

As to the classification followed, Dressler's system (of 1981) is used for the family and supra-generic groups. The key to genera is artificial, non-indented, and runs continuously from p. 19 to p. 26.

The systematic catalogue is actually in full floristic format, complete with typifications, synonymy (sometimes as a reference to another complete summary), and specimen citations. (Virtually all specimens cited are in Kew, so it might have been sufficient to state that unless otherwise indicated, collections cited are in K).

The clear typography and consistent format make a search for data very simple.

It is also good to see a generous inclusion of line drawings, which for the most part are devoted to one (rarely two) species and occupy a full page. Ms. Wickison has a clear style, and the careful depiction of dissected floral organs should prove very useful. Indication of scale of enlargement or reduction is found only in the caption (I would personally prefer a scale bar in the figure itself, which can be used as a direct ruler).

There is a bibliography followed by a page of Acknowledgements. From the latter it is apparent that the Australian Orchid Foundation provided significant assistance in the issue of the book.

The color plates are grouped together as 16 full page color plates of high quality photographs, mostly of floral close-ups, several to a page, assembled together between page 324 and page 325. The identity of the photographer was not found, but the photos are very good and printed on glossy paper (in contrast to the matte paper of the main text).

This book will undoubtedly form the basis for all future studies of the orchid flora in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville, and is highly recommended. The price is reasonable (in modern terms).

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Ferns and Orchids

FERNS AND ORCHIDS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS. Lynn Raulerson and Agnes F. Rinehart. Published by the authors, P.O. Box 428, Agana, Guam 96910. 1992. 138 pp. about \$15 (paperback).

Perhaps because of their distance from other islands, the Marianas have a relatively high pro-

portion of ferns in the vascular flora. Fern spores are light and travel easily on the wind. On the other hand, the number of orchids is small compared to islands closer to the mainland (see other book reviews this issue). Ninety species of ferns, and related plants such as *Psilotum*, *Selaginella*, and *Lycopodium*, are described and beautifully illustrated in color in this book. Thirty species of orchids, not including non-naturalized introductions, are also included. Of these orchids, four are endemic to the Marianas and seven more occur only in Micronesia. Not surprisingly, there are few endemic ferns; one, *Thelypteris gretheri*, commemorates David Grether, co-author with W. H. Wagner of the first book on ferns of Guam (*Pteridophyta of Guam*, Bishop Museum, 1948). Each species is shown in one or two clear photos; detail photos of the ferns often show the arrangement of the reproductive areas (sori), and of course orchid details show the flowers.

As with native orchids in most places, the majority of the species do not have large or showy flowers. As the authors note, this has saved these orchids from the ravages of horticulturists. Now, however, horticulturists may be able to provide an important service in saving individual orchid plants about to be ravaged by the bulldozer.

The information given in the introduction to ferns is helpful in outlining the life cycle of a "typical" fern, but does not give much information on ferns in the Marianas (in contrast to the introduction on orchids). I would quarrel with the inclusion of the related Phyla as if they were merely families of the Pteridophyta (true ferns). This is especially unfortunate when by omission the life histories of such famous and special plants as *Psilotum* and *Selaginella*—known throughout the world in plant diversity texts—are implied to be just like ferns. What has made them so famous is precisely their unusual structure or reproduction. (*Psilotum* is considered very primitive because it lacks vascular leaves as well as roots. *Selaginella* has two different size spores which form internal [endosporic] gametophytes.) Some of these "fern allies" and also some of the ferns (e.g., *Ophioglossum*) have subterranean—non-photosynthetic—gametophytes that live in association with endosymbiotic fungi, in contrast to the green gametophytes of most ferns. But this is a field guide, not a botany text, and the emphasis is rightly placed on description and illustration of species.

As with their other recent book, *Trees and Shrubs of the Northern Mariana Islands*, this

book is in a handy format for carrying in the field, and is well produced. Those who backed out of funding this book can sit quietly in shame; the rest of us can be thankful that the authors, spurred by the success of their other book, pressed ahead with publication of this one themselves. Highly recommended for naturalists and gardeners.

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