

Říha, J., Šubík, R.(ed.): **Kaktusy v Přírodě**. [Cacti in Nature.] - Academia, Praha 1989. 136 pp. CZK 33.00. In Czech.

This book deals with the family *Cactaceae*, which is the most famous family among the succulent plants in the North and South America. The book is divided in two parts: the general and the descriptive. The first part (70 pages) gives a coherent view on the common characteristics of these plants. Firstly, the life of cacti in different conditions from lowlands, deserts, forests to mountain areas is described in detail. It follows by the chapter about the general morphology of cacti, and the anatomical structure of the underground parts, stems, flowers, fruits and seeds of these plant species. In this part, the reader can find also advises for growing and hybernation of cacti in Europe, and the short survey of the animal, fungal and bacterial pests for their protection. The

last chapter offers the system of the family *Cactaceae* and the evolution links between separated genera. Each chapter is completed with illustrative pictures.

The second part of the book contains brief description of the most important characteristics and growing conditions of 80 well known cacti species. It is supplemented with plates of their colour photographs which document an unusual appearance of these plants.

The book is aimed to a wide public and therefore it is written in readable form. Even after ten years it is a valuable source of information for starting cacti growers. But also the experts can find here inspiration, above all by explanation of general ecological relations between separated groups of the cacti.

D. HASEL (*Praha*)