

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF WOODY PLANTS

P. Schütt, H.J. Schück, G. Aas & U. M. Lang (eds.): Enzyklopädie der Holzgewächse. Handbuch und Atlas der Dendrologie. Ecomed Verlag, Landsberg a. L., price 198.00 DEM + additional price for individual monographs, or 298.00 DEM without supplements. ISBN 3-609-72030-1.

The Ecomed publishing house started the publication of a very interesting roll-on monograph of tree species which is aimed not only at tree species of the temperate zones of both hemispheres but also of the tropics and subtropics. In the first run about 50 monographs were published, and they are expected to publish annually about 30 species monographs, and the publication of the complete encyclopedia will last more years.

Each of the species monographs is written according to the same plan which includes the nomenclature (including synonyms and trivial names in German, English as well as in the language of origin), systematic classification, natural range and ecological requirements, morphology (crown, stem, bark, wood, leaves, flowers, fruits as well as the root system), growth and the development, ecology, silviculture and genetics. Except for the dendrological characteristics, the most important part for the geneticists and breeders is the last one, in which the main attention is paid to the hybridization, genetic variation and differentiation as well as to the breeding of individual species. Each monograph is well illustrated with relevant colour photographs, drawings and a map of the natural range, and completed by references.

The first chapter is aimed at the explanation of the structure of the encyclopedia i.e. the table of contents (will be permanently actualized), introduction, list of keywords, lists of scientific and trivial names of woody plants, list of abbreviations and the list of authors and their addresses.

The second is aimed at the systematics of tree species (flower morphology, growth characteristics, wood anatomy etc.) taxonomic system of tree species (classification of families and their taxonomic position within the botanical system as well as the description of individual families).

The third chapter is divided into four subchapters: (1) conifers of temperate zone, (2) broadleaves of the temperate zone, (3) shrubs of Central Europe and (4) tropical and subtropical tree species.

Currently, the monograph contains 45 species monographs, of this number xx tree species and xx shrubs of the temperate zones and xx species of the tropics and subtropics. According to the information from the editor, a further 130 monographs are being prepared by the team of more than 100 (64) authors. Individual monographs are very well illustrated by numerous colour photographs, diagrams, pen drawings and maps of natural ranges. For better orientations, on each cover of individual monographs there are pictograms helping the reader in easier orientation. The print and layouts are of very high quality.

It remains for the readership only to hope that this monograph, after the magnificent start, will be finished in the near future and keep the high standard of those already published parts.

Ladislav Paule, Zvolen, Slovakia