

**Yena, V.G., Yena, A.V. & Yena, A.V. 2004.
*Protected Landscapes of Taurida.***

Bisness-Inform, Simferopol. 424 pp. ISBN 966-648-055-7.
Hardback (in Russian).

Ana Petrova

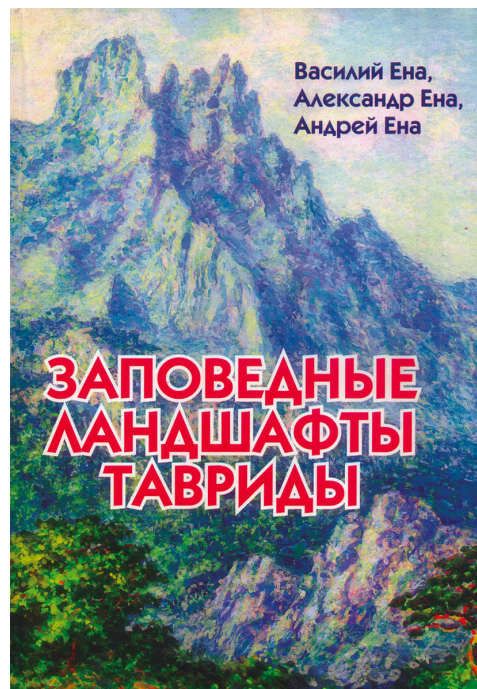
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The authors of the book are prominent Ukrainian scholars (geographer, geologist and biologist), who present to the public the unique natural resources of the Crimean Peninsula (the ancient Taurida): an oasis of natural beauty and an acknowledged museum of Nature.

They trace out the history and progress of environmentalist efforts in the Crimea in the 20th century. The network of protected territories comprises over 160 sites accounting for 5% of the Peninsula's area. These sites include six famous nature reserves, various landscapes, botanical, hydrological, and ornithological protected areas, natural places of interest, park layout highlights, etc. All they are considered by the authors in detail within the framework of a system for landscape regionalization, developed by them.

In a capturing and fascinating way the authors make the readers familiar with each of these sites, tracing out their geological history, development, climate, specificities of the landscape, flora and fauna, and curious and little known facts. They identify the endemic plant species, their classic habitats and reveal the secrets of a host of carst labyrinths, including over 40 ice caves in the Crimea.

With enviable knowledgeability the authors describe in detail the specificities of the various protected territories. They take the readers through virgin forests at various altitudes, along the rugged relief of hollow valleys and high crests, through a dense hydrogeographical network, and down to the deep carst caves with their tangle of labyrinths. They make them familiar with rare plants and animals, and bring them back to the river sources and beautiful waterfalls (up to 12 m high).



They have dedicated a place of merit to the world-famous Nikitskaya Botanical Garden: a national research centre visited every year by thousands of nature-lovers. Like skilled guides, the authors take the readers around its territory, so as to make them familiar with its rich plant collections, most dated back to 1812, the year of the establishment of the Garden.

Special place is assigned to the scholars that have investigated the protected territories, with an emphasis on their contribution. The remarkable museums and exhibitions organized on these territories, now used as centres for training and promotion of the natural highlights and their protection, are not forgotten too.

Finally, the authors suggest an extensive and ecologically enlightening tour of the Peninsula, with itineraries in different directions round the year. Its points of import are described, as well as the various highlights, with which the readers have already got familiar in the book. The route offers 165 major ecological and ethnographic and several hundreds smaller sites.

The book is illustrated by colour and black-and-white photographs of plants, animals, natural highlights, and maps. It is a valuable guide to the protected territories of the Crimea, with ample data and interesting and curious facts collected by the authors of this commendable work.

Undoubtedly, the book is a success for the authors and deserves the attention of environmentalists, botanists, zoologists and geographers, as well as of nature-lovers and students. It will take them on a remarkable journey around Taurida, an Eden on earth. After closing down the last page, they would certainly experience a

strong drive to see all that unique natural beauty. As the authors have aptly chosen to finish their book with an excerpt from *Essays on the Crimea* (1872) by E. Markov, "...To breath the air of the Crimea is like breathing the joy of life, poetry and longevity. So hasten to bend your steps to the Crimea, if you can, if you still have time..."

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

Ed. 2. W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Acad. Sci., Kraków (Poland), 650 pp. Hardback. ISBN 83-89648-36-9. Price: 80 €

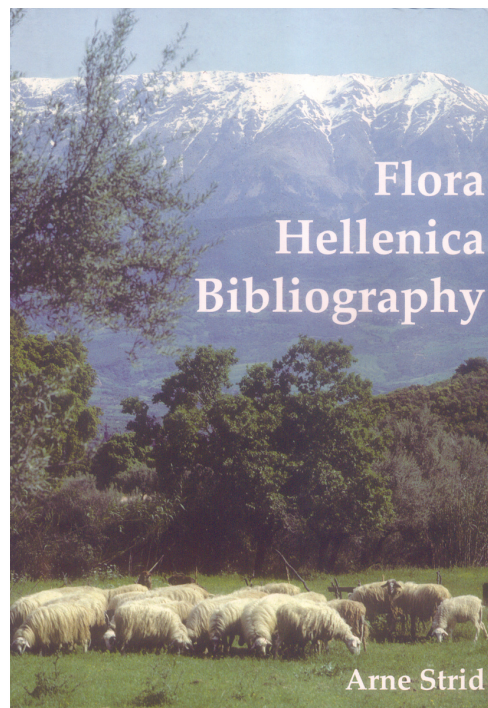
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The compiler of the bibliography is Professor Arne Strid, director of the Göteborg Botanical Garden, Sweden. It lists 13,276 entries, comprising books and articles directly or indirectly relevant to the Greek flora. The first edition was published in 1996 and that included 10,241 entries. We see that some 3000 titles have since been added.

The bibliography includes the titles of all floristic publications relating to Greek territory and those for adjacent areas considered relevant to Greece. All taxonomic papers dealing with Greek material, other major taxonomic works involving Greek taxa, phytogeographical and phytosociological literature with a Greek aspect, and literature dealing with chromosome data for taxa represented in Greece have been included. Almost all the titles have been verified by the compiler. The list covers literature published up to the end of 2004. Titles pertaining to 2005 are only partially included. The book is accompanied by a searchable CD.

After the introductory pages (pp. vii-xi) which include a geographical map showing the division of Greece into 13 floristic regions as adopted for the Flora Hellenica project, is displayed the List of Publications which extends from p. 1 to p. 546. The earliest title in



the list goes back to 1753 with the "Species Plantarum" of Linneaus (p. 292), if we do not consider the 1998 reproduction of "Der Wiener Dioscorides" (p. 133).

The List of Publications is followed by the Taxa Index (pp. 549-631) in which the families are indexed alphabetically and the genera also arranged alphabetically under each family. The volume ends with a Geographic Index (pp. 635-650) where the entry numbers are listed under 86 headings representing geographical areas, countries and their divisions.

The book is a colossal gathering of numerous references not only useful to botanists working on the flora of Greece and of adjacent countries, but also to those interested in other fields of botany. It also enables the reader to make acquaintance with the many authors who have contributed to the subject. We are grateful to A. Strid and his contributors for their valuable achievement.