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*Figures at the end of the issue.*

#### BOOK REVIEW

WALTER, H.: VEGETATION OF THE EARTH AND ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS OF THE GEO-BIOSPHERE. Second Edition. — Springer Verlag, Berlin–Heidelberg, New York, 1979. 274 pp., 124 figs. DM 28,—; US \$ 15.40.

The popular handbook of professor H. Walter on the vegetation conditions in the individual zones of the Earth has again appeared in English. It is a translation of the third German edition of 1977. Compared with the first English edition of 1973, the book is considerably reworked and contains expanded chapters on ecological data, particularly from production biology, on the distribution of the phytomass and on the primary production in the biosphere. The author introduces some special terms such as zonobiome for the zonal vegetation, orobiome for a height stage and pedobiome for azonal soil-dependent vegetation.

A detailed review of the first edition was published in Biol. Plant 17 : 30, 1975.

The advantage of the book is not only a high quality of its content (the ecological concept of vegetation units in relation to the environment — the type of climate) but a clear and attractive presentation. It is to be recommended to anyone interested in plants and not only to those involved in phytogeography or plant ecology.

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