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BOOK REVIEWS

POPESCU G.G., 2009 - *Introduction to Phylogenetic Botany*, published by Sitech, Craiova, 760 pp., 494 fig., 7 color drawings

Three reasons underlie publishing the review of this new book: 1) Professor Dr. Gh. Popescu's work is the first botany book in Romanian to use the APG phylogenetic system; 2) through its content, the book achieves the level of a botany treatise, the author having as a model the penultimate edition of the well-known work «*Strasburger Lerbuch der Botanik*»; 3) from a personal point of view, we consider this work to be a 'swan song' of the professor from Craiova, with plenty of aspects worthy of debate by Romanian botanists.

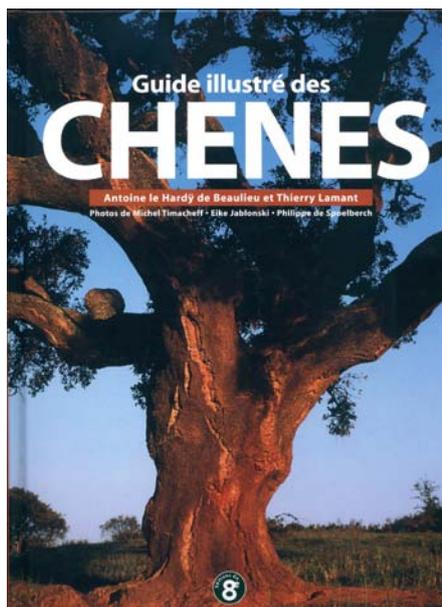
The first four chapters approach general aspects concerning the importance of botany and research in the field, the relationship between evolution and biological systematics, taxonomy and botanical nomenclature, and traditional and modern classification systems of the vegetal world in a broad sense.

In the next chapter (chapter V) dedicated to the Supraregnum *Procaryote*, the author writes about “organizational types”: Bacteria (with two regna: *Archaea* and *Bacteria*) and *Procaryote Algae* (with *Cyanophyta* and *Prochlorophyta*).

The most substantial chapter is chapter VI (The Supraregnum *Eucaryota*), where he discusses the organisms of the regnum *Eucarya*, classified into two groups: “the Group of heterotrophics” (with the myxomycetes and fungi types of organization) and “the Group of autotrophics” (with the lichens, algae, eukaryotes and embryophyte types of organization) in which are distinguished “the level of organization” of gymnosperms and the level of organization of angiosperms. The chapter ends with a series of sub-chapters devoted to the history of the classification of the angiosperms, the evolution of life on our planet, changes in the structure of biodiversity, etc.

The comprehensive glossary and index considerably facilitate the consultation of this book. Without reminding ourselves here of those problems which, in our opinion, can generate debate, we think that the present work merits mention, because it can be an important bibliographic source for undergraduate students, graduate students and researchers; and it should be included in faculty libraries, in research institutes and in the libraries of all those interested in the living world.

Vasile CRISTEA



LE HARDY DE BEAULIEU A., LAMANT T., 2006 - *Guide illustré des chênes (An illustrated guide to oaks)*, t. 1 et 2, Editions du 8^{ème}, Paris, 688 pp, 704 pp.

The two authors have continued and developed the work of Aimée Camus (1936–1939, 1952–1954) to offer us an exceptional publication that treats 323 species of *Quercus* (c.70% of the extant species of this genus), with complex and original illustrations comprising c. 4000 colour photos and drawings. It is worth mentioning here too the names of the authors of the photo above: M. Timacheff and E. Jablonski.

The first volume is most instructive and useful because it is so rich in information, especially in the first seven chapters, which present the uses of different species and parts of oaks in industry, the food industry, medicine, religious and secular ritual, the preparation of various drinks, and traditional dyeing; or in contributing to a number of valuable natural biotopes (including those which support truffles (*Tuber* spp.) and even artificial biotopes (e.g. *dehesa* in Spain or *montado* in Portugal). Nor are aspects of biology, evolution and identification of taxa, and dates applied to some distinct centuries-old samples, omitted from the book.

Next, the European, non-African and Asian species of this genus are presented, each with a chorological, ecological, taxonomic and economic description, as well as an informative picture of development stages and the parts of diagnostic value.

Reading these volumes is facilitated by anecdotes, legends or stories about the various species of the genus. The second volume continues with the presentation of c. 250 species from North America, Mexico and South America, following the same general scheme of treatment of the taxa.

From a scientific point of view, this is a rigorous work, also from the point of view of the graphics, and it is attractive and interesting because of its multi-disciplinary approach. This work is recommended for all naturalists interested in the diversity of the living world, in relations between Man and oak forests, and in the ecological valuation and preservation of this diversity.

Receiving the Award *Pierre Joseph Redouté* in 2007, the book should not be absent from the libraries of faculties of Biology, Ecology, Forestry or Landscaping, and it is also essential for those specialists concerned with the study of the flora, vegetation or structure of forests in the northern hemisphere.

Dr. ing. Stelian RADU