress. Someone asked what the Latin name was. In the absence of any answer and in spite of my dislike of speaking at meetings, I said that the Latin name was *porcellio*, pronouncing the *c* as *k*. Had I used the 'Old Method', making the *c* an *s*, many of those present would have thought that the word was *porsellio*. Many such misunderstandings may occur. In southern English *caudatus* ('tailed') and *cordatus* ('heart-shaped') are pronounced alike.

Of English dialect pronunciations the less said the sooner mended.

H. G.-C.

HOLCOMBE, DEVON
February, 1964

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition
H. Gilbert-Carter
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PREFACE

It is not often that the contributor of 'what men call a preface and prigs a foreword' has as easy a task as this. Of Mr Gilbert-Carter's book two truisms can be truthfully stated. 'It fills a long-felt want' and 'No one else could have done it so well.'

In these days when attention is again being directed to problems of nomenclature and taxonomy and when knowledge of the Latin tongue in spite of demands for it in Responsions and Littlego grows annually less, a handy and accurate guide to the correct pronunciation of the names of our plants has become indispensable. Most botanists know that there is an international code of rules and presumably a committee to keep it up to date: but such knowledge is no help when we are faced with having to pronounce *Menziesia* or *Populus serotina*. Even in the old days when Latin was the language of all educated men it was notorious that the Englishman so mis-mouthed it that no other nation could understand him; and to-day though our 'new' pronunciation has brought us nearer the Continent there are far too many botanists whose naming of species unless written down is quite unintelligible. Mr Gilbert-Carter has not only told us exactly how we ought to speak but has set out the quantity of every syllable. Is there anyone who will read his lists without being constantly convicted of error?

But the book is much more than a guide to pronunciation. It is a full and learned record of the origin and significance of our plant-names—whether they have come down from the ancients, Theophrastus or Dioscorides or Pliny, or commemorate more recent worthies, or are due to some peculiarity of the species, or have been invented as pleasant combinations of letters. That the number of names of which 'origin unknown' is the only comment is so astonishingly small is due to Mr Gilbert-Carter's own very

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

wide range of linguistic knowledge and to the care and zeal with which he has pursued elusive clues and searched the relevant literature. The result has made his book a valuable contribution to the history of botany and a work of real importance to students of philology.

That his long service as a teacher should be thus crowned and that his pupils should receive on his retirement this rich gift and souvenir, will be a great delight and, to some extent at least, a consolation. As one of the multitude of friends who have benefited continually from his help and comradeship I am proud to have been invited to voice what they all will feel, and to say 'Thank you' and 'Well done'.

C. E. RAVEN

Christmas 1949

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST EDITION

This book aims at explaining the meaning, accentuation, and derivation of the generic, trivial, and varietal names of plants mentioned in current British Floras and in the new *British Flora* by Clapham, Tutin and Warburg.

For the purpose of showing the accentuation I have marked the long vowels and left the short ones unmarked. As terminal *o* is always long, except in a few words that do not concern us, I have left it unmarked. It should be noted that all plant-names are treated as Latin words and accented as such. In Latin the accented syllable is stressed. This stress doubtless resembled the accent in English. An example of such stress is furnished by the words *hammer*, with stress on the first syllable, and *begin*, with stress on the second. In a Latin word of two syllables the first syllable is accented. In words of more than two syllables the penultimate syllable is accented if it is long. If the penultimate syllable is short, then the ante-penultimate syllable bears the accent. A 'long' syllable is one containing a long vowel or diphthong, or a vowel followed by two consonants.*

In pure Latin words it may be assumed that a vowel is short if it is followed immediately by another vowel, e.g. *lutēus*, *purpurēus*; but in words transcribed from Greek this rule does not hold. In such words as *ACHILLĒA*, *CENTAURĒA*, and *HERACLĒUM*, the *ē* is contracted from the Greek diphthong *ει*. A diphthong is treated as a long vowel wherever it occurs, and even when transcribed by a single letter.

