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collections, many of them also in the fresh state. The importance of properly recording the various features of living specimens is again stressed. "Dried specimens, as these have accumulated in herbaria, represent a motley arrangement of materials without adequate notes and only someone's guess as to what the species might be". The authors are emphatic about the need "to bring up to date our requirements for an acceptable herbarium specimen in fleshy fungi." These new techniques, of which the drying technique using Silica Gel is especially advocated here, will do much to improve conditions for future students of the fleshy fungi. There is no doubt that much of the confusion in the taxonomy of Hymenomyces in the past was due to the peculiar difficulties of adequately preserving specimens. Many microscopic characters of essential importance may still be studied from well preserved specimens. In addition, however, the making of ample notes on the living state should also become standard practice. The present monograph shows again the surprising leap forward in the quality of taxonomic work on the Hymenomyces which is due to these methods as well as to the exhaustive search for new categories of characters.

F. A. S.

VENEZUELAN ORCHIDS

DUNSTERVILLE, G. C. K. and LESLIE A. GARAY — Venezuelan Orchids Illustrated 1 (1959) pp. 448, illustr. in colour and line drawings £5/9s/6d; 2 (1961) pp. 360, illustr. in colour and line drawings £6/10s/6d (\$ 15); 3 (1965) pp. 348, illustr. in colour and line drawings £6/10s/0 (\$ 20).*

The extremely modest title of this series of books is misleading. No volumes like these have appeared in orchidology in the present century. The whole series, when completed, is destined to illustrate from living material every orchid species recorded from Venezuela — an estimated 900. As it is, the first volume illustrates, gives synonymy, distribution, description and ecological notes on 200 species; the second, on 150 species; the third, on 150 species — a total now of 500 species in 128 genera. Many of the orchids of Venezuela are widespread Central American or Andean species, thus the value of this work far transcends the geographic area expressed in its title.

The authorship is a rare combination of an

* Volume 4, with 150 additional plates, is in proof, and will appear in April, 1966, £6/10s/0 (\$ 20).

assiduous, singlepurpose amateur, Mr G. C. K. Dunsterville, resident petroleum engineer for many years in Venezuela and now Research Fellow in the Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames of the Botanical Museum of Harvard University, and Dr Leslie A. Garay, a professional orchid taxonomist, Curator of the Orchid Herbarium of Oakes Ames. Mr Dunsterville has collected and observed all of the species illustrated in the field himself and has drawn many of them in the field. He has the strict and mechanical accuracy of the trained engineer, yet in his drawings one appreciates the love of nature and of the orchid flower especially. Garay supplies the breadth of knowledge of the orchid family as a whole and the detail available only to the trained taxonomist. From these two pens has come a remarkable series of books destined to increase in usefulness as our studies of tropical American orchids continues to expand.

It is the accuracy of these volumes — in the illustrations and the printed work — that really first strikes the reader. Seldom has this goal been achieved so completely in botanical works.

Each volume is more than the recitation and reproduction of species of known horticultural interest. Many obscure and minute orchids are here fully treated. New species and varieties are described and figured, and new nomenclatural combinations are made. Each volume bears, as introductory material, chapters on such general topics as phylogenetic arrangements of the orchids; the naming of plants; and the distribution of orchids in Venezuela. The synonymy itself is the result of the most careful and intensive research on the part of the authors.

The reproduction of the numerous colour plates in each volume is superb. Many of the species shown in colour have never before been illustrated. In fact, approximately 80% of all of the species depicted are here illustrated for the first time.

Rare indeed amongst scientific books is the simultaneous publication, on opposite pages, of certain parts of each volume in English and Spanish.

The books are admirably printed on an excellent paper, and they are indeed underpriced as today's market goes. They should be owned by all botanical institutions, horticulturists and amateurs. There are few books appearing now that are so beautiful and useful and based upon such extensive and intensive field and laboratory work.

RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES

ZYGNEMACEES AFRICAINES

LUCIENNE GAUTHIER-LIÈVRE, *Zygnemacées africaines*. Beihefte zur Nova Hedwigia 20; 210 pp., 73 plates. Verlag von J. Cramer, Weinheim (present address Box 48, 3301 Lehre, Germany) DM. 80,—.

A monographic treatment of the African species of Zygnemataceae, recognizing six genera (*Debarya*, *Mougeotia*, *Temnogametum*, *Zygnema*, *Zygnemopsis*, *Zygogonium*, *Spirogyra* and *Sirogonium*) with a total of 148 species. The new taxa are typified by the illustrations, designated as "iconotypus". The illustrations are simple and clear, almost schematic, line drawings.

PROBLEMS OF PLANT PHYLOGENY

A. V. BLAGOVESHCHENSKY et al., *Problems of plant phylogeny* (in Russian), Moscow 1965, Publishing House Nauka, 267 pp. — also published as volume XIII of the Transactions of the Moscow Society of Naturalists, biological series, botany.

This volume contains the papers delivered at a symposium held in Moscow in 1962. The entire text is in Russian but ample summaries in English are provided. The seventeen papers (in all by eighteen authors) deal with the modern aspects of evolutionary taxonomy, mainly through chemotaxonomy, histochemistry, physiology, pollenmorphology, anatomy, cytology and ecology.

NEW FACSIMILE REPRINTS

JOHN KUNKEL SMALL, *Ferns of the South-eastern States*, originally published 1938, facsimile reprint Hafner Publishing Company, New York, London, 1964; 517 pp., drawings by Ruth Sinclair George; cloth, roy. oct., price US \$ 10,00.

Small's posthumously published book contains the description of one hundred eighty nine ferns and fern-allies from the area on which he was the great botanical specialist. The text is clear, concise but still very informative; the drawings are excellent botanical illustrations,

simple but forcible. The facsimile is of the same high quality as the other Hafner reprints.

AGNES ARBER, *The Gramineae*. A study of cereal, bamboo, and grass, originally published 1934, Cambridge, facsimile reprint 1965 by J. Cramer, Lehre, Germany, with an introduction by W. D. Clayton. Introduction xxxii pp., facsimile 480 pp., a frontispiece and 212 text figures. Cloth, roy. oct. Price DM 60,— (US \$ 15,—).

A.E.T.F.A.T. - INDEX

Afin de répondre à la demande d'un grand nombre de chercheurs, il a été décidé de reproduire les volumes des A.E.T.F.A.T.-INDEX des années actuellement épuisées (1953 à 1961). Pour les instituts de recherches, le prix de chaque volume annuel sera d'environ 140 francs belges, 14 francs français, 1 £ ou 3 \$.

Si vous désirez obtenir la collection complète de cette revue (ou compléter votre série) et posséder ainsi le relevé complet des travaux de phanérogamie systématique au sens très large et de tous les taxa nouveaux concernant l'Afrique et Madagascar parus pendant les années 1953 à 1964, adressez votre commande au bibliothécaire de l'A.E.T.F.A.T., 19 rue de Décembre, Bruxelles 15, Belgique.



In order to satisfy the many requests received, it has been decided to reprint the A.E.T.F.A.T.-INDEXES for the years 1953 to 1961, which are now out of print. For research laboratories the price per volume will be approximately £ 1, \$ 3, 140 Belgian francs or 14 French francs (one volume per year).

The INDEX provides a complete bibliography of publications from 1953 to 1964, relating to Africa and Madagascar, on the general systematics of phanerogams, along with a list of all new African taxa.

If you wish to obtain the whole series of this review (or parts to complete your set), please send your order to the Librarian, A.E.T.F.A.T., 19 Rue de Décembre, Bruxelles 15, Belgium.

NEWS AND NOTES

R. FLORIN 1894—1965

We regret to announce the death of Professor Rudolf Florin. Professor Florin, born on 5 April 1894, was Professor Bergianus and

Director of the Bergius Foundation at Stockholm from 1944 until 1964. He was a world authority on fossil and recent Gymnosperms. We hope to publish an obituary in one of the coming numbers of this journal.