Bookreview

BERICHTE DES GEOBOTANISCHEN INSTITUTES DES ETH, STIFTUNG RÜBEL, VOL. 53

Zürich 1987, 106 p., Price US \$ 15.

The 53. Volume of *Berichte* is divided into two parts. The first part contains a detailed report on the scientific activities of the Geobotanical Institute. References to all projects, a list of published papers, excursions etc. are given here. Brief contents of PhD theses are also added.

The second part consists of three papers. In the first, M. BALTISBERGER presents the chromosome counts of 25 species from Albania. The numbers of three species are new (*Delphinium paniculatum*, *Thlaspi bellidifolium*, and *Stachys cretica*). The numbers for 7 species are documented by drawings.

The paper by K. URBANSKA, B. HEFTI-HOLENSTEIN and G. ELMER describes tillering experiments with 11 species of grasses. The authors studied the survival of single tillers, their growth and flowering. They found the native species to be good performers during experiments above the timberline. It is a pity that the authors did not give more details of their experiments with species mixtures.

The last paper by S. A. DYRENKOV and E. A. ZHEMADUKOVA presents a comparison of *Gentianaceae* species occurring in the Western Caucasus and in the Swiss Alps, from the point of view of ecology and systematics.

Analysis shows that in similar conditions similar taxa are found in spite of the low number of common species (13 %). This similarity is higher at higher altitudes. The need for more detailed taxonomical studies of generic classification and the delimitation of some critical taxa is stressed.

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