* Note that in words which have passed into common English usage, the accent is often thrown back. Thus *RESĒDA*, as a generic name, keeps the long, accented penultimate. The 'reseda' of milliners has the penultimate short and the accent on the first syllable. The same applies to *ALYSSUM*, as a generic name, and the 'sweet alyssum' of gardeners.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The names of groups which are called after British genera I have not considered it necessary to include. Groups are usually called after genera by affixing to the stem of the generic name a feminine adjective termination, agreeing with *plantae*, understood. These endings are:

tribe	- <i>ae</i> ,
subfamily	- <i>oīdeae</i> ,
family	- <i>āceae</i> ,
suborder	- <i>ineae</i> ,
order	- <i>āles</i> .

The names of species are binary combinations consisting of a generic name, e.g. SALIX, and a specific epithet, which was formerly called the trivial name, e.g. *alba*. The name so compounded, e.g. *Salix alba*, is known as the specific name.

Since, as already mentioned, all plant names, even when transcribed from Greek, are treated as Latin words, it will not be out of place to give a table of the Greek letters and their Latin equivalents. Since, unfortunately, many students now enter Universities not knowing the Greek alphabet, I have simplified matters by omitting the Greek capitals.

GREEK LETTERS	LATIN EQUIVALENTS	GREEK LETTERS	LATIN EQUIVALENTS
α Alpha	= a	ν Nŷ	= n
β Bēta	= b	ξ XI	= x
γ Gamma	= g	ο Omícron	= ō
δ Delta	= d	π Pī	= p
ε Epsilon	= ě	ρ Rhō	= rh, r
ζ Zēta	= z	σ, s ¹ Sigma	= s
η Ēta	= ē	τ Tau	= t
θ Thēta	= th	υ Hŷpsilon	= y
ι Iōta	= i	φ Phī	= ph
κ Kappa	= c	χ Chī	= ch
λ Lambda	= l	ψ Psī	= ps
μ Mŷ	= m	ω Ōmega	= ō

¹ s only at the end of a word.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

γ is pronounced and transcribed *n* before κ , γ , χ and ξ .

ζ was probably pronounced *zd*, later *dz*, but is always transcribed *z*, and now usually pronounced *z*.

In this country θ is usually pronounced like *th* in *theology*, ϕ like *ph* in *Philip*, and χ is transcribed *ch* and pronounced *k* (cf. *chemist*). It is better, however, to pronounce χ like *ch* in Scotch *loch*.

The letter υ is the French *u*, German *ü*.

BREATHINGS. The 'rough breathing' (´) at the beginning of a word is transcribed and pronounced *h*. The 'soft breathing' (˘) merely marks the absence of the rough breathing.

DOUBLE CONSONANTS. In syllables which are long because they end in two consonants the vowel is usually pronounced short. Of the Greek letters transcribed by two consonants only ξ (*ks*) and ψ (*ps*) are treated as double consonants. The Greek letter ζ , though transcribed by the Latin *z*, was pronounced *dz* and was formerly treated as two consonants. In transcribed and derived words it has become customary to pronounce this letter as *z*. The English words *rhizome* and *ozone* were formerly pronounced *rhīdzome* and *ōdzone*. The Greek letter ρ , when initial, was always aspirated and written with a rough breathing ($\rhō$), so that at the beginning of words it is transcribed *rh*. When it is the first letter of the second element of a compound word ρ is doubled.

DIPHTHONGS. A Latin or Greek diphthong is a coalition of two vowel sounds pronounced in one syllable. The common Latin diphthongs are *ae*, *au*, and *oe*. The combination *eu* is a diphthong in some few Latin words, none of which, however, occurs in this Glossary. Many Latin adjectives, for example, end in *eus*, which is pronounced as two syllables. When *eu* is a transcription of the Greek $\epsilon\nu$ it is pronounced as a diphthong, i.e. in one syllable. In order to understand which pairs of Greek vowels form diphthongs it is necessary to know that α , ϵ , η , \omicron , and ω are called hard vowels, and that ι and υ are called soft vowels. When a hard vowel precedes a soft vowel a diphthong is commonly formed,

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

as for example *ευ*, mentioned above.* When a soft vowel precedes a hard vowel no diphthong is formed, so that the word *sophia* (*σοφία*) has three syllables.

The Greek diphthong *αι* is transcribed *ae*, *ευ* is transcribed *eu*, *οι* is transcribed *oe*, and *ου* is transcribed *u*, which is always long, because it is a contraction of a diphthong, and *ει* is transcribed *e* or *i*, which are long for the same reason.

