

A FLORA OF THE  
EAST GREENLAND  
CENTRAL FJORD REGION  
70°N - 77°N



GEOFFREY HALLIDAY

## A Flora of the central fjord region of east Greenland

by Geoffrey Halliday, with assistance from R.W.M. Corner

This fjord region occupies the middle third of Greenland's east coast. It extends for nearly 500 miles (800 km) from north to south and from 100 (180 km) and 150 (240 km) east to west, from the inland ice to the outer coast. With its rich flora, by arctic standards, its superb mountain scenery and benign summer climate it is a popular destination for arctic botanists, climbers and general lovers of the Arctic.

The book consists of 280 pages, 100 plates and dot distribution maps of 245 species, the commonest having more than 400 dots, based on 170 visits by expeditions and individuals since William Scoresby in 1822. The main part of the book is the accounts of individual species. The taxonomy has been brought up-to-date and largely follows *Flora of North America*. The accounts include information on altitudinal and latitudinal limits where the latter fall within the region. The flora is particularly interesting in that it includes many high arctic species at their southern limit and low arctic ones at their northern as well as species which are restricted in Greenland to the east coast or, as in the case of the endemic *Saxifraga nathorstii*, occur nowhere else. There is a small western element but otherwise the flora is essentially circumpolar and Eurasian.

There are sections on geology and scenery, climate, vegetation, altitudinal limits, hot springs, the history of botanical exploration and on possible origins of the flora, with particular emphasis on a group of species such as *Draba sibirica*, *Potentilla rubella* and *Polemonium boreale* which are restricted in Greenland to the region.

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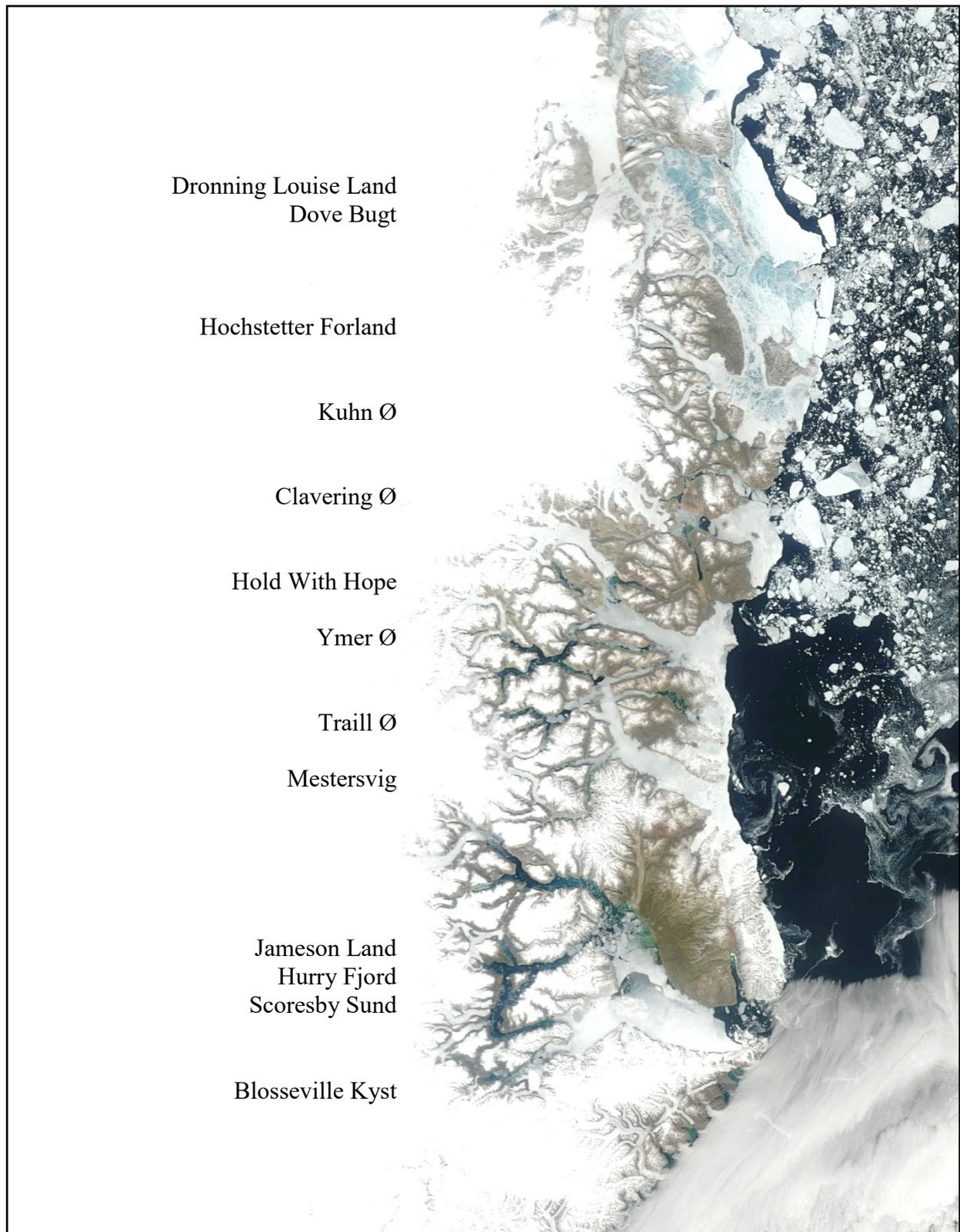
*Saxifraga nathorstii*



*Polemonium boreale*



Stauning Alper



Satellite image of the Flora region on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 provided by the Dundee Satellite Receiving Station. Note the early disappearance of the ice in the inner fjords and the extensive snow-free areas from Jameson Land to Hochstetter Forland.