

Book review

E. J. Jäger & C. Müller-Uri. **Wuchsformen und Lebensgeschichte der Gefäßpflanzen Zentraleuropas – Bibliographie.** Teil 1 Quellenverzeichnis; Teil 2 Artenverzeichnis. *Terrestrische Ökologie Sonderheft 1.* 1981–1982. 545 pp. Universität und Landesbibliothek, Halle/Saale. Price DM 112.–.

The literature on growth forms and life history for Central European vascular plants is enormously widely diffused, and a comprehensive list of references (including those for major introduced species) is very welcome. Clearly there must be problems in defining the scope of the literature to be cited, especially under 'life history'. The authors say that they have included all work available to them on morphology, ontogeny, phenology and life length as well as vegetative and sexual reproduction, but have excluded purely taxonomic studies, papers on anatomy, sociology and ecophysiology and investigations on floral biology and dispersal. The omission of the last two topics is perhaps disappointing. In the event many papers that approach the ecology or biology of the species rather broadly have been admitted, but some that might seem relevant (e.g. concerning 'reproductive allocation' and ecotypes) have been consistently excluded.

The work has been issued in five slim volumes, the first listing all the papers cited, and the other four citing the literature for each species arranged

under genera, and ordered alphabetically. For each species the papers are listed alphabetically by author, and the relevant topics covered by each paper are indicated briefly. The nomenclature follows Ehrendorfer's 1973 list for Central Europe, but many synonyms are quoted. When some papers were published using one generic name and others using another (e.g. for *Blackstonia* = *Chlora perfoliata*) the various papers are cited under the generic names used originally. To make sense of the book one must therefore look up both names, which is easy in view of the cross-referencing. The literature cited runs up to 1980, and includes not only German, French, Polish, Scandinavian and English-language titles but also Russian titles (transliterated).

There are some surprising omissions, e.g. the detailed morphological-ecological studies on *Pteridium aquilinum* published in 10 papers by A. S. Watt in the *New Phytologist* between 1940 and 1971. Several other papers known to me and apparently relevant are also missing, and the same would doubtless be true for any reviewer. But there is little point in criticism. The positive value of the book is undoubted. It will certainly provide many people with a key to literature that they would otherwise have missed. It is a recommended work for the library in any ecological institute.

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