GREEK ACCENTS. Nearly all Greek words are written with an accent, ` ´ ^, which originally marked the raising of the tone of voice and not stress or tonic accent like that of Latin or English. Students of Botany may well disregard the Greek accents, though they may be of importance in distinguishing words of different meanings but similarly spelt, as *θερμός*, *hot*, and *θέρμος*, *lupin*. It should be noted that the circumflex, ^, occurs only on long vowels and diphthongs.

COMPOUND WORDS. When two elements are joined together to form a word—many plant names are so formed—the second element is added to the *stem consonant* of the first. A good example is *DENTARIA*. The first element of this word is *dens*, tooth, stem *dent-*. The omission of the stem consonant in such words should be forbidden by rules of nomenclature. The spelling *LEONURUS* for *LEONTURUS* is slovenly, and *CALYSTEGIA* for *CALYCOSTEGIA* is both slovenly and misleading.

Usually a joining vowel is necessary. In Greek words *ο* is the ordinary joining vowel and in Latin words *i*; but *ο* is common in Late Latin, and is used in some Latin plant names.

The Greek endings *-ος* and *-ου* commonly become Latin *-us* and *-um*. Words ending in *-η* nearly always appear in Latin with *-a*.

After reading these notes students should find themselves able to accentuate any of the names in the Glossary. For actual pronunciation of the letters they would do well to use the restored pronunciation of Latin as taught in most schools. I make this recommendation because Latin is an international language,

* In the suffix *-οιδές* the *ο* and the *i* are in separate syllables. See p. 58.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

which, in the restored pronunciation, is understood, up to a point, by all educated people wherever European civilization has spread. But to those who wish to pronounce plant names in other ways I would say: 'Please do not be angry with me, I shall love you just as much however you pronounce the names.' Personally I vary my pronunciation to suit my audience and my feelings. For the anglicized pronunciation of plant names rules exist, but they are often disregarded or yield to usage.

Since this book is the first of its kind, and since its author is not competent for the task of writing it, imperfections must abound. I look forward to the time when someone better qualified than myself may write a bigger and better book. I hope that to those who wish to advance this kind of learning my Bibliography will be useful. There are many other books to be consulted, but those I have mentioned are the ones I have found most useful. All books on this subject should be consulted with caution.

Of the scholarly footnotes in the Floras of Ascherson-Graebner and Hegi I cannot speak too highly. I have made free use of them. All students of plant names should be acquainted with Mrs Arber's *Herbals*.

I should like to end with two recommendations, which, if accepted, might help to standardize the pronunciation of plant names.

In this country the termination *-on* is usually pronounced short whether it represents the Greek masculine termination *-ων* or the neuter *-ον*. This treatment is not to be recommended.

In the Latin termination *-inus*, *-a*, *-um* the *i* is usually long. It is short in *annotinus*, *serotinus*, and a few other words. In the Greek termination *-ivos*, *-ης*, *-ον* the *ι* is short. I recommend that if the name ending in *-inus* is a genuine Greek word (as *amygdalinus*), the *i* be kept short. If it is a fabricated word, as *calycinus*, it should be treated as a Latin word with a long *i*.

My thanks are due to many helpers. The chief of these is Canon Raven. One day, when he was in the turmoil of his duties as Vice-Chancellor, I mentioned to him that I had made the card

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

index that forms the basis of this Glossary. He very kindly offered to read it through, and when he had done so told me that he thought it was worth publishing. My feelings were those of Dr Johnson, who, when asked whether he had replied to a compliment paid him by the king, answered: 'No sir. When the king had said it, it was to be so. It was not for me to bandy civilities with my sovereign.' I am glad to be able to record this splendid work of supererogation performed by a Vice-Chancellor. My experience of overworked University Officers leads me to believe that the more overworked they are the more willingly do they lend a helping hand to those in need of their assistance. I am deeply grateful to Canon Raven for reading the proofs of the Glossary. He, without rival, because of his combined knowledge of the classical languages with their herbalistic transmogrifications, and of his wide and detailed acquaintance with the British Flora, is the Agamemnon (*ἀναξ ἀνδρῶν*) for this task. I am glad that the proof reading and the writing of the kind Preface fell on his shoulders during a period of leisure. Our Public Orator, Mr W. K. C. Guthrie, whose Latin speeches are understood by people of all nations and tongues, has given me valuable guidance on matters dealt with in the Introduction. Mr H. M. Adams, Librarian of Trinity College, Cambridge, has kindly guided my faltering feet along several difficult paths. I am indebted for much help to Mr H. S. Marshall, Librarian to the Kew Herbarium, and to other members of the Herbarium staff, a group of busy experts, always willing to help botanists through their difficulties. Mr S. Max Walters of St John's College, Curator of the University Herbarium, has given me valuable hints. While the book was in the Press, Professor N. B. Jopson, of St John's College, kindly helped me with several passages of the Introduction that were still causing me difficulty. I am also grateful to Professor T. G. Tutin for last-minute additions and corrections.

