

REVIEWS

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MANFRED JENSEN (Editor). Lichenological contributions in honour of G.B. Feige. *Bibliotheca Lichenologica* 86, 491 pp., 177 figures. J. Cramer in der Gebrüder Borntraeger Verlagsbuchhandlung, Berlin and Stuttgart. 2003. [ISBN 3-443-58065-3]. Price € 86.00 (soft cover). Available from: E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart. <http://www.schweizerbart.de>

The volume, which is dedicated to G. B. Feige in honor of his 65th birthday, contains 42 papers on lichen taxonomy, systematics, distribution, ecology, ecophysiology, and biochemistry. Most of them are in English, whereas six papers are written in German with English abstracts. Quantitatively, papers on taxonomy, distribution, and descriptive ecology account for most of the volume. Many species are described as new to science, including the lichens *Biatora bacidioides*, *B. chrysanthoides*, *B. pausiacca*, *B. pontica*, *Caprettia neotropica*, *C. nyssaegenoides*, *Cryptothecia granularis*, *Dermatocarpon atrogranulosum*, *Diploschistes microsporus*, *Lempholemma socotranum*, *Lepraria usnica*, *Ocellularia feigei*, *O. tanii*, and *Placopsis stellata*; the lichenicolous fungi *Cercidospora lecidomae* and *Stromatopogon cladoniae*; and several (non-lichenized) hyphomycetes. Phylogenetic studies include lichen genera related to *Gyalidea* and *Pertusaria*. Biochemical contributions are about lichen substances occurring in selected lichen species, or on the hydrophobic properties of lichen substances. Ecophysiological papers deal with influences of microclimate (e.g., of light, temperature, and water supply). Field observations on the distribution and ecology of lichens are derived primarily from Europe, but also from Venezuela and the Seychelles; some of them are only of regional interest. All the articles are interesting to read, although some of them, especially in the "field observation" section, are by nature less profound than those based on extensive measurements or analyses.

Notwithstanding the high quality of most of the papers, one criticism of the present volume (as with most such festschrifts) is the varying quality of the different contributions. While many of the papers could have been print-

ed in international journals, a minority of them have flaws with regards to thoroughly demonstrating appropriate methods and data leading to the conclusions inferred. It is a delicate issue to review in detail, because in contrast to monographic work, giving examples requires separating between "good" and "bad" papers without adequate space to point out the positive ideas of the "bad" ones. However, in the referee's point of view, the level of the papers included in any such festschrift should generally meet that of the leading lichenological journals i.e., *THE BRYOLOGIST* and *The Lichenologist*. Otherwise, the publication of such festschrift volumes in an expensive series such as *Bibliotheca Lichenologica* is hardly justified. The present volume is good and recommendable, but more clearly separating the wheat from the chaff would have increased its value. In addition, a more critical selection of manuscripts included would have also improved this volume. One paper with the title "Miscellaneous notes on some cercosporoid hyphomycetes" by U. Braun is surely good, but it is hard to see why this is a "lichenological contribution". This is not that much a disadvantage for lichenologists, who can browse to the other articles. Rather, it is a problem for mycologists, who will not generally be aware of the six new species of the genera *Passalora*, *Pseudocercospora*, and *Stenella* described here.

This leads us to another important point: the relative inaccessibility of papers published in festschrifts. This inaccessibility is due to the fact that most libraries do not subscribe to journals like *Bibliotheca Lichenologica*, which they perceive as expensive series dedicated to serious monographic treatments. Thus, libraries miss the single, journal-like volumes (festschrifts) that occasionally emerge in such series. It would be much better for journals like *Bibliotheca Lichenologica* to focus on the publication of high-value monographs than to print volumes with papers of variable quality. In summary, the present volume contains very interesting contributions to lichenology, but in accordance with D. L. Hawksworth's review of this festschrift (*Mycotaxon* 86: 479–491, 2003), the referee does not support the recent increase of such festschrift volumes.—MARKUS HAUCK, *Albrecht von Haller Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Göttingen, Untere Karspüle 2, D-37073 Göttingen, Germany.*

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BISCHLER HELENE. *Liverworts of the Mediterranean: Ecology, Diversity and Distribution*. Bryophorum Bibliothecum 61: 1–252, 2004. [ISBN 3-443-62033-7] [ISSN 0258–3348].

Helene Bischler presents a comprehensive, yet concise, volume with sixteen years of her and Mme. S. Jovet-Ast's ecological and floristic data collected on liverworts and a few hornworts from 17 Mediterranean areas. Following the introduction, the publication is divided into nine sections. Each of the sections is brief with the exception of section nine. The first section details the materials and methodologies followed by the description and history of

the study area. I found this to be a little out of place and would like to have read about the study area in the introduction. However, this is only a minor perturbation and does not detract from the overall quality of the publication.

This study analyzes 20 environmental variables divided into two levels, locality (eight variables) and sample plot (12 variables), that are further divided into numerous types of each variable. There is a good description of some of the locality variables, but not the sample plot variables. These are self-explanatory for the most part; however, some of the qualitative descriptors, such as "bryophytes few or abundant" or "slope negligible, weak