

**A Bibliography of Conifers – selected literature on taxonomy and related disciplines of the Coniferales, and especially of the families Cupressaceae (with Taxodiaceae) and Pinaceae.** A. Farjon. Koeltz Scientific Books, D-6240 Königstein, Federal Republic of Germany. 1990. Pp. 129. ISBN 3 87429 306 8. Forming volume 122 of *Regnum Vegetabile*; ISSN 0080-0694. DM 110.

This selective bibliography forms an essential compilation of taxonomic references to the groups given in the subtitle – both living and fossil. After a short introduction, the main text consists of 2130 separate references (some being further cross-referenced) arranged in alphabetical order of author. Short notes are included on the taxonomic scope of the references when these are not obvious from the title. The work ends with an index of botanical names included in the bibliography. This comprehensive work reflects not only the author's great knowledge of the relevant literature but also his long term commitment to the study of this important group of plants.

**Pinaceae – drawings and descriptions of the genera *Abies*, *Cedrus*, *Pseudolarix*, *Keteleeria*, *Nothotsuga*, *Tsuga*, *Cathaya*, *Pseudotsuga*, *Larix* and *Picea*.** A. Farjon. Koeltz Scientific Books, D-6240 Königstein, Federal Republic of Germany. 1990. Pp. xii + 330; 117 illustrations (mostly line drawings); 124 maps. ISBN 3 87429 298 3. Forming volume 121 of *Regnum Vegetabile*; ISSN 0080-0694. DM 260.

This work, lavishly illustrated by the author, covers 10 genera (including 116 taxa) of the family Pinaceae, excluding the genus *Pinus* which had already been treated by the author (Farjon, 1984). No details of cultivation of species are given.

The introduction covers the taxonomic history of the family, a family description, a discussion of the inter-generic relationships and detailed keys to the sub-families and genera; further information is given on ecology and distribution. Introductions to each of the ten genera follow a similar format. The species entries comprise a double spread with a full page of detailed line drawings and a page with a detailed description, notes on ecology, distribution and a distribution map. The taxonomic section is followed by a section on leaf anatomy, with 31 drawings of transverse leaf sections from a range of genera and species; the work is completed with a comprehensive glossary, bibliography and index.

The author has achieved a consistently high standard in this series, producing scholarly works that are thoroughly researched and contain a substantial element of original research; the views expressed are, of course, personal and the taxonomic status of many of the taxa will always be the subject of varying opinion. Illustrating such a large number of taxa based on herbarium and photographic material is in itself a major achievement, and the results are accurate and useful.

The use of a world map for all species has made the task of plotting taxa of limited distribution unnecessarily obscure, though in certain instances enlarged inserts of the relevant regions are also given. The layout is organised so that illustrations face their corresponding text, which leads to the slightly unfortunate result of a number of blank pages.