H. G.-C.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION

The first task in preparing the second edition of my *Glossary* was to correct numerous errors, which, through my carelessness or ignorance, were contained in the first edition. Had it not been for the kindness of several learned friends, many of these faults would have remained unemended.

Among these kind friends I am chiefly indebted to Dr T. A. Sprague. Those familiar with Dr Sprague's knowledge of the various branches of plant nomenclature will be less surprised at his insight into my defections, than that I—and not he—had the temerity to write the Glossary. He has very kindly read the proofs of this edition.

While emphasizing the debt that this edition owes to Dr Sprague, I should like to explain that he is not responsible for the spelling of the plant names. Dr Sprague strictly adheres to the rules of spelling proposed in the International Rules of Plant Nomenclature. My spellings do not always agree with these Rules; but they will be found to agree closely with those of Hegi's *Flora von Mittel-Europa*, the standard flora of Central Europe for many years to come.

I am also deeply grateful to various members of the staff of the Kew Herbarium, especially to Mr Noel Sandwith and Mr H. K. Airy Shaw, to Mr W. T. Stearn, Librarian to the Royal Horticultural Society, and to Mr David McClintock.

The second task was to compare the Glossary with the pages of the new Flora, published in 1952. This resulted in the addition of about 200 entries, bringing the total up to over 2000. These additions will, I hope, make the Glossary a worthy handmaiden to the great Flora. Mr Noel Sandwith was the chief among those who helped me to elucidate the more obscure of these words.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

I have omitted many purely botanical terms such as *cymosus* and *racemosus*. Those unfamiliar with such epithets should refer to 'cyme' and 'raceme' in the excellent glossary at the end of the Flora. Of personal and geographical names I have given only a selection. It is needless to state that *europaeus* means European and that *americanus* means American.

While adding names in order to bring the Glossary closer to the new Flora, I have retained, and even added, certain words found only in older books. Such a misunderstood word as *Serrafalcus*, still in frequent use among agrostologists, deserves to be properly glossed.

How much this book owes to the Cambridge University Press it is needless to tell. It was because of their work, and not mine, that the first edition was one of the books selected by the National Book League for their Exhibition of British Book Design held in March 1951. Many of the corrections and improvements in this edition were prompted by the suggestions of a keen and sedulous press reader. It was at the instance of this reader that I altered the spelling of the names of the Greek letters in the table on p. xii, making them all transcriptions of their Greek names. This alteration made these names consistent with the rules of transcription already stated. Some of the Greek letters are used as mathematical symbols, and have, in this country, their own English pronunciation. Let it not be thought that I should wish English-speaking scientists to pronounce the names of these letters otherwise than they have always done. We all bear in mind the Vicar of Crewe,

Who kept a tom-cat in a pew;
He taught it to speak
Alphabetical Greek,
But it never got further than μ .

The names of those who have helped me with individual words are too numerous to record. Fools proverbially attempt tasks which angels hesitate to undertake. The reason for this may well

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

be that when a fool attempts a task beyond his powers, he finds that he can rely upon limitless angelic assistance.

There are several difficulties in the pronunciation of certain plant names that I cannot solve. One of these is how to pronounce words derived from personal names, belonging to languages with sounds differing widely from those of Latin; HUTCHINSIA and SCHKUHRIA are examples.

Another kind of difficulty is presented by such names as LISTERA and LAVATERA, in which the sounds can be latinized, but the quantity of the penultimate vowel is doubtful. For the sake of euphony I have chosen to lengthen this vowel.

