

## New Titles

Source: BioScience, 63(6) : 503

Published By: American Institute of Biological Sciences

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1525/bio.2013.63.6.15>

---

BioOne Complete ([complete.BioOne.org](http://complete.BioOne.org)) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at [www.bioone.org/terms-of-use](http://www.bioone.org/terms-of-use).

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

---

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Perhaps the intended readers are, after all, botanists. I confess to having been delighted to learn that *Welwitschia* is the eponym of a nineteenth-century botanist, and I am grateful to be reminded of *Isoetes* and other wonders of cryptogamic botany that I once studied and had long forgotten. But, alas, for a botanist, the text is too much textbook. Most of the treatment is standard, if not cliché, as the author guides us, branch by branch, to the crowning glory of flowers. I am tired of hearing early-diverged organisms called “primitive.” Maybe their longevity testifies to their perfection. Maybe lineages that branch and branch again are the backward ones, continually getting it wrong and needing a do-over? If the book were written for experts, here and there, the author should have smacked me with an idea.

A reader may ask, “With all those striking photographs, why does this reviewer natter on about the text? Botanist and nonbotanist alike will enjoy the images.” This is true, but also, sadly, a little mindless—rather like the swimsuit issue of a sports magazine, where the quality of articles on the mechanical properties of spandex is beside the point. The photographs in *Green Universe* could have been more than pretty; they could have been revelatory. Instead of offering a disconnected botanical trudge, the text could have concisely annotated and explained the images, perhaps with the occasional companion diagram. Conceivably, Blakemore feels that the images should speak for themselves. Fine—let them: Replace the thick text with short passages, just a few pages in length, interspersed among major groupings of images.

In summary, *Green Universe* comprises two fine books, forced to marry. One is a textbook on botany, an authoritative account of the major groups of plants, written from an evolutionary perspective. The other is an album of remarkable images. Each book on its own could be splendid; joined, they throw pots at each other. A chance was missed here to introduce readers to the plant panoply. The need

for such an introduction is pressing as humans abandon strolling in the woods in favor of scrolling down Web pages. The photographs in this book do invite the reader to admire the plant kingdom. However, we need to learn something about those cells with their bright colors and intricate shapes; otherwise, we can only ogle.

TOBIAS I. BASKIN

*Tobias I. Baskin (baskin@bio.umass.edu) is a professor in the Biology Department at the University of Massachusetts, in Amherst.*

## NEW TITLES

**Bioluminescence: Living Lights, Lights for Living.** Thérèse Wilson and J. Woodland Hastings. Harvard University Press, 2013. 208 pp., illus. \$45.00 (ISBN 9780674067165 cloth).

**Coastal Erosion and Protection in Europe.** Enzo Pranzini and Allan Williams, eds. Taylor and Francis (Routledge), 2013. 488 pp., illus. \$195.00 (ISBN 9781849713399 cloth).

**Does Science Need a Global Language? English and the Future of Research.** Scott L. Montgomery. University of Chicago Press, 2013. 240 pp., illus. \$22.50 (ISBN 9780226535036 cloth).

**Evolution's Empress: Darwinian Perspectives on the Nature of Women.** Maryanne L. Fisher, Justin R. Garcia, and Rosemarie Sokol Chang, eds. Oxford University Press, 2013, 512 pp., illus. \$85.00 (ISBN 9780199892747 cloth).

**Fatal Flaws: How a Misfolded Protein Baffled Scientists and Changed the Way We Look at the Brain.** Jay Ingram. Yale University Press, 2013. 286 pp., illus. \$30.00 (ISBN 9780300189896 cloth).

**From Pleasure Machines to Moral Communities: An Evolutionary Economics without *Homo Economicus*.** Geoffrey M. Hodgson. University

of Chicago Press, 2012. 328 pp., illus. \$45.00 (ISBN 9780226922713 cloth).

**Genetic Explanations: Sense and Nonsense.** Sheldon Krimsky and Jeremy Gruber, eds. Harvard University Press, 2013. 384 pp., illus. \$45.00 (ISBN 9780674064461 cloth).

**Investing in Water for a Green Economy: Services, Infrastructure, Policies, and Management.** Mike Young and Christine Esau, eds. Taylor and Francis (Routledge), 2013. 296 pp., illus. \$65.95 (ISBN 9780415501262 paper).

**Overheated: The Human Cost of Climate Change.** Andrew T. Guzman. Oxford University Press, 2013. 280 pp., illus. \$29.95 (ISBN 9780199933877 cloth).

**Paleofantasy: What Evolution Really Tells Us about Sex, Diet, and How We Live.** Marlene Zuk. W. W. Norton, 2013. 336 pp., illus. \$27.95 (ISBN 9780393081374 cloth).

**Randomness in Evolution.** John Tyler Bonner. Princeton University Press, 2013. 148 pp., illus. \$27.95 (ISBN 9780691157016 cloth).

**State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?** The Worldwatch Institute. Island Press, 2013. 465 pp., illus. \$22.00 (ISBN 9781610914499 paper).

**Stung! On Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean.** Lisa-Ann Gershwin. University of Chicago Press, 2013. 456 pp., illus. \$27.50 (ISBN 9780226020105 cloth).

**The Unfeathered Bird.** Katrina van Grouw. Princeton University Press, 2013. 304 pp., illus. \$49.95 (ISBN 9780691151342 cloth).

**The Water Footprint of Modern Consumer Society.** Arjen Y. Hoekstra. Taylor and Francis (Routledge), 2013. 208 pp., illus. \$40.95 (ISBN 9781849714273 paper).

doi:10.1525/bio.2013.63.6.15