

genre attempts to provide a compact, wide-based, 4-language dictionary for everyman. The Preface by the Bulgarian author states: '[it] is intended for students, professors, scientists, physicians, hobbyists and others interested in botany. It is a listing of 14,500 generic names . . . in c.600 families of plants, bacteria included . . . Lower plants are represented by many genera'.

The first section lists Latin botanical names alphabetically together with their family and common name(s), if such exists; the complementary second section gives vernacular names and the Latin equivalent. Bearing in mind the wide scope of the work and the fact that it appears to be virtually a one-man venture, the coverage of names is certainly quite impressive. Scottish readers will note with satisfaction the differentiation between 'Bluebell of Scotland: *Campanula rotundifolia*' and 'Bluebell of England: *Endymion non-scriptus*'. The general browser will come across some very recherché vernacular names: '*Torrubia longifolia*: Long-leaved Blolly'. The common names are sometimes presented, at least for the English-speaking user, in a rather curious way: 'Tree Nettle European: *Celtis australis*'; 'Grass Meadow Hard: *Scleropoa*'. In the Latin-name section are a large number of generic names without any vernacular name and with one constituent species given; often the latter are the type species of the genus though this is nowhere indicated. These entries seem quite superfluous in a dictionary of common names.

The format and typography make it an easy book to use, though tighter editing and excision of superfluities would have much reduced the volume of print: for example, the entry for *Cyphomandra* gives 'Cyphomandra D, Cyphomandra E, Cyphomandra F'. Throughout, it is not at all difficult to spot infelicities or sins of omission or nomenclature. This is almost inevitable without meticulous cross-reference checking, consultation of many more reference works than those cited in 'Literature', and without input from a platoon of international specialists. The Preface gave an indication of the scope and aims of the work; for the objective reader it raised doubts about its credibility and whether the international botanical community really needed it. These doubts were not dispelled in reviewing it; the canvas was just too big.

I. HEDGE

Stearn's Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners. W. T. Stearn. London: Cassell. 1996. 363pp. ISBN 0 304 34782 5. £14.99 (softback).

This book is an interesting compendium on the origin and history of a selected 6000 botanical names most likely to be encountered by gardeners and horticulturists. The information in it draws on the wealth of knowledge gained by Stearn's own research of botanical and horticultural literature over the last 60 years. Also listed are 3000 of the most widely accepted vernacular names, cross-indexed to their correct botanical names which will be an invaluable reference guide. Both the sections are prefaced

by introductions explaining in simple terms plant classification, binomial nomenclature and vernacular naming for the uninitiated. This edition is a substantially revised and enlarged version of *A Gardener's Dictionary of Plant Names* by the same author which was published in 1972.

The origins of the plant names in this book span botany, etymology, folklore and mythology and include different languages both medieval and modern, including Latin, Greek, French, Dutch and German. Inevitably the comprehensiveness of the entries in the book may be limited due to the selection process used to determine which names are included, but in most cases a plant name encountered will be found in the book. Although the origin and derivation of the species epithet is given in the explanation, the actual word from which it is derived often is not. For this inquisitive reviewer, it is a little annoying, but otherwise the book is wonderful to pick up and browse through again and again.

For gardeners and horticulturists without a taxonomic or classical background this book, as well as being instructive, will give many hours of entertainment and pleasure.

E. CAMPBELL

Fungi and Environmental Change. Edited by J. C. Frankland, N. Magan & G. M. Gadd. British Mycological Society Symposium, 1994, Cranfield University. Cambridge University Press. 1996. 351pp. ISBN 0 52149586 5. £60.00 (hardback).

Since the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio, the environment and environmental change have achieved a greater prominence in both public and political arenas. One sadly neglected area vital to the continued functioning of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are the fungi. This book on the effects which environmental change can have on fungi redresses this imbalance.

The work as a whole is an eminently readable volume containing much of interest to mycologists and non-mycologists alike. Anyone with an interest in the environment and environmental change will find much food for thought as well as valuable reference material. There are nineteen chapters, each with a comprehensive bibliography and all referenced in an extensive index and species list. Most chapters are illustrated with pictures, graphs, maps and photographs as appropriate, all of which add to the greater understanding of the relevant section. The chapters are written by eminent researchers, and where appropriate the first section of each chapter is an introductory review of the subject. Generally each paper, after a rapid introduction, focuses in on the current research within that field and then concludes by posing problems and avenues of research for the future.

A wide range of organisms from the fungal kingdom is covered, ranging from plant pathogens, lichens and macrofungi (mycorrhizal and saprophytic) to aquatic hyphomycetes. The topics covered utilising this broad spectrum of organisms include