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BOOK REVIEW

CLARKE, G. C. S., DUCKETT, J. G. (ed.): BRYOPHYTE SYSTEMATICS. The Systematics Association. Special Volume No. 14. — Academic Press, London—New York—Toronto—Sydney—San Francisco 1979. 582 pp. £ 40.00.

At the University College of North Wales in Bangor, the Systematics Association together with the British Bryological Society held a symposium on "Modern Approaches to Bryophyte Systematics" on August 16—19, 1978. The symposium was aimed at giving information — as detailed as possible — on the present modern approaches to the systematic classification and phylogenesis of bryophytes. The reports (21) presented on the symposium were collected by G. C. S. Clarke and J. G. Duckett in a book named Bryophyte Systematics.

The integrity of the book is secured by the cross connection of the references among the report and by the author, taxonomic and subject indexes. The reports are arranged in several thematic groups. Besides the reports based on the classical approaches (Miller, Schuster, Gradstein, Eddy), the major part of the book consists of the reports dealing with the modern approaches to systematics: on chromosome morphology (Newton), anisospory and sexual dimorphism (Ramsay), sporogenesis (Neidhart), spermatogenesis (Duckett and Carrothers), chemotaxonomy (Suire and Asakawa), as well as reports summarising up the use of some non-traditional characteristics, e.g. spore morphology (Clarke), peristomes (Edwards), rhizoids (Crundwell) and conducting tissues (Héban). The opening report on bryology in the region of North Wales (Richards) was thematically followed by the reports delivered by Steere, Koponen and Argent. The concluding reports by Proctor and Longton deal with eco-physiological adaptation and climatic adaptation of bryophytes in relation to the systematics.

The book represents a broad and deep insight into the present status in bryotaxonomy and the view-point of traditional as well as — in particular — experimental biosystematic approaches (surveyed generally by Smith in his report). As to the theoretical, more generally valid conclusions, it was explained several times (Schuster, Carrothers and Duckett) why *Anthocerotae* had been separated as a separate division (*Anthocerotophyta*).

The book is very neatly arranged, the reproductions of the drawings and microphotos are of a very high quality. The book will undoubtedly remain for a long time an excellent survey of modern bryological methods, continuing in the tradition established by Verdoorn's work "Manual of Bryology".

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