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Review

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the AIBS Symposium on taxonomic and morphological relationships of the Psilotaceae, held at New Orleans on 1 June 1976].

BRYANT, J. A., editor, *Molecular aspects of gene expression in plants*. 1976. Academic Press, London, New York, San Francisco (Academic Press Inc. London Ltd., 24-28 Oval Road, London, NW1-7DX, England), xi, 338 p., ISBN 0-12-138150-1, publ. 10 Jan. 1977, price £ 9.60 / US \$21.00 [contains contributions by J. A. Bryant (Nuclear DNA, Nucleic acids, cell cycle, molecular aspects of differentiation), D. Griesson (RNA structure and metabolism), C. M. Bray (Protein synthesis) and by A. J. Trewavas (Plant growth substances)].

The Bryologist, journal of the American bryological Society. *Index to volumes 1-60* by HOWARD C. CRUM, published 1959, reprinted 1975, 217 p.; *Index to volumes 61 through 75*, 1958 to 1972. Including a list of dates of issue of numbers comprising the first 75 volumes of the journal. Edited by NORTON C. MILLER, 193 p. *Both* indexes published by the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110, U.S.A., Index to vols 1-60, price US \$ 6.00, index to 61-75: US \$ 12.00; both indexes ordered together US \$ 15.00.

Candollea volume 31/2. *Organe des Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève*, p. 181-383, 15 December 1976, subscriptions Sw. fr. 120,- or 100,- per volume. [This issue of *Candollea* is dedicated to the memory of Charles Edmond Bradlaugh Bonner (1915-1976) and starts off with an appreciation of Bonner by J. Miège followed by a bibliography of his writings. Other articles are e.g. W. Greuter, Flora of Psara, J. E. Byall, The genus *Crataegus* in Greece, an activities report on the Conservatoire for 1975 by J. Miège and a sizeable, ninth, instalment of Burdet's samples of handwriting of botanists.].

CHEN, PANG-CHIEH, *Genera muscorum Sinicorum* (pars prima), Peking 1963, reprint 1977 by Otto Koeltz Science Publishers, D-6240 Koenigstein/West-Germany, ISBN 3-87429-114-6, 15, 304, 22 p., price DM 140.— [The only available overall treatment of Chinese musci at the generic level, in Chinese, with excellent illustrations, and useable also by non-chinese reading botanists because of these illustrations and the use of latin script for names, references and synonymy].

CHODAT, ROBERT ET WILHELM VISCHER, *La végétation du Paraguay*. Reprint 1977, *Historiae naturalis classica tomus 101*, J. Cramer in der A.R. Gantner Verlag Kommanditgesellschaft, FL-9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein, ISBN 3-7686-1106-1, iv, 558 (290, 89, 92, 38, 49) p., buckram, price DM. 120.— (regular), DM 96.— (subscription). [Contains a reprint of a series of articles published by Chodat and collaborators on the flora and vegetation of Paraguay, published originally in the *Bulletin de la Société botanique de Genève*. The volume has been provided with continuous pagination (i-iv, 1-558) but it is, alas, not easily possible to ascertain the volume number and dates of the original publication from the reprint.]

CHOPRA, R. S. *Taxonomy of Indian Mosses* (An Introduction). xl, 631 pp., 1 map, 122 fig. Botanical Monograph No. 10, Publications & Information Directorate, CSIR, Hillside Road, New Delhi. 1975. Price: RS 96.00 (inland), \$ 38.00 or £ 15.00 (foreign). [In the introduction the author explains that he started with a plan to describe all the mosses of India, delimited here as the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent, Nepal, Bhutan, and Western and Southwestern Tibet, but excluding Ceylon. The immensity of this task forced him to cut it down to a compilation; enumerating the species found in the area. In order to condense the book even further he left out the species belonging to about 20 of the more difficult genera such as *Fissidens*, *Campylopus*, *Bryum*, *Macromitrium*, *Brachythecium*, *Hypnum*, *Ectropothecium*, etc. In this way nearly 2000 species belonging to 329 genera under 56 families are dealt with. The systematic account is preceded by a prologue on life cycle and morphological features, together with short notes on collecting and preservation, variability, nomenclature, and classification. A glossary of technical terms, an impressive 34 page bibliography, and an index are also provided. The systematic account is in the form of a flora with concise keys, mostly leading to the species, provided one succeeds

