

REVIEWS

GRETA BERGGREN, *Atlas of seeds and small fruits of Northwest-European plant species (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, East Fennoscandia and Iceland) with morphological descriptions*. Part 2, Cyperaceae, 4°, pp. 68, 39 pl., 2 charts. — Edited and distributed by the Swedish Natural Science Research Council, Stockholm. — Price U.S. \$6, Sw. Crowns 30,—.

Judging from the volume here reviewed it is to be expected that this atlas will become a splendid comprehensive survey of the 'seeds' of the NW. European Phanerogams. The complete work is planned to consist of 4 or 5 parts, of which part I will be published last, as it will contain general information and keys to the families.

It is self-evident that the keys to the genera of *Cyperaceae*, to their sections, and in large sections to the species, wholly based on fruit-characters, cannot be easy. In random testing they proved to be reliable, as are the accurate descriptions.

One of the most valuable features of this volume is its beautiful illustration. The photographs by Karl-Frederik Berggren are of a very high quality and excellently reproduced. Nevertheless, as it is obviously unavoidable that in photographs nervature and texture of fruits and utricles do not always appear to full advantage, addition of some good line-drawings would have been recommendable.

In the large genus *Carex*, represented in NW. Europe by 109 species, both nuts and the surrounding utricles are pictured. Quite rightly, for although the nuts may be of considerable use, the species in *Carex* are distinguished from one another primarily on the astonishing variation in shape and nervature of the utricles.

Most praiseworthy is that an extensive list is given of the herbarium specimens on which the descriptions are based and from which the photographs were taken.

The reviewer wonders for what purpose the chromosome numbers (cited from Löve and Hylander) of the various species have been given.

J. H. KERN

I. C. HEDGE & J. M. LAMOND (ed.), *Index of Collectors in the Edinburgh Herbarium*. — Edinburgh 1970 (Dept of Africulture and Fisheries for Scotland), pp. 147. — Clothbound, £ 3.10.

This valuable compilation was issued in 1970 at the occasion of the tercentenary of the Royal Botanic Garden. Although lists of acquisitions were available for some years, and Dr J. M. Cowan prepared a list of the principal collectors in the Malesian region extant in the Edinburgh Herbarium for the 'Malaysian Plant Collectors and Collections' (Fl. Mal. I, 1, 1950), up till now no record on the contents of this Herbarium was published.

Compilations of this kind are time-consuming, and many staff members contributed to this book. The result is an extremely valuable asset for plant taxonomists.

In part I some general information on history, geographical areas, and number of specimens is given. From our point of view there is some comment. Region 6 (cf. map on p. 2, and p. 24), termed 'Malaya', comprises former Indochina, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the whole of New Guinea, and the Bismarck Archipelago. The concept 'Malaya', however, is generally understood to comprise the Malay Peninsula and Singapore. As area 6 is constituted of Malesia (as used in the Flora Malesiana, written with *e* after the political name Malaysia was coined for Malaya, Sarawak and North Borneo), Thailand, and former Indochina, the term 'Indo-Malesia' would have been more adequate.

Part II gives geographically arranged lists of collectors of vascular plants and those of cryptogams (subdivided), with literature references.

Part III, occupying the greater part of the book, is a 'Main List of Collectors' alphabetically arranged, with concise information on country and year of collecting, sometimes literature records, mention of the herbarium from which the specimens were received, reference to obituary, and last but not least on details of the labels, as for example the use of a special ink and the use of initials instead of the full name of the collector or collecting locality.

It would have been very useful if such initials, occurring on labels without the full name of the collectors, had also been entered as separate entries with a cross-reference to the full name.

Apart from some minor inaccuracies which can hardly be avoided in a publication like this, the lists seem reliable. As to inexactitudes regarding the Malesian region some remarks may be made:

Albay is probably the province of Luzon (southern part), and not a collector. Possibly collected by H. CUMING, who visited that area, and whose plants are at Kew.

Alderwerelt van Rosenburgh did not collect in New Guinea. He was a fern specialist in Java, and probably sent fern duplicates to Herb. Bonaparte.

Bergmann, E., New Guinea 1960, must be E. Borgman.

Blume did not collect himself in Ambon.

Bonaparte, R. N., was no collector, but the owner of a large herbarium.

Corner's collections in the Malay Peninsula were not made between 1951—55.

Guard, F., almost certainly stands for Forest Guard.

Kürubach, L., must have been misread for Kärnbach, L., a collector in New Guinea.

We hope that this book will find its way to all reference libraries in the herbaria of the world and in this way contribute to taxonomy.

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