

## REVIEW

T.F. STUESSY & M. ONO (eds.). **Evolution and Speciation of Island Plants**. Cambridge University Press, 1998. xv + 358 pp. ISBN 0-521-49653-5 (hardback). Price: GBP 50.

In this book a number of general topics of island biogeography are discussed mainly on the basis of case studies dealing with three archipelagos: The Hawaiian Islands (two chapters); the Juan Fernandez Islands (three chapters) and the Bonin (Ogasawara) Islands (three chapters). Two chapters deal with, respectively, Ullung Island and the South Pacific Islands. The remaining three chapters are all part of the section on general evolutionary patterns and processes. Except in some of these last chapters, there are no references to islands outside the Pacific Basin.

The depth of treatments ranges from general discussions based primarily on literature studies (such as G.D. Carr's discussion of chromosome evolution in Hawaiian flowering plants, which is nearly entirely based on data extracted from Wagner, Herbst & Sohmer, 1990; or Bohm's review of secondary compounds in chapter 11), to a detailed analysis of single genera (Setoguchi et al.'s chapter on evolution in *Crossostylis*).

A similar range of variation is found in the degree to which the various contributions address the main themes of the volume. Stuessy et al., in chapter 5, address the relevance of MacArthur and Wilson's equilibrium theory to the species numbers on the two islands of the Juan Fernandez Archipelago, finding that a number of rather subtle refinements is necessary before the predictions can start to come close to the actual numbers found. On the other hand, Ono's survey of the conservation status of endemic vascular plants of the Bonin Islands (chapter 8) is a species by species discussion of conservation status, without any relevance to evolution or speciation that I can find. Incidentally, I find the reference in this chapter to the "very rare endemic species *Asplenium tenerum* L." rather puzzling. *Asplenium tenerum* G. Forst. (not L.) is a fairly common, widespread species, present on several of the oceanic islands of Japan. Apparently, the one plant growing on Hahajima has now disappeared, but I find the suggestion that this may be due to illicit collection unconvincing. Surely much larger and more accessible populations would be the first target of hobby collectors?

Judging from the title, one might expect a treatment which is wider in geographical scope; judging from the closely integrated group of authors (the two editors turn up as authors or co-authors in no less than 8 out of 13 chapters), one might expect a more closely integrated treatment of the problems of evolution and speciation. However, within a more limited scope, this is a useful book, bringing together a lot of information on many aspects of island biogeography.

PETER HOVENKAMP