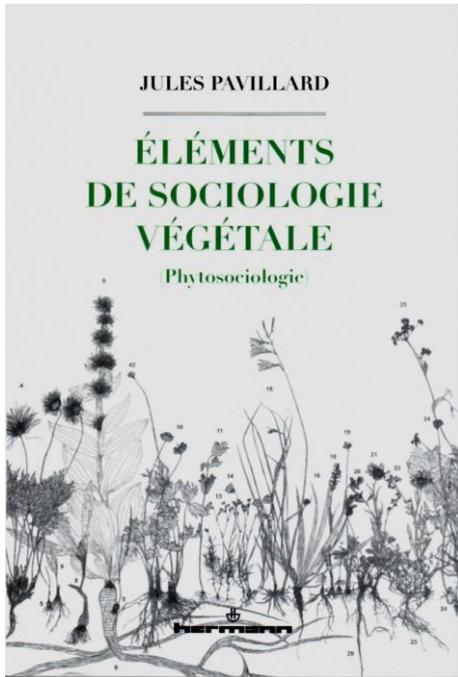


Contribuții Botanice – 2019, LIV: 149-150
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Jules PAVILLARD, 2019, *Éléments de sociologie végétale (Phytosociologie)*. Hermann Éditeurs, Paris, F. Bioret et F. Pedrotti-eds, 141 pg.

Through the efforts of the two editors (Prof. F. Bioret of the Brest University and Prof. F. Pedrotti of the Camerino University), with the support of the University of Western Brittany and the French Society of Phytosociology, a necessary republication of the fundamental work of the botanist Jules Pavillard (1868-1961), first published in 1935, has been possible.

The introduction elaborated by the editors includes an extremely synthetic presentation of some aspects related to J. Pavillard's activity, as well as a summary of the chapters of this book, which is shown to be "... a first-rank methodological work" (p. 5), "... and the conceptions and principles that are presented here, in a very pedagogical manner, have served as a foundation to modern phytosociology or sigmatist phytosociology" (p. 16). The editors also highlight the fact that "Most of the concepts and principles ... developed in this work remain topical" (p. 12).

The book *Éléments de sociologie végétale (Phytosociologie)* comprises an introduction and 5 chapters, in which scientific and didactic rigor is paralleled by a pleasant and accessible style.

In *Introduction*, the author summarizes the evolution of concepts referring to plant communities, from A. von Humboldt to the development of phytosociology as a science. Pavillard's statement, which is still very topical, deserves to be mentioned: "To be a phytosociologist worthy of the name, a botanist must be a florist and a clairvoyant dynamist at the same time" (p. 26).

An important part of this book is dedicated to the organization of plant communities (I -

Morphologie de la végétation), and the main structural elements (qualitative and quantitative) of these communities are presented and commented therein: stratification, periodicity, vitality, dominance, abundance, sociability, constancy, fidelity, etc.

Chapter II (*Synchorologie*) clarifies concepts such as: locality, area, endemism, vegetation zones and belts, group complexes, etc.

The next chapter (III - *Synécologie*) presents, under the name of “mesological synecology”, the role of cosmic, atmospheric, hydric, historical and edaphic factors in the establishment of plant associations, and under the name of “ethological synecology”, the biological forms and synecological units.

The influence of the North-American ecological school of the time is obvious in Chapter IV (*Syngénétique*), the author emphasizing the need to study syngenetic successions and the usefulness of syngenetic classification.

The last chapter (V - *Systématique phytosociologique*) evidences the need for a “*natural classification*” of plant communities, reflecting “... *as much as possible the real affinities of the groups*” (p. 121), as well as the importance of very clearly defining the fundamental unit (plant association) and the criteria used for this classification.

As decades-long servants of this discipline, we are happy to recommend this new edition of the book and to congratulate the two editors on its republication made available to all those interested in the social life of plants, as well as to those who use the concepts of phytosociology in their studies.

Vasile CRISTEA, Gheorghe COLDEA