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Figure at the end of the issue.

BOOK REVIEW

FRANZ, H.: ÖKOLOGIE DER HOCHGEBIRGE. — Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart 1979. 495 pp., 121 figs. Cloth bound DM 118.—.

This is a very comprehensive monograph on the ecology of plants, animals and man in high mountain habitats. It is written in a detailed and elaborate classical style bringing a tremendous amount of information, pertinent to high mountains of the whole world.

The author is a well known emeritus professor at the highly reputable University of Soil Science in Vienna.

Introductory chapters deal with the recent geology and geomorphology of high mountains and bring interesting data on their history in recent geological periods including the Glacial Epoch.

The two subsequent chapters describe in sufficient detail the weathering processes and soil formation in high mountains and polar regions as well.

The next chapter is devoted to a detailed description of climatic conditions laying emphasis on microclimatic problems.

The three central chapters describe in full the autoecology of plants, animals and man in high mountains. This brings not only a great amount of information on the influence of particular factors of high mountain habitats on the life but at the same time enables a very stimulating comparison and a overview striving for synthesis. It is especially this part which will bring the reader a surprisingly large amount of ideas.

The subsequent comprehensive chapter contains a systematic description of the high-mountain ecosystems in the whole world. Here the reader can benefit from an extremely rich experience of the author who had the opportunity to see and study the high-mountain ecosystems in all continents. This means that his review is well equilibrated and meaningful.

After a chapter discussing fresh water ecosystems the reader will be undoubtedly captivated by the concluding part dealing with the influence of man — notably negative — on the high-mountain natural habitats. This part is compiled with great understanding of global ecology and could bring many stimuli to everybody who is passively or actively concerned with the future development of living conditions on the Earth.

Besides bringing a very good classical review of our knowledge of the ecology of high mountains, which form a not small part of the Earth's surface, the book of H. Franz brings very stimulating ideas of global ecology.

The book is carefully laid out and printed.

B. SLAVÍK (*Praha*)