

## REVIEWS

A. E. ORCHARD & A. F. G. WILSON (eds.): **Flora of Australia. Volume 11A. Mimosaceae, Acacia, part 1.** ABRs/CSIRO, Melbourne, 2001. xx + 673 pp., (colour) illus. ISBN 0-643-06717-5 (soft cover). Ibid.: **Volume 11B. Mimosaceae, Acacia, part 2.** ABRs/CSIRO, Melbourne, 2001. xvi + 536 pp., (colour) illus. ISBN 0-643-067191-1 (soft cover). Hardback set: ISBN 0-643-06744-2. Price: AUD 195; paperback set: ISBN 0-643-06744-2. Price: AUD 145.

*Acacia* is, with almost 1000 species, the largest genus of vascular plants in Australia. The present double volume is the outcome of many years of work resulting in this impressive book on the Australian Wattles.

In the introduction brief discussions on Classification and Phylogeny, Phytogeography, Fossil record, and Uses are presented. From the paragraphs on classification and phylogeny it is clear that a lot more work has to be done to solve remaining problems of relationship between species, groups and subgroups. The key, to all species!, covers no less than 152 pages. All species are illustrated with black and white drawings of important details, 128 with colour photographs as well. Maps to all species are included. The descriptions are in the usual format of the Flora of Australia.

The authors and editors of these volumes on *Acacia* are to be complimented with this important and beautiful addition to the series Flora of Australia. Congratulations!

FRITS ADEMA

H. A. M. VAN DER VOSSEN & B. E. UMALI (eds.): **Plant Resources of South-East Asia. 14. Vegetable oils and fats.** Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, 2001. 229 pp., illus. ISBN 90-5782-095-1. Price: EUR 72.50. [A paperback edition will be available for c. EUR 27 as from 2003. For developing countries a much cheaper paperback edition (ISBN 979-8316-42-8) will be available early 2002 from the PROSEA Network Office, P.O. Box 332, Bogor 16122, Indonesia.]

Vegetable oils and fats form an important commodity group with a highly variable array of uses. They appear not only directly and indirectly in food and food products, but also in paints and varnishes, as lubrication oil, in medicines, and even in steel production.

This new PROSEA volume treats in Chapter 2 fourteen major oil producers (2 genera, 12 species). However, for two of the most important oilseeds, soja (*Glycine max*) and peanut (*Arachis hypogea*) the reader is referred to the volume on pulses. Chapter 3 describes 27 minor producers (3 genera, 24 species). Chapter 4 lists a large number of oil plants with other primary uses. The introductory Chapter 1 gives a general account on vegetable oils and fats, their properties and production, including notes on oil extraction and purification. A list of literature, a glossary and several indices conclude the volume.

As usual the book is beautifully executed along the well-known layout and printing standards of PROSEA.

FRITS ADEMA