

Book Reviews

Vascular Plants of the Russian Far East. Vol. 1. Edited by N. N. Tzvelev. 2003. Science Publishers, Inc., Enfield New Hampshire, USA. 506 p. US\$165.00 hardbound. ISBN 1-57808-290-0.

This new flora of the *Lycopodiophyta*, *Juncaceae*, and *Poaceae* of the Russian Far East (RFE) is the first of a ten-volume comprehensive flora that will be a valuable addition to the taxonomic botany of a region that is not often in the American news. The region covered in the flora is located from Vladivostok in the south, northward and somewhat inland along the northern Pacific coast, including the Kamchatka Peninsula, to the Eastern Cape opposite the Seward Peninsula of Alaska. The western boundary of the region described corresponds to the eastern boundary of the Yakut Republic and Chita Region. The Editor describes this area of the RFE as floristically rich, with a history of botanical research dating back about 250 years, most of it after World War II.

In its organization, the flora contains a brief introductory section, about 25 pages on the *Lycopodiophyta* (club mosses and quillworts), about 40 pages on the *Juncaceae* (rushes), and about 400 pages on the *Poaceae* (grasses). A brief bibliography of literature on chromosome numbers, and an index to the Latin names of families, genera and species close the book. The introductory section includes a brief Introduction—mainly to the history of taxonomic work in the region, a section showing the taxonomic system of the vascular plants of the RFE, a bibliography of the major relevant floristic literature, a section describing the main floristic districts of the RFE, and 20 pages of keys to the divisions, classes, subclasses and families of plants.

The sections on the 3 major taxa follow. Over 160 maps and 26 plates, most of them black-and-white drawings of plants species, enhance the typically abbreviated taxonomic descriptions of the plants. Only Latin names are given. Species descriptions include names and nomenclatural citations, morphological descriptions including the chromosome number with appropriately prioritized references, distribution by sub-region, months of sporing, flowering, seeding and fruiting, endemism, possible uses, means of conservation, and general distribution. Individual specimens described by and kept at particular herbaria are noted when relevant.

The species descriptions are terse and replete with abbreviations, in the manner of most floras, and appear generally well edited. The wording in the Table of Contents, and the syntax in the Introduction are awkward in places, and could have benefited from additional editing by a skilled English-speaking editor. The book seems reasonably free of typographical errors.

The production characteristics of the book include a solid binding and heavy, glossy paper. Printed in India, the book does show evidence of faint and fragmented printing in places despite the adequate paper. The marginal quality of the printing is inconsequential in the text, but does slightly impair the sharpness of the book's graphics, including the drawings of plants, and the book's maps. Despite these limitations, the book's production values are certainly adequate for its purposes.

Taxonomists, especially agrostologists, and grassland scientists and managers with regional interests may be attracted to *Volume 1 of Vascular Plants of the Russian Far East*. The rich history of importation of species from the region into North America, along with the geologically historical land bridge between the region

and Alaska ensure that North American range management scientists will find many familiar genera and species in this regional flora.—*David L. Scarnecchia*, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington.

Tree Islands of the Everglades. Edited By. F. H. Sklar and Arnold van der Valk, with numerous text contributors. 2002. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, Netherlands. 541 p. US\$198.00 hardbound. ISBN 1-4020-1050-8.

The current broadening of the concept of *rangelands* to include non-agricultural, coastal wetlands and floodplains, as discussed at the annual meeting of the Society for Range Management (SRM) in Salt Lake City by Bob Budd, Past President of the SRM, makes *Tree Islands of the Everglades* more relevant to range management science than what might be thought at first glance. The ecological features of these islands or *hammocks*, including the complex overstory-understory relationships of their herbaceous and woody plant species, their role in a mosaic of land and vegetation types within a broad, extensively-managed landscape, and their importance to diverse wildlife are among the common conceptual traits they share with other rangelands. The recent book *Tree Islands of the Everglades* is, with some important additions, the published proceedings of a symposium held in July, 1998 at Florida Atlantic University, in Boca Raton, Florida. That scientific meeting was the first ever devoted entirely to tree islands. This book fills a conspicuous void in the scientific literature on a subject often casually noted but generally glossed over in the ecological literature.

The Preface and Introduction to *Tree Islands of the Everglades* by the Editors describe generally what tree islands are, and give some brief background on the basic spatial concepts tree island ecology, some environmental history of the Everglades inlands, and their place within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Chapter 2 by Paul Wetzel examines the tree island ecosystems of the world, including peat islands from places such as Minnesota and the Yucatan peninsula. The 15 chapters that follow address a variety of topics related to tree islands, and include titles such as *The Archaeology of Everglades Tree Islands*, *Analysis of Tree Island Vegetation Communities*, *Habitat-Use Patterns of Avian Seed Dispersers in the Central Everglades*, and *Occurrence of Wildlife on Tree Islands of the Southern Everglades*. Chapter 16, which presents some spatial simulations of tree islands for Everglades restoration, is the chapter most strongly oriented toward modeling. In the closing chapter (17), the Editors summarize what we do know and should know about tree islands.

The book contains a subject index and a species index at its end, appendices at the end of a few individual chapters, and lists cited literature at the end of each chapter. Most chapters contain a section entitled *summary*, *implications*, or *conclusions* at their ends. Dispersed throughout the book are a variety of tables, figures, and maps. A few of the chapters contain some black-and-white photographs, mostly landscapes. The technical content of the book is impressive in quality and quantity, and is presented effectively and attractively.

In the closing chapter the Editor's concise summary of the diverse content of *Tree Islands of the Everglades* exemplifies the