

Hickey, M., King, C.: **Common Families of Flowering Plants**. - Cambridge University Press, Cambridge - New York - Oakleigh 1997. xii + 212 pp., paperbound GBP 14.95, USD 22.95, ISBN 0-521-57609-1, hardbound GBP 40.00, USD 59.95, ISBN 0-521-57281-9.

From about 150 families of flowering plants native to temperate Europe twenty-five families were chosen for their economic, ornamental and ecological importance. For each family, after short characteristics of its morphology, systematics, distribution, and economic importance, one to four representative, commonly distributed or cultivated species are described. Descriptions cover distribution, ecology, short morphological description, and detailed information about modes of pollination and reproduction following by illustrations presumably of different parts of flower and fruit with written commentary. Abundance and quality of line drawings taken from life is without any doubt merit

of the book. This main part of the book is preceded by an introductory chapter "General Botany" with telling texts and many instructive illustrations providing basic botanical information which is essential for a proper consideration of the families themselves. This part is completed by a glossary (Pp. 198 - 209) containing explication of plenty of morphological, anatomical and biological terms.

The book can be recommended to both students starting with botany, and teachers who will find in this book a wealth of data, ideas and stimuli relevant to their own work.

J. ŠTĚPÁNEK (*Průhonice*)