
 Book reviews

Hess, D.: Die Blüte. Eine Einführung in Struktur und Funktion, Ökologie und Evolution der Blüten. Mit Anleitungen zu einfachen Versuchen. Stuttgart: Ulmer 1983. 458 pp., 257 photographs, 152 drawings, 28 tabs. Hard bound DM 68,00.

The professor of Developmental Biology of the University of Stuttgart has, together with his 14-year-old daughter Kerstin, presented a unique example of cooperation between generations – this delightful book. Illustrated with a large number of color pictures, mostly macrophotographs, we get an easily readable, well-documented monograph of the flower.

Not only are the structure, anatomy and developmental processes preceding fertilization described, but also the progamic phase and syngamy. It is perhaps better to say that the narrative can be understood (nearly) without the reader being well-grounded in the subject. In discussing sexuality in the plant kingdom, the author provides an interesting introduction in descriptive botany with, however, a strong emphasis on ecology. Biotic and abiotic pollination are described in great detail, including the modern aspects of interactions between flowers and pollinators. The different ecological flower types are not only mentioned but also documented with brilliant color pictures. After an introduction to reproductive biology in plants, a detailed description of pollination and fertilization is given, including a digression on vegetative hybridization and transformation of genes using pollen as a vehicle. This is understandable because both topics are in the field of the author's own research. Evolution and coevolution are treated lastly. Included are theories on species formation, mechanisms of reproductive isolation, and transspecific evolution. All fashionable aspects of flower biology are included.

The book is well-edited: each chapter is rounded off with instructions for simple field- and laboratory observations and

experiments. The list of references is restricted to mostly German sources, keeping in mind the expected public – German readers. There are indices on topics, plants and animals, and for the laboratory exercises. The printing is good, the price adequate. The author, in his preface, expresses the hope that many politicians will also take a peek at this fine book so that they will realize that the plant world and its science, botany, is not only a *scientia amabilis* (a beloved science), but also the basis for food production and for the survival of men on earth. This reviewer is in complete agreement.

H. F. Linskens, Nijmegen

Schön, D.: Praktische Pferdezucht. Stuttgart: Ulmer 1983. 320 pp., 74 photographs, 104 drawings.

This well illustrated book gives a good introduction to pleasure horse production in Germany. It meets the author's purpose of giving simple well founded practical advice to those who wish to take up horse breeding and participation in shows. A review of German pleasure horse breeds and ponies gives considerable detail about outstanding individuals in recent breeding history.

The second part of the book gives a concise well organized review of management and showmanship. It will make excellent reading for new-comers to the horse circle and give established horsemen a change for competent review of the state of the art.

H. Abplanalp, Davis