

a place in every scientific and general library, but it is produced by the editors with contempt to the readers.

Jan van Tol

C. van den Hoek, 1978. Algen. Einführung in die Phykologie (with cooperation of H. M. Jahns). 481 pages; 136 figures; 7 tables. Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart. Price DM 26.80.

This book originated from a series of lectures given at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands) for post-candidate students in biology. Its primary aim is to give an up to date survey of algal cytology, morphology and systematics. Within the framework of a 'natural' system the following subjects are dealt with for each algal class: (a) A concise summing up of the principal characteristics of the algal group; (b) an outline of extent and distribution of the group; (c) a survey of a number of general characteristics, illustrated with elaborated, critically selected examples; (d) a subdivision of the class with examples of genera and species.

Recent electronmicroscopical investigations and life cycle studies allowed a new approach in algal phylogeny and systematics. Van den Hoek summarized and evaluated these modern developments adequately, and in that lies the strength of the book.

The book contains an enormous amount of solid information. It is almost encyclopedial in outline and may therefore be less attractive to the reader. The drawings are excellent in every detail and a good interaction between text and figures exists. Electronmicroscopical photographs usually do not excel in clearness. It was therefore an extremely good idea of the author to transform these photographs into clearly arranged drawings.

The title is somewhat misleading: 'Introduction into phycology'. Systematics, cytology and morphology are thoroughly covered. Ecology is only dealt with in short general notes. Physiology is not included within the scope of the book.

In my opinion Van den Hoek wrote a high standard, modern textbook. It is written in German but the meaning of this book reaches far beyond the borders of the German speaking countries. One should wish it in the hands of all English speaking phycologists, students and everyone interested in algae. The price is rather low for a book of 481 pages.

P. H. Nienhuis

ANNOUNCEMENT

The American Society for Testing and Materials announces its Special Technical Publications 652, entitled: *Biological data in water pollution assessment: Quantitative and Statistical analyses*. K. L. Dickson, John Cairns Jr & R. J. Livingston (Eds.) 193 pages, \$ 17.50.

According to the folder, biological assessment of water quality historically had been more qualitatively than quantitatively orientated. However, in recent years it has become obvious that biologists must develop their quantitative and statistical skill to communicate effectively the results of their investigations to environmental decision makers.

The primary purpose of this book is stated to provide a basic foundation of information on quantitative and statistical methods, diversity indices and factor analyses.

The names of the editors warrant a thorough treatment of the subject by people actively engaged themselves in environmental research.

K. F. Vaas