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contribution to art and to economic botany that will long be treasured by many who are fortunate enough to see and use it.

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Tropical Nature. Adrian Forsythe and Kenneth Miyata. 248 pp. illus. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1984. \$16.95.

The authors describe for a non-technical but dedicated audience many facets of life and death in the rain forests of tropical America, especially of Costa Rica and Peru. They maintain and prove with many examples how superficial and preliminary is our scientific understanding of scores of the major biological enigmas of this type of ecosystem. They furthermore argue convincingly that conservation of these forests will depend ultimately on the presentation of convincing proof that conservation is an economic plus.

The book, written in an entertaining yet educative manner, is divided into 17 chapters with an introduction entitled "A temperate view of tropical life," an appendix called "Tropical travel—a beginner's guide," and suggestions for further reading arranged in distinct categories: general, field guides, and lists of books and articles chapter by chapter. The suggested readings are a careful mixture of popular and scientific sources, all, incidentally, well chosen and reliable. Especially forceful is chapter 17 entitled "Paradise Lost?" in which the authors wisely write: "The best that we can hope for is what we ourselves have settled for—a strong system of national parks and reserves and perhaps a modicum of care and concern for those areas where development must proceed."

As an explorer with long experience in tropical American rain forests, I can strongly recommend this book as a well balanced, straightforward presentation of the present status of our jungles and fascinating discussions of their biological curiosities—all presented in a convincingly authoritative style.

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Bibliography on Bean Research in Africa. Jorge López S. 177 pp. Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, Cali, Colombia, 1983. Price not given.

Several decades of work on beans, primarily *Phaseolus vulgaris*, in the entire African continent are covered. All aspects of bean production, disease, fertilization, nodulation, cropping strategies, and the like are included. Entries are organized by country and author, many accompanied by abstracts. The book includes guides to abbreviations and acronyms, and author and subject indices.

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