

Nordenstam, B., El-Ghazaly, G., Kassas, M. (ed.): **Plant Systematics for the 21st Century**. (Wenner-Gren International Series Volume 77.) - Portland Press, London 2000. 366 pp. ISBN 1-85578-135-2

This book represents the proceedings from a symposium held at the Wenner-Gren Centre, Stockholm, in September 1998. The reason for organizing this symposium were hundred-year anniversaries of the birth of two eminent Swedish scholars: Vivi Täckholm born Laurent, internationally famous Swedish scientist who spent a significant part of her life by working in Egypt, and Gunnar Erdtman, a leading Swedish palynologist. Besides commemorating the contributions of V. Täckholm and G. Erdtman to science, also current knowledge in their working fields as well as some related significant areas - as anatomy and floral odours - were included. Leading scientists from all parts of the world working in systematics and palynology as well as in some related fields contributed to the symposium program. The content of the book represents a survey of present knowledge in concerned working areas.

The book is divided into two basic parts. The first part (5 memorial papers) are confined to both personalities to which jubilee the symposium was organized: their life and

work surveys, accompanied by citations of selected publications of them.

The second part consists of 27 papers prepared by 32 contributors. They are arranged into following sections: "Systematics today and tomorrow" (6 contributions), "Palynology and systematics" (6 contributions), "Aspects of Egyptian Flora" (4 contributions), and "Integration of data from different fields of biology" (5 contributions). The content of these papers varies from detailed taxonomic studies of certain species or of higher units, to large-scale phylogenetic relationships. Thus the book represents a valuable source of information for much broader choice of botanists and interested persons than the title indicates. It brings new information and inspiration evenly to scientist working in palynology, morphology, molecular biology or phy-siology, as well as special topics concerning the flora of Egypt.

Numerous black-and-white figures illustrate most articles. Rich lists of references accompanying each paper are widening the information for the reader.

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