

Larcher, W.: **Ökophysiologie der Pflanzen. Leben, Leistung und Stressbewältigung der Pflanzen in ihrer Umwelt.** 5., völlig neuarbeitete Auflage. - Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart 1994. 394 pp. 347 figures, 78 tables.

The well-known, excellent textbook written by Professor W. Larcher and entitled "Ökologie der Pflanzen" was firstly published in 1973. More than 20 years later, the 5th completely overworked edition appeared under a new title. The overall concept of the book remained similar but the physiological aspect was stressed. The text was completely renewed, updated and completed with the new results and achievements in plant ecophysiology including of course a plenty of new literature. The text of the book is divided into six chapters dealing with the plant and its environment, plant carbon metabolism, mineral nutrition, water balance, development of plants as affected by the environment, and plant and stress. All the topics are treated on the level of cells and tissues, a whole plant, and an ecosystem. As compared to the first edition, the textbook gains in volume and contains more illustrations: formulas, schemes, tables and figures. I like the very illustrative tables, where plenty of data about different plant types, ecophysiological properties, *etc.*, are given which enable a quick orientation and comparison. Nearly 900 references and special list of related textbooks and handbooks are given. The book is very well printed on glossy paper and I have found only one missprint: in Fig. 2.3 on p. 60 in the PSII P_{600} should be P_{680} .

In the first sentence I have written that the preceding editions of Prof. Larcher's textbook were excellent. The more this is true with the 5th edition - besides more information and new data the text is still better, more philosophical, detecting more general interrelationships between plant physiology and ecology with the main emphasis on ecological aspects of plant physiology. The book will surely become essential reading for students and research workers in biology, biogeography, agriculture, forestry and related branches.

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