

BOOK REVIEW

P.M. McCarthy (ed.). *Flora of Australia. Volume 58A, Lichens 3.* (CSIRO Publishing, P.O.Box 1139, Collingwood, VIC 3066, Australia. 2001.) ISBN 0643067132 (hardback); 0643067124 (paperback). Pp. 242. 56 coloured plates, 58 text-figs. Price: AUD 85 hardback; AUD 70 paperback.

Volume 58A of the in 1981 started series *Flora of Australia* is the third volume dealing with lichens. Previous volumes concerning lichens were volume 54 (1992) which contained an introduction and Lecanorales 1, and volume 55 (1994) which dealt with Lecanorales 2, family Parmeliaceae. Apparently volume 56 and 57 are still on its way. In total 9 different authors from Austria, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Sweden have contributed to the present volume. In total 10 illustrators and photographers made the book the attractive looking volume it now is.

The following groups are treated: order Lecanorales family Sphaerophoraceae; Leotiales families Baeomycetaceae, and Icmadophilaceae, Lichinales family Peltulaceae, Patellariales family Arthrorhaphidaceae, Peltigerales family Lobariaceae, Trichotheliales family Myeloconaceae, Trichotheliaceae, and of the order Verrucariales family Verrucariaceae. Of each familie an extensive circumscription is given, followed by a key to the genera, an extensive genus description, per genus a key to the species and a description for each species including synonymy, references to illustrations and material studied. Literature references are given for each family and genus. Of a selected number of species drawings are given of the fruit-bodies and spores or asci. A distributionmap of each species makes the work complete. The high quality photographs of a limited number of species are bound together on two places in the book. In anticipation of the revision of more families of crustose pyrenocarpous lichens for future volumes of the *Flora of Australia*, a key is given to the genera of crustose pyrenocarpous lichens in Australia. Part of the crustose lichens is included in this volume, belonging to the orders Trichotheliales and Verrucariales.

It is a bit surprising that lichens are included in this series *Flora of Australia* which deals with plants, and not in the in 1996 started series *Fungi of Australia*. But this is probably a historic choice, made long before the *Fungi of Australia* started, and does not derogate from the quality of this volume and the other volumes in this series.

If you had always wanted to know everything about the lichens of Australia, about the luxuriant species of cool-temperate southeastern Australia as well as the soil inhabiting groups of the (semi)arid regions, this is your chance. But do not forget to buy the other (forthcoming and published) volumes. The price is not the problem, only the beautiful colour pictures make us wish every species was depicted!