

## REVIEW

INDERJIT (ed.): **Invasive plants: ecological and agricultural aspects**. Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, 2005. 283 pp., illus. ISBN 3-7643-7137-4. Price: EUR 126.26.

Since the first contact and trade between different groups of humans organisms have been transferred from one area to another. Several of the introductions have become part of the local flora and fauna without causing any problem. However, as the contact and trade intensified in the 15th/16th century, more and more species proved to be obnoxious invaders. Since the last quarter of the last century invasive species are amongst the major treats to local ecosystems.

The present volume is a report on one of the symposia about the problem of invasive species. The foreword and 'About the symposium', discuss why a symposium about invasive species was held. These introductions are followed by the report on the presentations given during the symposium. This part starts with discussing terminology for the study of invasive species. After this important topic the book is divided into two sections: 1. Ecological aspects; 2. Agricultural aspects. The section 'Ecological aspects' consists of nine chapters discussing the ecology of biological invasions, niche models and geography of invasions, importance of species replication, residence time as a factor in distribution of aliens, the relationship between community diversity and exotic plants, invasive plants in wetland ecosystems, understanding invasion with a case study on Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), a regional approach to invasive plant research and management (Blue Mountain area, USA), and allelopathy as a mechanism for resisting invasion, the case of *Polygonella myriophylla*. The section 'Agricultural aspects' consists of seven chapters discussing various aspects of invasive species in relation to agricultural practice, with some case studies on *Phalaris minor* and *Chromolaena odorata*. Several of the chapters deal with human interaction with invasive species: Biology and anthropology of plant invasions, characteristics, significance, and human dimension of global invasive weeds, environmental consequences and economic costs of alien species.

As a whole 'Invasive plants: ecological and agricultural aspects' is a useful addition to the discussion of the problem of invasive plants.

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