

Reviews

Frederiksen, S., Rasmussen, F.N. & Seberg, O. (eds). 2006. *Dansk flora*.

Published by Gyldendal, 700 pp., ISBN 87-02-03032-2, price 499 Dkr.

Kit Tan

Institute of Biology, University of Copenhagen, Øster Farimagsgade 2D, DK-1353 Copenhagen K, Denmark, e-mail: kitt@bi.ku.dk

The decision to prepare a new Danish Flora was taken six years ago to cater for the identification of native and naturalized plants in Denmark. The editors are to be congratulated for accepting the task as the current edition of the Danish Field Flora alas, would no longer be reprinted. Criticism, targeted at four main topics, is made in the hope of improving future editions.

1. The criteria of taxa for inclusion

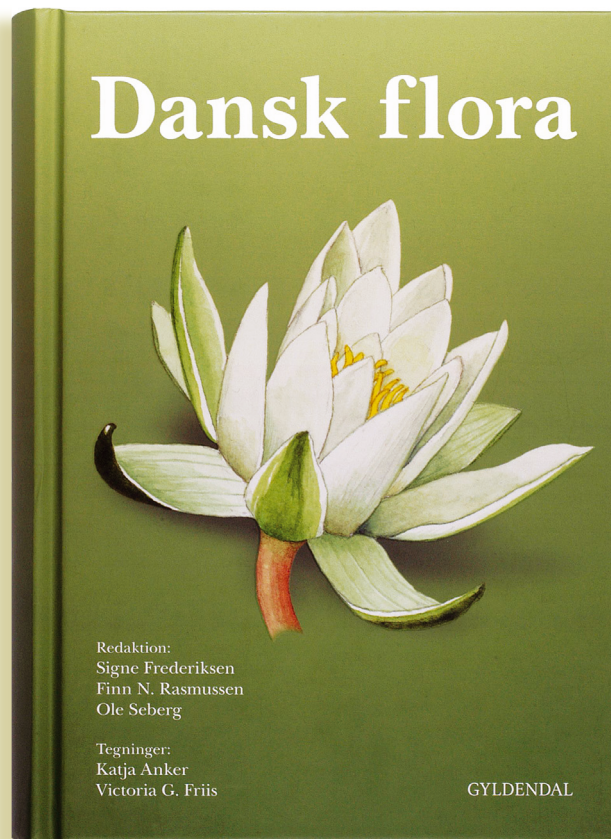
Not all permanently established and naturalized plants have been listed; however, several garden escapes have been included. This is particularly apparent in the treatment of the petaloid Monocots where many taxa known to be long-naturalized have been omitted from the keys and descriptions.

2. The illustrations

The illustrations are, for the most part, accurately drawn. However, some of the figures have obviously been prepared from inadequate or wilted material. Individual drawings have not been attributed to either artist, so both illustrators bear the blame as well as share the credit.

3. The scientific value

The work loses some scientific value in not consistently providing information as to whether a species is native or introduced; it leaves the user searching for other references. In some groups, the information is provided but for most taxa this has been omitted. Considering that well-documented and published data is readily available, the addition of such information would be a comparatively easy editorial task.



The use of Danish names seems to be an ambiguous compromise between the traditional names adopted in Lange (1959) which has the names spelt with an initial capital and the epithet hyphenated (Sump-Viol) or as in the previous editions of the Danish Field Flora with the names all spelt in lower case.

With 21 authors contributing to the text there is invariably inconsistency in scientific quality and incom-

pleteness in taxonomic treatment and a firm editorial hand is needed to whack the text into shape. It is apparent there are some good contributors who know their plants and their distributions and there are also several accounts where it is obvious the contributor lacks both taxonomic and field knowledge. The choice of good field characters is important and more so, in a publication where space limits the number of characters one can deploy. So one should select the best and most diagnostic characters and to do this well the contributor should know his or her plants. One example to illustrate:

The seeds of *Spergula arvensis* subsp. *arvensis* are stated to have dark clavate papillae. The papillae in this species are in fact almost white and appear white against the black background of the seed coat. In Flora Nordica as well as in Stace's new British Flora it is clearly mentioned that the papillae are white and clavate.