I am unable to follow the authors of the Flora in their wholesale decapitalization of specific epithets, especially those specific epithets which are, or were, generic names. Such combinations as *Campanula medium* and *Sedum rosea* will appear to those unacquainted with botanical Latin as glaring false concords. Further, my old-fashioned respect for my elders and betters is shocked by such discourteous frivolities as *smithii* and *brownii*.

A kind reviewer of my first edition, to whom I am exceedingly grateful, called attention to an important omission from my Bibliography, viz. the 'Pronouncing Dictionary' by Myles, in Nicholson's *Dictionary of Gardening*. This article, 99 pages in length, was published in 1889. It is of great interest, and, as my reviewer states, 'seems to have been the first attempt in the English language seriously to examine the subject'. Because of the historical interest of Myles's 'Pronouncing Dictionary', I append the following tables, in which the author contrasted what he called the Old Method, which, as he said, was then happily becoming obsolete, with the Accurate Method, which was taking its place. Myles's Correct Method may be useful to those unacquainted with the French and German sounds to which I have referred in my table on p. xxiii. His Old Method gives approximate rules for the anglicized pronunciation of plant names.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

OLD METHOD

Vowels

a, short, as in *fāt*.
e, " " *slēnder*.
i, " " *thīn*.
o, " " *rōtten*.
u, " " *stǔbborn*.
y, " " *cŷnical*.

a, long, as in *bāther*.
e, " " *ēvil*.
i, " " *īce*.
o, " " *vōter*.
u, " " *mūle*.
y, " " *cŷpher*.

Diphthongs

æ } as *ee* in *feed*.
œ }
ei as in the word *eye*.
au as *aw* in *bawl*.

Consonants

c and **g** hard before **a**, as in *cats, gaping*.
c and **g** " " **o**, " *cows, goring*.
c and **g** " " **u**, " *cud, gulping*.
c and **g** soft before **e**, " *central, gentleman*.
c and **g** " " **i**, " *circular, gin*.
c and **g** " " **y**, " *cynical, gymnast*.

CORRECT METHOD

Vowels

a, short, as in *āpart*.
e, " " *slēnder*.
i, " " *thīn*.
o, " " *rōtten*.
u, " " *powerfūl*.
y is sounded nearly like **i**, but the exact sound cannot be rendered in English.

a, long, as in *psālmist*.
e, " " *vēined*.
i, " " *machīnist*.
o, " " *vōter*.
u, " " *rūler*.

Diphthongs

æ } nearly as *ai* in *pain*.¹
œ }
ei }
au as *ou* in *house*.

Consonants

g always hard, as in *good*.
c " " " *muscular*.
ch " " " *Christian*.

¹ It is difficult to understand how Myles reconciled his pronunciation of the first two of these diphthongs with his Correct Method of pronouncing the Latin vowels. Latin *a* and *e* pronounced in one syllable sound nearly as *i* in English *mine*. Similarly *o* and *e* sound nearly as *oi* in *oil*.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The pronunciation of so-called 'Church Latin' differs from the 'restored' pronunciation (p. xxiv) chiefly in the sounds of *c*, *g*, and *v*. In Church Latin, *c*, when standing before *e*, *i*, or the diphthong, *æ* or *œ*, has the sound of *ch* in English 'child'. Similarly *g* before these letters is pronounced as *g* in English 'giant'; *v* is pronounced as *v* in English 'very'.

We have then at least three methods of pronouncing Latin: the Restored Method (pp. xx, CORRECT METHOD, and xxiv); the Anglicized Method (pp. xx, OLD METHOD); and Church Latin. All three methods may be regarded as 'right' provided the laws of Latin accentuation (p. xi) are obeyed.

