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BOOK REVIEW

HESS, D.: DIE BLÜTE. — Verlag Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart 1983. 458 pp., 309 figs. Cloth DM 68.—.

The Angiosperm flower is certainly one of the most sophisticated and beautiful products of life which attracts attention of a wide public of professionals and amateurs interested in the vegetal part of the nature. In this volume the flower is presented in a simple and easy manner from the major basic aspects of its structure and function, but also in its beauty in many small details. The book is divided into 11 chapters covering elementary principles of floral morphology, sexual propagation, pollination ecology, sexual compatibility and incompatibility and of evolutionary biology of flowers. They also include some modern aspects of genetic manipulations in plants. The basic text is interestingly accompanied with a number of drawings and color photographs, and with working instructions in simple biological and biochemical experimentation. As an introduction to morphology, function, ecology and evolution of flowers, this beautiful book will certainly please all those who are fond of the living nature and will be useful in teaching elementary botany.

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