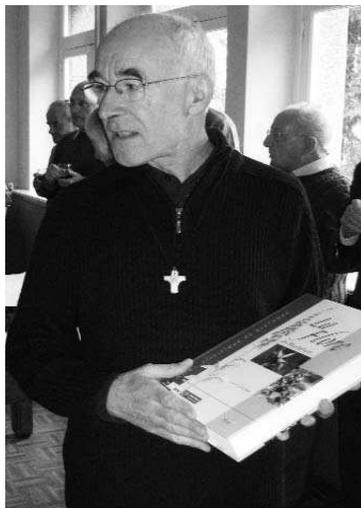


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# Floral Atlas of Brittany, the flora of Morbihan

or 25 years of carrying out a thorough census of the Morbihan flora.



*Brother Gabriel Rivière  
presents his book.*

**B**ROTHER GABRIEL RIVIÈRE, with a scientific formation, has always been interested in botany. A teacher of natural sciences for many years, before devoting himself to administration, he shared his botanical passion with his students and colleagues.

With the passing of years, circumstances led him to bring his contribution to the specialised botanical works. Known for his competence and his observations of the soil, he found himself requested to write a book on the botany of Morbihan, in the cadre of a collection managed by the National Botanical Conservatory of Brest, which federate the network of amateur botanists.

The project was therefore ambitious: to make a cartography as complete as possible of the species of flowers of the whole Armoricaïnn massif, in fact all the four departments of the region of Brittany.

Pierre Dupont, the professor of the University of Nantes had already launched a cartography for the whole national territory. The first partial Atlas of the flora of France had appeared in 1990, followed later on by a specific work on Loire-Atlantique.

Brother Gabriel Rivière, therefore, was entrusted with the composition and the writing of a similar work for Morbihan. If it is true that many professionals and amateurs enriched the fundamental collections of this Atlas, the essential data came from Brother Gabriel, who, on the one hand had to organise in a methodical and pedagogical manner all the material observed during twenty-five years, from which he was able to compile this work presented herein.

The "Floral Atlas of Brittany, the flora of Morbihan", was then published in October 2007 by the Siloé Publishers. It is a volume of 656 pages.

The objective of this work is to establish the repartition of a given species at a precise time, a kind of natural habitat of the species. The method of investigation rests on a list of all the known plants of the Armoricaïnn massif, that the researcher tries to find in all the sectors of the department. In fact, the department is divided into ten-kilometre squares, squares which are the object of the cartography.

The work contains 1694 identified species (that is, 250 more than in the previous inventory of 1971) and 1470 maps. Still more, the author crosses the observed data with the climatic data, the study of soils, etc...Such a work will not only interest universities, but also planning departments and territorial organisations which must take into account, for example, the impact of routes on the environment and respect the protected species.

The department and the region have therefore subsidized the printing of the work and are going to assure its distribution.

Turning the pages you will find there: a detailed cartography, it was the first objective, but also some generalities on the department (see the summary), on the geology, the climate, the types of vegetation, as well as an approach on the patrimonial value of the flora, on its protection and on its evolution.

*Br Pierre Berthe*

