

REVIEWS

C. BALLARD, P. BROWN, R. MICHAEL BOURKE & T. HARWOOD (eds.): **The Sweet Potato in Oceania: a reappraisal**. The University of Sydney, Australia, 2005. 227 pp., illus. ISBN 0-945425-13-8. Price: USD 45.56.

Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) is an important plant in the cultures of Oceania (Pacific Ocean). As a staple Sweet Potato is used in the Pacific in places as far apart as Hawai'i, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands and New Guinea. The present volume is a report on a workshop of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania's annual meeting at Auckland, February 2002 under the title 'Sweet Potato in the Pacific – a reassessment'. The various papers discuss: 'How, when and by whom' Sweet Potato was introduced in the Pacific?; What are the processes by which Sweet Potato became dominant in local agricultural systems? These questions were tackled by scientists as diverse as archaeologists, historians, anthropologists, palynologists and agricultural scientists. An interesting book if you have an interest in ethnobotany or in the history of cultivated plants.

FRITS ADEMA

MIREYA D. CORREA & TÂNIA REGINA DOS SANTOS: **Drosera (Droseraceae)**. Flora Neotropica, Monograph 96. Organization for Flora Neotropica, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York, 2005. 72 pp., illus. ISBN 0-89327-463-1. Price: USD 25.

This new monograph in the Flora Neotropica series treats 20 species of *Drosera*. The introduction discusses several characters with special attention to habit, glandular hairs, seeds and seedcoat ornamentation, and pollen grains. The distribution of *Drosera* species is discussed in some length. In the Neotropics *Drosera* occurs mainly in Meso America, including Cuba, and northern South America, with Brazil, Venezuela and the Guyanas as major areas of distribution.

The systematic part starts with a genus description which is followed by a key and species descriptions. The key uses the indented model and tries to reflect a natural system of the genus, divided into several subgenera. The use of a bracketed key would have been much more user-friendly. Also, starting with more easy (vegetative) characters would have been more helpful. The key uses alternately flower and fruit characters giving great difficulties in identifying specimens with only flowers or fruits. All species are comprehensively described with enough details and illustrations to facilitate identification. The long lists of specimens seen (Ejemplares examinados) had better been replaced by an identification list at the end of the paper. The list 'Lista de Exsiccatae' is useful; however, it can not replace a complete identification list.

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