

THE BOTANICAL ODYSSEY OF RICHARD S. FELGER

EDITED BY BENJAMIN T. WILDER, BILL BROYLES, AND THOMAS BOWEN

This work is a vibrant tribute to desert botanist Richard S. Felger, who was one of the most influential scientists of the American Southwest and northwestern Mexico. Felger's work transcended regional boundaries, blending rigorous fieldwork with global ecological vision. This work offers an intimate and multifaceted portrait of a man whose tireless advocacy for biodiversity and biocultural conservation shaped decades of desert science.

Edited by Benjamin T. Wilder, Bill Broyles, and Thomas Bowen, this book is both a celebration and a resource. The work is separated into four parts: With humor, insight, and deep empathy, Felger's own voice leads the journey in part 1, recounting his most memorable field experiences with masterful prose and sly wit. Part 2 brings together heartfelt reflections from Felger's colleagues in the field, revealing the eccentric brilliance and relentless curiosity that defined his career. Part 3 explores his family history and the unconventional path that shaped his life's work, while part 4 presents a comprehensive bibliography of his most important publications. The book contains four maps that take you around the world on Felger's journeys, and dozens of images selected from the thousands of slides from his archive that further transport and anchor you in the adventure.

The book offers a rich, multifaceted narrative, offering readers a rare glimpse into the life of a scientific icon whose legacy continues to inspire desert researchers and conservationists across the globe.

BENJAMIN T. WILDER is a biogeographer, botanist, and desert ecologist whose research looks at the origin and future of the Sonoran Desert.

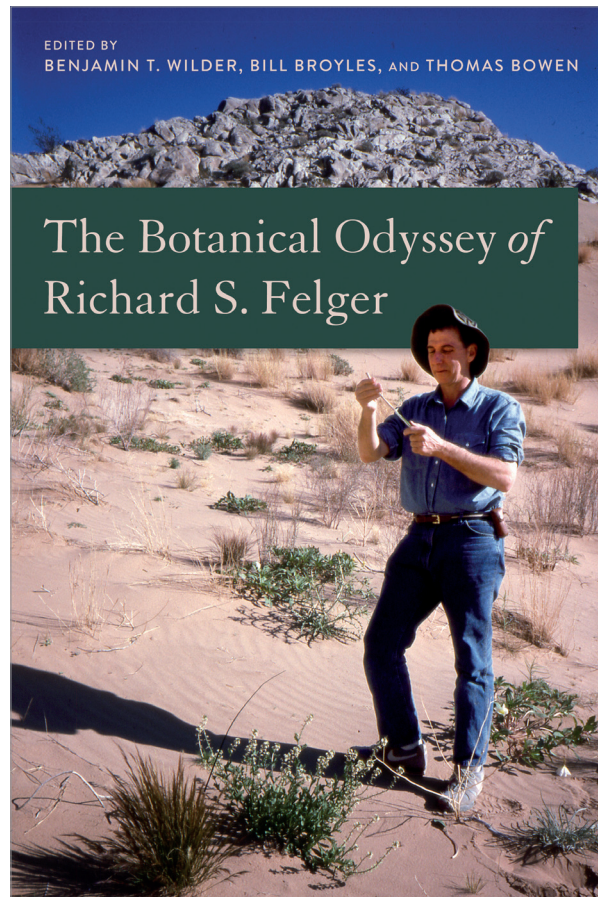
BILL BROYLES has written about famous desert rats, historic trails, border patrol pilots, ranching, and cowboys and cowgirls, and he continues to research and write about people and public lands in southwestern Arizona and northwestern Sonora.

THOMAS BOWEN is professor emeritus in the Department of Anthropology, California State University, Fresno, and a research associate at the Southwest Center, University of Arizona. His research has focused on the Gulf of California islands.

RICHARD S. FELGER (1934–2020) studied natural history in arid regions worldwide and was the founder and executive director of the Drylands Institute in Tucson, Arizona.



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A deep look at an icon of desert science

CONTRIBUTORS

James Aronson	Cathy Moser Marlett
Thomas Bowen	Gary Paul Nabhan
Bill Broyles	Wallace J. Nichols
Alberto Búrquez	William R. Norris
Susan Davis Carnahan	Humberto Romero Morales
Mark Alan Dimmitt	Sue Rutman
Exequiel Ezcurra	Silke Schneider
Gil Gillenwater	Jeffrey Seminoff
Russ Kleinman	Jane Spinti
Angelina Martínez-Yrizar	Benjamin T. Wilder
Gregory McNamee	

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