

REVIEW

KAREN L. WILSON & DAVID A. MORRISON: **Monocots. Systematics and Evolution.** CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria, Australia, 2000. xiv + 738 pp., illus. ISBN 0-643-06437-0. Price: USD 170. [As a set with: *Grasses. Systematics and Evolution*: ISBN 0-643-06393-5. Price: USD 280. (See also Book Notices on p. 426.)]

This book contains a wealth of information on Monocotyledons. The papers are based on presentations at the Second International Conference on Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons, *Monocots II*, held in Sydney, Australia in 1998, but many have been updated or extended to take into account new information.

The book is divided into three main sections: *General Comparative Biology of the Monocots* (33 papers), *Systematics of the Lilioides* (18 papers), and *Systematics of the Commelinoids* (29 papers). *General Comparative Biology of the Monocots* covers the fields: Higher level systematics and new classifications; Biogeography and Fossils; Development and Organisation; Chemotaxonomy and Cytology; Anatomy and Embryology; and Reproductive biology. *Systematics of the Lilioides* contains accounts on Asparagales, Liliales, Orchidaceae, Dioscoreales, and Pandales. *Systematics of the Commelinoids* gives papers on Arecales (Palms), Commelinales, Poales (Bromeliaceae, Eriocaulaceae, Cyperaceae, Restoniaceae), and Zingiberales. As may be clear from the various fields covered in *General Comparative Biology* a very wide range of data sets is discussed. In the sections on *Systematics* most papers discuss systematics and phylogeny using phylogenies based on DNA sequences, macromorphological and anatomical characters.

The wide range of taxa, subjects, research method, etc. makes it difficult to give a brief appraisal of the volume. However, the book is beautifully produced and in all aspects a major addition to the literature on Monocots.