

REVIEWS

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SARIE M. PEROLD. *Flora of Southern Africa. Hepatophyta. Part 1: Marchantiopsida. Fascicle 1: Marchantiidae.* 252 pages. 1999. National Botanical Institute, Pretoria. [ISBN 1-919795-44-8.] Price: R185.00 (South African Development Community [SADC] countries), US\$40.00 (all other countries). Available from: National Botanical Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria, 0001 South Africa. Fax: +27 12 804-3200. Web site: <http://www.nbi.ac.za/products/publications/florasa.htm>

This is the first hepatic fascicle of the *Flora of Southern Africa*. It treats the Marchantiidae and includes 77 species, of which 52 belong to *Riccia*.

The fascicle starts with a short introduction on the vegetation formations in the area covered (i.e., Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland), characters used, and a glossary. These sections are followed by thorough descriptions of the species, which form the main part of the text. Brief notes on distributions and on distinctions among related species are included. Every species is fully illustrated with drawings and often with SEM photographs of spores. The illustrations are superb, and often occupy

a full page per species. The distributions in southern Africa are also mapped.

I have found only a few typographical mistakes, such as missing symbol explanations on maps and a few reference errors. Most of those cause no confusion, but I have not yet determined to which species the filled square on map 23 applies.

There are keys to all species, but I have not been able to try them due to lack of South African specimens. However, the keys seem to be concise and clear.

The book does not describe new species. That has been done in separate, previously published papers. Perold has, for example, published 24 papers with the title "Studies in the genus *Riccia* (Marchantiales) from southern Africa . . ." This book summarizes all of them and synthesizes the whole group. *Riccia* is split into five subgenera, and the subgenera *Riccia* and *Ricciella* into two sections each. In addition, Perold employs informal groups, which I think is a good thing for practical use.

Those dealing with Marchantiidae from southern Africa and neighboring areas must have this book. Since southern Africa is so rich in *Riccia* species, the treatment here will be important also for other areas.—LARS SÖDERSTRÖM, *Department of Botany, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, N-7491 Trondheim, Norway.*

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BILL MALCOLM AND NANCY MALCOLM. *Mosses and Other Bryophytes: An Illustrated Glossary.* iv + 220 pages. Micro-Optics Press, Nelson, New Zealand. 2000. [ISBN 0-473-06730-7.] Price: \$39.95 (soft cover) + shipping and handling. Available from: Timber Press, Inc., 133 SW Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-8527, U.S.A.

This is a beautiful book. The color photographs are spectacular. The authors have generally chosen their examples well, made elegant transverse sections when appropriate, and photographed them by manipulating light to achieve dazzling results. It is splendid to have a book that shows the stunning beauty of bryophytes, both macroscopically and microscopically. The photographs become even more spectacular when enlarged, apparent by comparison of the cover photographs with the same ones associated with the text.

As a glossary, the book has some minor problems, a few noted below. Some figures do not show clearly the intended feature, including those illustrating "adnate" (p. 4), and "aggregate" (p. 6), in which the focus is poor for

Campylopus, and the attachment of the sporophytes is not shown for *Dicranum*. "Anaerobic" is regrettably illustrated by a beautiful picture of *Sphagnum*, interpreted as a bog (!). "Anisophyllous" is illustrated by a photograph of *Racopilum*, a completely appropriate choice, but the smaller leaves are not obvious.

A few errors have crept in. For example, *Austrometzeria* has saccate lobes, not leaves (p. 175); "archegoniophore" is illustrated (p. 20), by a carpocephalum (it is an archegoniophore preceding fertilization). It seems doubtful that "armature" is appropriate for spiny teeth of bryophyte leaves (p. 22). "Tubular" is illustrated by a transverse section of a tubular leaf, not a shoot apex.

The debt of the text to Robert E. Magill's 1990 *Glossarium Polyglottum Bryologiae* is apparent. It would have been useful to have included the authors of the taxa in the index. This would guide users to sometimes familiar older names.

The book can be highly recommended for its photographs of great beauty. The photographers and printers are to be congratulated. The price is very reasonable.—WILFRED B. SCHOFIELD, *Department of Botany, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z4, Canada.*