H. G.-C.

April 1955

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ARBER, AGNES, *Herbals, their Origin and Evolution*. (Cambridge, 1938.)
- ASCHERSON-GRAEBNER, *Flora des Nordostdeutschen Flachlandes*. (Berlin, Borntraeger, 1898–9.)
- BRUNET, *Dictionnaire de Géographie Ancienne et Moderne* (Supplément au Manuel du Libraire). (Paris, Librairie Firmin, Didot Frères, 1870.) A fuller and better book than Graesse's *Orbis Latinus*.
- DREWITT, F. DAWTREY, *Latin Names of Common Plants*. (H. F. and G. Witherby, 1927.)
- FEYERABEND, K., *Greek-English Lexicon* (Fonolexica Langenscheidt). This dictionary has a valuable introduction entitled 'Some Remarks on the History of Greek Sounds'. (Langenscheidtsche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1910.)
- GRAESSE, J. G. TH., *Orbis Latinus*, 3rd edition enlarged by Benedict. (Berlin, Richard Carl Schmidt, 1922.)
- HARVEY-GIBSON, R. J., *British Plant Names and their Derivations*. (London, A. & C. Black Ltd., 1923.)
- HEGI, GUSTAV, *Illustrierte Flora von Mittel-Europa*. (Munich.)
- JACKSON, BENJAMIN DAYDON, *A Glossary of Botanical Terms*. (London, Duckworth.)
- KENNEDY, BENJAMIN HALL, *Revised Latin Primer*. Has a valuable introduction dealing with Latin sounds.
- LEUNIS, JOHANNES, *Synopsis der Pflanzenkunde*, 2nd edition. (Hanover, 1877.)
- LIDDELL AND SCOTT, *A Greek-English Lexicon*. New edition revised and augmented by Stuart Jones and MacKenzie. (Oxford, 1867–1939.)
- LINNAEUS, CAROLUS, *Philosophia Botanica*. (Stockholm, 1751.)
- MACLEOD, R. D., *Key to the Names of British Plants* (Pitman, 1952).
- MYLES, THE REV. PERCY W., 'Pronouncing Dictionary' in Nicholson's *Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening* (1889), vol. IV, p. 273.
- PRITZEL, G. A., *Thesaurus Literaturae Botanicae*. (Leipzig, F. A. Brockhaus. 1872 edition.)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

RICH, ANTHONY, *A Dictionary of Roman and Greek Antiquities*. (London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1901.)

SARGEANT, JOHN, *The Trees, Shrubs and Plants of Virgil*. (Oxford, B. H. Blackwell, 1920.)

SAVORY, T. H., *Latin and Greek for Biologists*. (University of London Press, 1946.)

SPRENGEL, C., *Pedanii Dioscoridis Anazarbei De Materia Medica libri quinque*. (Leipzig, 1829–30.)

THEOPHRASTUS, *Enquiry into Plants*. Loeb edition, with translation by Hort. (London, Heinemann, 1916.)

THORNDIKE, LYNN, *The Herbal of Rufinus*. (University of Chicago Press, 1945.)

WITTSTEIN, G. C., *Etymologisch-botanisches Handwörterbuch*. (Ansbach, 1852.)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-11488-2 - Glossary of the British Flora, Third Edition

H. Gilbert-Carter

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

APPROXIMATE 'RESTORED' PRONUNCIATION OF THE LATIN LETTERS

- ā** as *a* in English *father* or German *Vater*.
- ă** the same sound pronounced short.
- b** as in English.
- c** always as English *k*, but without aspiration.
- d** the English *d* will suffice.
- ē** as in French *été* or in German *See*. Avoid the diphthong in English *say*.
- ĕ** approximately the English *e* in *fret*.
- f** as in English.
- g** always as in English *get*.
- h** as in English.
- ī** nearly as *ee* in English *seed*.
- i** *i* in English *fit* will do.
- j** (consonantal *i*) as *y* in English *yet*.
- l** as French or German *l*. Avoid the *l* in English *wall*.
- m** as in English.
- n** the English *n* will do.
- ō** German long *ō* is usual. Avoid the diphthong in English *stone*.
- ö** as in English *got*, or better, German *Gott*.
- p** as in English, but without aspiration.
- q** always followed by *u* and pronounced as *qu* in English *quite*.
- r** always trilled as in Scotland.
- s** as in English *cats*; never voiced as in *dogs*.
- t** French *t*. The English sound is aspirated, but will do.
- ū** as English *oo* in *shoot*.
- ŭ** as English *u* in *full*.
- v** consonantal *u*; *w* in English *week* will do.
- x** as in English.

For letters borrowed from Greek see p. xiii.

Double letters should be pronounced double, e.g. *nn* as in *penknife*, not as in *Pennine*, *cc* as in *bookcase*, etc.