

REVIEWS

J.M. CAMUS, M. GIBBY & R.J. JOHNS: **Pteridology in perspective**. Proceedings of the Holttum Memorial Pteridophyte Symposium, Kew 1995. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1996. xx + 700 pp., illus. ISBN 1-900347-09-1. Price unknown.

The book begins (Part 1) with a short account of the life of Richard Eric Holttum by W.T. Stearn, followed by a chapter by M.G. Price "Holttum and ferns".

Part 2, "Floras, Biodiversity and Conservation", with 22 contributions, deals with subjects as diverse as "Mapping the world's Pteridophyte biodiversity" to "Diversity; status and ecology of pteridophytes in Mindanao, Philippines", "Distribution of pteridophyte diversity and endemism in Peru", and "Collecting live ferns for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Ferns of all continents and many countries are treated here.

Part 3, with 8 contributions, deals with generic and family concepts. DNA as well as morphological and anatomical data are used in this chapter.

Part 4, "Species concepts and speciation", goes a step lower and contains seven contributions using isozymes, DNA, morphology, and field studies.

Part 5, "Pattern and process", with 18 contributions, contains among others papers on the fossil history, apical cell initiation, plastid dividing rings, gametophyte development, sex expression, and spore morphology.

In part 6, with 18 contributions, the interaction with the environment and other organisms is treated.

The closing remarks (Part 7) are by Trevor G. Walker, president of the British Pteridological Society.

In this symposium with participants from some 40 countries, valuable contributions have been made to the field of pteridology in all its aspects. This book gives a wealth of recent research as well as perspectives for the future and it is made clear by many scientists that pteridology for a long time to come is an inexhaustible field.

HANS P. NOOTEBOOM

R.E.G. PICCHI SERMOLLI, M.P. BIZZARRI, KUNG-HSIA SHING, & XHIAN-CHUN ZHANG: **Authors of scientific names in Pteridophyta**. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1996. xxx + 78 pp. ISBN 0-947643-90-7. Price unknown

In the preface the main author, the famous Prof. Picchi Sermolli, gives an introduction to the history of the *Index Filicum*. In this index author names were given that were often abbreviated in different ways. Pichi Sermolli has since long maintained a card index of authors, which he used for his contribution of Brummitt & Powell: Authors of plant names (APN). After the publication of APN he continued with updating his card index on fern authors, and he decided to publish them separately, including omissions from Brummitt & Powell, and later names. In the introduction Pichi Sermolli gives a definition of the "Standard Form" of a person's name as defined by the Working Party for APN. He elaborates more on Chinese names than APN does, with nearly 4 pages, and gives a new paragraph on compound names of Spanish, Portuguese, and other origin.

An appendix gives full names and standard abbreviations of the names of authors used in the past and differing from the standard form. Therefore this book is for pteridologists just as obligatory as APN is for other taxonomists. HANS P. NOOTEBOOM