

Book Reviews

M. P. Marcelli & T. Ahti (eds.) 1998. Recollecting Edvard August Vainio. CETESB, Sao Paulo, 188 pp (A5). Price US\$ 30.00 + postage US\$ 14.00 = US\$ 44.00.

M. P. Marcelli & M. R. D. Seaward (eds.) 1998. Lichenology in Latin America - history, current knowledge and application. CETESB, Sao Paulo, 179 pp (A4). Price US\$ 40.00 + postage US\$ 14.00 = US\$ 54.00.

Both books are available from M. P. Marcelli, Instituto de Botanica, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Orders may be sent by e-mail (mmarcelli@sti.com.br) or fax (+55-11-69191-2238). Price of the two books combined US\$ 70.00 + postage US\$ 14.00 = US\$ 84.00. Payments can be made by personal checks or cash in US\$ or UK Sterling.

It is not often that books devoted to tropical lichenology appear, and it is certainly a rare occurrence that two books are published simultaneously. It happened with the two books cited above, who give a good impression of the current state of the art in South American lichenology. They contain contributions presented at two consecutive international meetings held in September 1997 in Brazil.

The first meeting, "Recollecting Vainio", was held in the Carassa monastery, the center of Vainio's collecting activities in Brazil roughly a century ago. The aim of this meeting was primarily to collect topotypes of the species which Vainio described on the basis of his material from this area. During the meeting various lectures were given on Vainio and on lichen groups treated by him. These contributions are published now in the first volume mentioned above. They contain contributions by Alava, Stenroos and Vitikainen on Vainio and his collections, by Marcelli on the Carassa area, and by Ahti, Feuerer, Galloway, Tibell and Yoshimura on Vainio's species concept of the Cladoniaceae, Parmeliaceae, Sticta, Caliciales and Lobaria, respectively. The final and by far largest chapter is by Marcelli. It contains keys to all Brazilian species treated by Vainio, for the genera or groups with more than two species, and is essentially an annotated key to Vainio's important "Etude sur la classification naturelle et la morphologie des lichens du Brésil". As this publication is still indispensable to those studying tropical lichens, this publication is very welcome, indeed.

The other meeting was the 3rd meeting of the Grupo Latino-Americano de Liqueñologos, abbreviated as "GLAL-3", held in Campos de Jordão. The lecture program of this meeting addressed a wide variety of topics. The contributors came from ten different countries on four continents, so that the program was truly international. Many of the presentations are published now in the second book mentioned above. It contains overviews over e.g. lichenology in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Chile, but also a bibliography of Brazilian lichenology, keys to the Parmeliaceae in temperate South America, taxonomical notes on Cladoniaceae, Lobaria and Peltigera, papers on collecting and culture methods and results of

bioindication studies with lichens in various areas. All together it contains a wealth of information regarding tropical lichenology and it is warmly recommended to those who missed these meetings.

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