4. Plant distribution and rarity

Within the last 15 years a spate of floristic articles dealing with new finds in Denmark have been published in readily available local journals (e.g., the Danish journal URT) but not all this information had been incorporated when distributional data was compiled for the new Dansk Flora.

In a recent website press release it was stated that the new Dansk Flora is the first and most modern scientific work on the Danish flora to be produced in 25 years. It covers c. 1450 native and naturalized plants. It is illustrated by c. 270 figures detailing plant habit or plant parts. However, the general impression given by the "new" Dansk Flora is that for many groups, the choice of taxa for inclusion is incomplete and the information on distribution seems to be several years outdated.

Other quibbles include the inaccurate application of plant names. The Sump-Viol (Fig. 141) is referred to as *Viola palustris* instead of *V. uliginosa* (*V. palustris* is the Eng-Viol; see also Den store nordiske Flora (Mossberg, Stenberg & Ericsson 1999).

Fortunately both reader and user are cordially invited to provide corrections to text, keys and illustrations. There already is prepared a long list of errata. The editors must be heaving huge sighs of relief when they start preparing a new edition. In view of the fact that no other work is currently available there is a need for the publication. One positive and redeeming feature of the new Dansk Flora is the general layout and attractive book cover (image here provided by Leif Bolding, Institute of Biology, Copenhagen). One can certainly judge a book or buy it on its cover alone.

Announcements*

Vladimir Vladimirov & Ana Petrova

*Materials and items for announcements and review to be sent to the Editor-in-Chief of Phytologia Balcanica.

Assyov, B. & Petrova, A. (eds). 2006. *Conspectus of the Bulgarian Vascular Flora. Distribution Maps and Floristic Elements*. 3rd revised and enlarged edition. Sofia, 454 pp. Hardback. ISBN-10: 95-9959-35-X; ISBN-13: 978-954-9959-35-2 (in Bulgarian and English).

Authors: Boris Assyov, Antoaneta Petrova, Dimitur Dimitrov, Rossen Vassilev.

Content: Foreword to the third edition; Introduction to the second edition; Instructions for use of

the *Conspectus*; Map of the floristic regions in Bulgaria; Map of the floristic elements; *Conspectus* of the Bulgarian vascular flora; References; List of the genera and their families; List of the families and their genera.

The third revised and enlarged edition of the *Conspectus of the Bulgarian Vascular Flora* contains information about 3997 species of the Bulgarian flora (including some tentatively recorded taxa marked with '?'). As compared to the second edition, this one includes 147 additional species and some 1500 new

chorological entries. Each species is presented with its current Latin name and authority, map of distribution in Bulgaria, elevation, floristic element and legal protection status. The book is intended for professional botanists, students, plant conservation authorities and anyone interested in the Bulgarian vascular plants.

For orders: Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, e-mail: bbf@biodiversity.bg

Drumeva, M.D., Gyosheva-Bogoeva, M. & †Stoychev, G. 2006. 100 mushrooms. Gea-Libris Publishing House, Sofia, 223 pp. Paperback. ISBN-10: 954-300-064-6; ISBN-13: 978-954-300-064-7 (in Bulgarian).

Content: Introductory chapter (including brief data about mushroom as living organisms, their structure and main morphological features, rules to avoid poisoning with mushrooms, etc.); Calendar of formation of fruit-bodies; Main chapter (incl. information on selected 100 species); Index of Bulgarian names; Index to Latin names.

The book covers 100 species of mushrooms. For each species is given the most popular Bulgarian name and a few alternative vernacular names, Latin name, indication if edible or poisonous, a brief description with the most reliable distinguishing characters as well as data about habitats, importance and use as food. A colour photograph of each species in its natural environment supplements the text. The calendar gives information when the different mushrooms can be found and collected. The book is intended for all those who are interested in collecting mushrooms (a significant part of the Bulgarian population), and will undeniably help them to avoid risks while picking species which they do not know well.