in getting through successive keys to classes, subclasses, orders, families, genera, and species. Descriptions of genera and taxa of higher rank are given. The species are listed and their general distribution is roughly indicated. In the absence of an 'artificial' key to the genera (or the families at least) the user of the keys is likely to get stuck or lost, and even if an identification is made it is impossible to check its correctness by the absence of any additional information on properties not mentioned in the keys. The greatest disadvantage of the book is, however, the inaccurate and uncritical way it has been compiled. It bristles with inaccurate or contradictory statements and typographical errors. Moreover, the keys suffer from non-contrasting leads, sloppy wording, and negative statements. Like the descriptions, they have either been adapted from other treatments (and not always accurately) or they have been made by the author, who obviously relied heavily on annotations and descriptions found in literature and on herbarium sheets. Species may appear under different names in the keys, the lists, and the captions of the illustrations. Sometimes species mentioned in the key do not figure in the list following it, and more often the reverse is true because the author has added species without updating the key. The huge bibliography contains numerous titles of papers which hardly have any bearing on the flora of India, and on the other hand a number of papers on the Indian flora are missing (even recent ones published in that country). In the text there are very few references to the bibliography, so it is left to the user to find out which papers should be consulted. This must be an impossible task to the Indian teachers and research students for whom the book appears to be meant in the first place. Despite these many shortcomings they will certainly find much information in it, but the book should be used with great caution, and it is not a reliable tool for the identification of collections. (A. TOUW)].

Contributions from Herbarium australe nos 18-26, publ. 20 October 1976, separately paged brief articles on the systematics of Australian plants. ISBN 031-4538, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia, \$A 3.00 per year, editor in chief B. J. Walby, CSIRO, 372 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002.

Contributions from the National Botanical Gardens, Glasnevin [Ireland], see *Taxon* 26(1): 114. 1977. This new journal is distributed on an *exchange basis* and is not a sale publication. The *Census catalogue of the flora of Ireland* by Scannell and Synnott, mentioned on page 48 of number 1 is for sale at 50 p. through the Government Publications Sale Office, G.P.O., Arcade, Dublin 1, Ireland.

... COUTINHO, A. X. PEREIRA, *Flora de Portugal*, 2a edição dirigido pelo ROY TELLES PALHINHA. Reprint 1974. Verlag von J. Cramer, 3301 Lehre, BRD [Postfach 48] *Historiae naturalis classica* 98, ISBN 3-7682-0931-8, viii, 938 p., buckram, price DM 160.— (subscription), DM 200.— (regular).

CULBERSON, CHICITA F., W. L. CULBERSON, ANITA JOHNSON, *Second supplement to "Chemical and botanical guide to Lichen products"*. The American bryological and lichenological Society, Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110, U.S.A. 1977, 400 p., soft cover, price US \$ 9.00 (prepaid), US \$ 11.00 (if invoicing is required). Available only from the publisher. [Printed from camera-ready typescript. The first supplement (which appeared in *The Bryologist*) is still available from the above address at US \$ 5.00. The two supplements may be ordered together at US \$ 12.00 (plus US \$ 2.00 for invoicing, if required)].

DESMOND, RAY, *Dictionary of British and Irish botanists and horticulturalists including plant collectors and botanical artists*. Taylor and Francis Ltd., 10-14 Macklin Street, London WC 2B-5NF, 1977, ISBN 0-85066-089-0, cloth, xxvi, 747 p., cloth, price £ 40.00 net. [A fully revised, updated and enlarged edition of Britten and Boulger's *A biographical index of British and Irish botanists*. Mr. Desmond has enlarged the scope of this so far invaluable biographical reference manual by including nurserymen, gardeners, plant collectors, horticulturalists and botanical artists with a coverage of the literature up to 1975. The number of entries is now in the neighbourhood of 10,000 (Britten and Boulger had circa 2700 entries) and the amount of detail given far exceeds