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BOOK REVIEW

SCHWEINGRUBER, F. H.: MIKROSKOPISCHE HOLZANATOMIE. — Verl. Zürcher AG, CH-6301 Zug 1978. 228 figs., 820 figs. Sfr. 28.00.

Keys and atlases meant for wood identification according to its macroscopic and microscopic characters are relatively abundant in special literature. Occasionally new publications appear which supplement hitherto used characteristics of the wood anatomical structure and introduce new aspects of this complex branch.

The atlas of microphotographs reviewed, recording a rich spectrum of wood forms of Central European woody plants, has such qualities. It is assigned to a broad circle of workers in various fields of activity, especially as an aid for the identification of wood. Therefore in addition to a brief description of macroscopic differentiating features, microscopic characters are described in detail and demonstrated on microphotographs, and their diagnostic values for the determination of wood of individual plant genera are given.

Further pages contain a well-arranged key for the determination of stem wood with references to microphotographs of 9 coniferous and 86 deciduous species of woody plants which form a substantial part and main contents of the atlas. Most of the microphotographs of three main sections — cross-, tangential and radial — in 40—250 magnification are repeated several times, so that the variability and arrangement of the anatomical structure of the wood of the same species is clearly demonstrated. The microphotographs are accompanied by a brief description of microscopic characters on individual sections, directing the readers' attention to the most important determinative characters of individual species.

The above mentioned key is supplemented with microphotographs of cross-sections of wood branches and roots of trees belonging to various species, along with examples of anatomical particularities in the wood structure. Anatomical features of secondarily modified wood — by decomposition under anaerobic or aerobic conditions, carbonification, etc. — as well as brief instructions for the preparation of wood microscopic analysis, are of value for the application in a series of branches.

The trilingual text (German, French, English) and a clear arrangement of determinative keys, documented by a series of excellent microphotographs on coated paper, perfect polygraphical production, predetermine this xylotomic atlas to be a useful aid for the study of wood anatomy and for wood identification.

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