

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS
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*Edited by Rudolf Schmid*¹

Reviews

Anderson, Frank J. *A treasury of flowers: Rare illustrations from the collection of the New York Botanical Garden.* Bulfinch Press, Little, Brown and Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108, USA, 1990, 175 pp., illus. (color), 363x261 mm format, ISBN 0-8212-1758-5 (HB), \$60.00. [Contents: intro.; engraving and etching; lithography; 80 pls.; index.] [Amusing, informing, misinforming, and annoying in a way not encountered since I indulged in Léon Croizat's works ("to loath [sic] spaghetti but to dote on macaroni is no real difference in taste"—*Southw. Naturalist* 11: 79, 1966), this is an intriguing compendium of 80 color plates, five each from 16 classic but rare works ranging from D. Dodart's *Recueil des plantes* (1675-1788) to L. van Houtte & A. C. Lemaire's *Flore des serres* (1845-1883). Anderson gives brief bibliographic data for these 16 works and their authors or editors. The pithy botanical text on plant structure, uses, and folklore on the versos facing each plate is not only usually entertaining (e.g.: "we are able to split atoms, even if we have forgotten how to make split-pea soup"—p. 54; "probably as exciting as boiled lettuce"—p. 64), but also frequently caustic at the expense of taxonomy. "Although their [taxonomists's] intent has never been malicious they have hung an undeserved reputation for dullness about the innocent neck of botany, driving away untold thousands of potential admirers. The fault lies largely in their possession of two characteristics; one being a strong leaning toward pedantry, the other in having ears of the most resolute and steadfast tin" (p. 11; this may be true of molecular biologists, but not of most field taxonomists I know). "Plant descriptions were then (and still are) written entirely in Latin, which fact probably accounts for the present lack of interest in botany" (p. 54). *Capparis* "has an identity crisis . . . ; there are about 450 sets of these psychic bumblerers milling around in the already disordered world of botany" (p. 100). Despite these blasts, the apparently many missteps (e.g., 450 instead of about 250 capers, "over 1,000" instead of over 3,000 myrtes, p. 150), and the lack of updated nomenclature (*Eugenia bifaria* is used on p. 150 for clove, *Syzygium aromaticum* or even *E. caryophyllata*), Anderson (b. 1912), who also authored *The complete book of 169 Redoute roses* (1979), *An illustrated history of the herbals* (1977), *An illustrated treasury of cultivated flowers* (1979), *An illustrated treasury of orchids* (1979), *Orchids* (1981), and (ed.), *German book illustration through 1500: Herbals through 1500*, 2 vols. (1983, 1984), succeeds well in presenting for botanical art "the delights that the literature of botany holds in store" (p. 11).—Rudolf Schmid, UC]

Aptroot, André. A monograph of the Pyrenulaceae (excluding *Anthracotheceum* and *Pyrenula*) and the Requinellaceae, with notes on the Pleomassariaceae, the Trypetheliaceae and *Mycomicrothelia* (lichenized and non-lichenized ascomycetes). *Bibliotheca lichenologica* 44: [i-ii], 1-178, 1991, illus.,

¹ Column closed 8 Mar., 1992. Deadlines for receipt of items are 1 Mar., 1 June, 1 Sep., and 1 Dec. for inclusion in, respectively, the following May, Aug., Nov., and Feb. issues (since Feb. 1991, camera-ready copy has been used to reduce the lead time to about three months). **All items for this column should be sent to:** Rudolf Schmid, Department of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA (or for faster, more secure arrival: 16 Edwin Dr., Kensington, CA 94707-1022, USA) [phone = (510) 525-0439 answering machine, person; fax = (510) 643-6264; email = schmid@garnet.berkeley.edu]. Unless noted otherwise, "Notices" are by R. Schmid, prices are in U.S. dollars and exclude postage, and illustrations are all black-and-white (B&W) rather than partly or entirely color. Abbreviations: CRC, camera-ready copy; HB, hardbound; PB, paperbound; most other abbreviations follow *BPH* (*Botanico-periodicum-Huntianum*, 1968).

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ISBN 3-443-58023-8 (PB), DM 90.00 (from E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Johannesstrasse 3A, D-7000 Stuttgart 1, Germany). [This work surveys part of the pyrenocarpous ascomycetes (lichenized and non-lichenized), in all 20 genera (11 new) and 66 species (21 new). Because there is no comprehensive monograph of this group, revisions such as Aptroot's are useful. His system is very different from the classification in Eriksson & Hawksworth (*Systema ascomycetum* 9, 1991). Emphasis is on small groups with uncertain or disputed affinities, groups previously placed in or associated with Pyrenulaceae. This family comprises the center of the work and has eight genera (four new). The large genera *Anthracothecium* and *Pyrenula* were revised at a small extent, only a few species being recorded. The recently described Requienellaceae is emended here to include six genera (four new) of mainly tropical taxa. The Pleomassariaceae include two species. Aptroot treats only part of Trypetheliaceae, with three new genera. In all, he describes 21 new species, several known only from the type locality (often Papua New Guinea) and proposes 22 new combinations. Cladistic analysis based on 40 characters was used to trace phylogenetic relationships in the Pyrenulaceae and Requienellaceae, with hypotheses about their ancestors. Aptroot regards lichenization as an ecological character. It is not constant in any of these families and proved to be variable in several genera, and even in one species.—Ove Almborn, LD]

