

## REVIEWS

L. FREY (ed.): **Problems of grass biology**. W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, 2003. 574 pp., illus. ISBN 83-85444-29-7. Price: unknown.

This compendium is the result of the all-Polish Scientific Meeting, held in November 2002, at Krakow. This meeting dealt with applied and fundamental aspects of systematics, karyology, embryology, geography, phytosociology, ecology and nature conservation in Poland. The present volume (Frag. Flor. Geobot. Suppl. 7) contains 47 papers, mainly dealing with Polish grasses and therefore of interest to European agrostologists; however, it also has chapters of a more general and wide range. First references to grasses in Poland are already found in the 15th century in pharmaceutical manuscripts. Zapalowicz (H. Zapalowicz, *Conspectus florae Galliciae criticus* 1, 1906) made a major contribution describing 189 species for Poland, of which 7 were new (not 6). The latest count in Frey (p. 34–42) has 313 species.

J.F. VELDKAMP

FLORENCIA MONTAGNINI & CARL F. JORDAN: **Tropical forest ecology**. Springer, Berlin, 2005. 295 pp., illus. ISBN 3-540-23797-6. Price: EUR 129.95.

The last decennia the study of tropical forests has been intensified and thousands of articles have been published on their ecology. As tropical forests might be particularly susceptible to (human) disturbances it is very much appreciated that the results have been bundled into a book which gives an overview about the subject. The content is split up in eight main chapters starting with: Importance and followed by: Characteristics, Classification, Deforestation, Management of Tropical Forests, Plantations and Agroforestry Systems, Approaches for Implementing sustainable Management techniques, and Conclusions. The subjects are adequately covered, although the main emphasis is on tropical forests of America and Africa. The chapters are very well organized into subchapters intermingled with case studies and ending in one page conclusions which helps students to filter out the most important message. Due to its broad approach the book is suited for a wide array of students with either a forestry, biology or environmental background. The list of references shows a good representation of up to date literature in case the reader is interested in more details. One might expect colour photographs instead of black-and-white ones for such a price. Some tables are weak in printing (Fig. 2.5, 3.2) and can hardly be read or interpreted due to too much reduction. Nevertheless the book can be recommended for those readers with an interest of tropical forest ecology who would like to get a starting base.

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