For orders: <http://www.gealibris.com/>

Petrova, A. (ed.). 2006. Atlas of Bulgarian Endemic Plants. 2^d revised and enlarged edition. Gea-Libris Publishing House, Sofia, 400 pp. Hardback. ISBN-10: 954-300-065-4; ISBN-13: 978-954-300-065-4 (in English).

Authors: †Nikolay Andreev, Mincho Anchev, †Ivan Bondev, Pavel Vassilev, Velcho Velchev, †Slavcho

Ganchev, †Stefan Kozhuharov, †Margarita Markova, Tenyo Meshinev, Dimitur Peev, Ana Petrova, Boryana Stefanova-Gateva, Vladimir Vladimirov.

Illustrations: Dimitur Vlaev.

Content: Foreword to the English edition; Foreword to the Bulgarian edition; Bulgarian endemic higher plants – gene pool, origin and distribution; Endemic taxa; List of Bulgarian endemic plants; References (including 390 titles); Index to scientific names.

The Atlas is based on the first edition published in Bulgarian in 1992. It contains data for 164 endemic taxa. For each species is provided the accepted Latin name, family name, short morphological description, endemic status, habitats and ecology, distribution, threat status. The text is accompanied by excellent colour drawing of the species. Families are presented in the same sequence as in *Flora Europaea*, while the species within a family are in alphabetical order. The book will be of interest to every professional botanist or lovers of plants and botanical art.

For orders: <http://www.gealibris.com/>

Stanev, S. 2006. Stars sinking in the mountains. Stories for our rare plants (Zvezdi gasnat v planinata. Razkazi za nashi redki rasteniya). 5th revised and enlarged edition. Letera, Plovdiv, 227 pp. Paperback. ISBN 954-516-633-9 (in Bulgarian).

The book is devoted to some of the most endangered and interesting plants in the Bulgarian flora. Being one of the best experts on the history of Bulgarian botany, the author excitingly presents the details about the discovery, description, threats and conservation of 28 species. Their stories are tightly connected with the destinies of the explorers who first established them, eminent Bulgarian or foreign botanists and naturalists. With its belletristic style, and including unknown or little known details and events, gathered by the author for decades from witnesses, archives and old papers, the book reads very well. Written with sincere love to homeland nature and deep concern for the fate of these unique representatives of the green treasure of Bulgaria, the book is addressed for botanists, students, nature lovers and conservationists. It is a lyrical call for the conservation of the plant diversity of the country which undeniably reaches the hearts of the readers.

Strid, A. 2006. *Flora Hellenica Bibliography*.

2^d edition. W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, 650 pp. Hardback. ISBN 83-89648-36-9. Incl. CD.

Content: Introduction, List of publications, Taxa index, Geographic index.

The book lists 13276 articles and books relevant to Flora Hellenica: all floristic publications relating to Greek territory, floristic publications for the adjacent territories when considered relevant to Greece, taxonomic papers dealing with Greek plants, phytogeographical and phytosociological papers with Greek aspect, and publications on chromosome numbers of taxa represented in Greece. Some 30% more titles have been added compared to the first edition issued in 1996. The book is accompanied by a searchable CD.

Available from Koeltz Scientific Books (<http://www.koeltz.com/>).

Vladimirov, V. 2005. *Photoguide to the Vascular Plants in the Rhodopes*.

Illusion & Neoprint, Sofia, 96 pp. Paperback. ISBN 954-91467-5-8 (in English). Bulgarian version published in 2006. Illusion & Neoprint, Sofia, 96 pp. Paperback. ISBN-10: 954-91467-6-6, ISBN-13: 978-954-91467-6-9.

Content: Introduction; Index to the Latin names; Photoguide to the species; Illustrated basic descriptive terms of plant morphology; Symbols used; Map of the floristic division of Bulgaria.

The *Photoguide* contains colour photographs and short morphological descriptions of 287 most attractive species and subspecies in the Rhodopean flora. The Guide is intended for tourists and visitors to the Rhodope Mts, who would enjoy the beauty and richness of the vascular plant diversity. The book can be useful for identification of many plant species in the other Bulgarian mountains too.

For orders: vladimir_dv@abv.bg