Balick, Michael J. & Hans T. Beck (compilers and eds.), and 11 collaborators. *Useful palms of the world: A synoptic bibliography*. Columbia University Press, 562 W. 113th St., New York, NY 11025, USA, 1990, xvii, [ii], 724 pp., illus., ISBN 0-231-06676-7 (HB), \$50.00. [Contents: background and purpose; coverage, concepts, struc.; use of abstracts and keywords; keywords; thesaurus/glossary; nomen.; abstracts; author, gen., product/use indices.] [Each of the 1039 citations gets bibliographic information, an abstract (some very lengthy, a page or more), and, as relevant, keywords for genera, products, and subjects. A serious omission is an index to geographical regions. Also, less white space between the entries and their subparts would have reduced somewhat the 46mm thickness of this marvelous bibliography.—Rudolf Schmid, UC]

Bonnier, Gaston & Robert Douin. *La grande flore en couleurs de Gaston Bonnier: France, Suisse, Belgique et pays voisins* [cover title: *La grande flore en couleurs de Gaston Bonnier*]. Illus. by Julie Poinsoot. 5 vols. Éditions Belin, 8, rue Férou, 75006 Paris, France, Nov. 1990: Vol. 1. *Planches*. Modern nomenclature and index by Raoul Palesse & David Aeschmann. Pp. [i]-xxv, pls. 1-373 (color). Vol. 2. *Idem*. *Idem*. Pp. [xxix]-xxxv, pls. 374-729 (color). Vol. 3. *Texte*. Pp. [i]-xvi. 1-676, [xvii]-xxvi, illus. (B&W). Vol. 4. *Idem*. Complementary text [pls. 722-729] ed. by Raoul Palesse & David Aeschmann. Pp. [i]-vii, 677-1401, [ix]-xxi, illus. (B&W). [Vol. 5.] *Index*. By Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève. xv, 191 pp., unillus. *All*: 325x240 mm format, resp., ISBNs 2-7011-1361-X, 2-7011-1362-8, 2-7011-1363-6, 2-7011-1364-4, 2-7011-1365-2 (HB), Fr 650.00, Fr 650.00, Fr 480.00, Fr 480.00, Fr 175.00. [Contents: *vol. 1*: new Fr./Ger./Eng. preface; abbr. authors's names; pls. 1-373; *vol. 2*: abbr. authors's names; pls. 374-729; *vol. 3*: abbr. authors's names; ed. note on pagination of old vs. new; preface by Bonnier; text; additions and corrections; index fam.; *vol. 4*: abbr. authors's names; text; new text (pp. 1392-1401) for pls. 722-729; additions and corrections; index fam., gen.; list protected spp. (by M. Bournérias & M. Joly); *vol. 5*: ed. note; new Fr./Ger./Eng. explanatory notes; abbr. authors's names; indices (pl. nos., Lat./Fr./Ger. names).] [This massive and weighty (ca. 14 kg) reissue updates Gaston Bonnier's (1853-1922) sumptuous opus original published as *Flore complète illustrée en couleurs de France, Suisse et Belgique* (13 vols., 1911-1935, with Robert Douin co-authoring vols. 7-13, 1924-1935—see TL2 1: 273-274). To the original 1391 pages of text and 721 color plates (pls. 695-700 on gymnosperms, pls. 701-721 on pteridophytes) containing some 7800 illustrations for 3346 species are added eight new color plates, with 53 figures, and accompanying text for *Woodwardia radicans*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, and 51 species of angiosperms. These new plates by Martine Guex & Éveline Mermillod-Bijkerk depict mainly Corsican plants and were "drawn to the standards and in the style of the original plates," which, with the facsimile reprinting of the text, were "faithfully reproduced out of respect for Bonnier's work" (vol. 1, p. xx). The bottoms of the plates have revised nomenclature. The staff at Geneva did the detailed new index. By the by, this most welcome reissue is a far cry from Bonnier's compact (184x120 mm format, 445 g) *Name this flower: A simple way of finding out the names of common plants without any previous knowledge of botany* (1917, xii, 330, [1] pp., 64 color pls., 2797 B&W text illus., trans. from 1911 Fr. rev. ed. by G. S. Boulger). This popular flora for nearly 700 common species of France and western Europe (the translation adds some common British taxa) has yet different pictures and, in fact, is amazing for a format that despite its circa 80 year-age compares very favorably with that of the modern ubiquitous popular flora.—Rudolf Schmid, UC]