

British Isles mainly because they do not like the brief species descriptions; but I think that these critics are a minority. The few criticisms that I had for the first edition were that some of the photocopies were poor. Some of them, such as the *Potamogeton* leaves in this edition, are still a bit hazy, and would have been better as line drawings as was the case with *Euphrasia* photocopies which did not reproduce well in the first edition. The new camera ready copy is certainly very clear and easy to read. I am sure this book will be even more popular than its predecessor.

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D. R. MCKEAN

Fungi on Rhododendron: A World Reference. D. F. Farr, H. B. Esteban & M. E. Palm. Parkway Publishers Inc. 1996. 192pp. ISBN 18879 05006. £48.00 from Cardiff Academic Press (hardback).

This is the first worldwide list of all known fungi on the genus *Rhododendron*. Being part of a wider programme of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), it assembles information from a wide variety of sources mainly from the USA, and is designed to help in the assessment of the potential risk of introduction of exotic pathogens. This fact is both a strength and a weakness of this publication: it represents an excellent database for USDA purposes; on the other hand, non-US sources of information or concerns about exotic pathogens have been neglected. For instance only US herbarium records and literature available in US libraries were consulted.

The book is organized into six interrelated sections:

Section one is a host–fungus list, providing an account of 219 species of *Rhododendron* and their 518 putative pathogens or saprobionts. Plant parts affected and (American) common names of diseases are included.

Section two displays a host–fungus list arranged by locality (states of USA, countries elsewhere, with curious listings of for example ‘Germany’ in addition to ‘West Germany’, and ‘England’, ‘Scotland’, ‘Wales’ in addition to ‘United Kingdom’) in which the pathogens have been reported. Browsing through this list quickly accentuates the US bias of this book. Whereas China (the centre of *Rhododendron* diversity) is covered on one page, listing 41 taxa of *Rhododendron* and a similar number of fungus taxa, the US is covered on 15 pages, listing over 100 *Rhododendron* taxa and around 300 taxa of associated fungal pathogens and saprophytes.

Section three is a fungus–host list including some systematic information (order or class) with host range, location and literature references supplied.

Section four is an alphabetic listing of the fungi treated in the book. In addition to plant parts affected by the fungus, host range (including non-*Rhododendron* hosts) and distribution, this also contains helpful taxonomic information, synonyms and literature citations. This is possibly the most informative part of the book.

The book is concluded by an index of fungal species epithets including a useful reference for synonyms (Section five) and a bibliography of 540 mainly historical literature citations (Section six). Few current references are included, the latest two being from 1993. Sadly, many non-English references are riddled with typographical errors.

There are no illustrations, descriptions or keys for either the fungi or the host plants, a fact which limits the usefulness of the book to all but specialized plant pathologists or *Rhododendron* taxonomists. However, and despite the US bias discussed above, the information may be profitable for statutory services dealing with plant import inspections elsewhere, and as a reference work for plant pathologists worldwide. A software copy of the relational database from which the book was produced would nevertheless be much more useful.

S. HELFER

Dictionary of Plant Names in Latin, German, English and French. Hristo Nikolov. J. Kramer in der Gebrüder Borntraeger Verlagsbuchhandlung. Berlin, Stuttgart. 1996. vi + 926pp, 14 × 22cm. ISBN 3 443 50019 6. DM188; US\$128.

Most well-equipped botanical libraries house a global representation of dictionaries of vernacular plant names. Often, because of the sheer magnitude of the subject, they are specialized reference works for a specific readership. For example: the five volumes of *Wörterbuch der Deutschen Pflanzennamen* (Mazell, 1943–1958); *Plant names of medieval England* (Hunt, 1989); the Spanish *Nombres Vulgares I & II* (in *Archivos de Flora iberica* nos 4 & 7, 1992, 1996). The most recent addition to this