

REVIEWS

M. BRINK & R.P. ESCOBIN (eds.): **Plant Resources of South-East Asia. 17. Fibre Plants.** Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, 2003. 456 pp., illus. ISBN 90-5782-129-X. Price: EUR 120. [A paperback edition will be available for c. EUR 45 as from March 2005. For developing countries a much cheaper paperback edition (ISBN 979-8316-46-0) will be available by the middle of 2003 from the PROSEA Network Office, P.O. Box 332, Bogor 16122, Indonesia.]

This new volume in the PROSEA series discusses the plants producing fibres. In the introduction various general aspects of fibres are discussed. These include e.g. definitions, role and uses of fibre plants, morphological and chemical properties. Major chemical compounds such as cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin and pectin are briefly described.

The introduction is followed by an alphabetical treatment of fibre producing plant taxa. In this section 43 genera and 32 species are treated, of two genera more than one species is treated, of 13 genera only the genus is treated with the major species listed. This section is followed by a section 'Minor fibre plants' which treats an additional 125 species in 69 genera. A list of fibre plants with other primary uses, a list of references and a glossary concludes the volume.

As with all other PROSEA volumes this is a very useful book, very well edited in a clear layout. Recommended for everybody interested in plant use and economic botany.

FRITS ADEMA

EDWARD P. KLUCKING: **Leaf venation patterns. Volume 9. Euphorbiaceae. Part II: Acalyphoideae, Crotonoideae & Euphorbioideae.** J. Cramer, Berlin-Stuttgart, 2003. 131 pp., 187 plates. ISBN 3-443-50022-6. Price: EUR 180.

This new volume of Klucking's series on leaf venation patterns discusses the second part of the family Euphorbiaceae including the subfamilies Acalyphoideae, Crotonoideae and Euphorbioideae. In total the venation patterns of 191 genera are described in Klucking's own system. Most genera have palmate or pinnate or intermediate venation patterns. A brief discussion of the distribution of these patterns over the family closes off the text part of this volume. A huge selection of photographs of cleared leaves, 187 plates with in the average 6 photographs per plate forms the main part of the book.

The main importance of the series on leaf venation patterns lies in the use of cleared leaves as a tool to identify fossil leaves. Floristic systematists working on present day floras often use different systems for describing leaf venation.

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