

BOTANY

Mountain Flora of Greece, Volume I

Edited by Arne Strid. 1986. Cambridge University Press, New York. xxx + 822 pp., illus. U.S. \$99.50.

This book, as the title indicates, is not a flora of the country of Greece, but rather is a treatment of those species which are commonly found in the mountains above the altitude of 1800 m ("full members") plus species which occasionally reach this altitude or are commonly found in open tree-less habitats above 1500 m ("associate members"). It is the first volume of a proposed two-volume set which treats those families of the Engler and Prantl taxonomic system from the Equisetaceae through to the Plumbaginaceae. In this volume a total of 926 taxa (species and subspecies) are treated, about one-third of which, according to the jacket, were either not recorded for Greece in *Flora Europaea* or were recognized under a different name and/or a different taxonomic rank. The book is thus most important to any taxonomist dealing with alpine plant species that occur in southeastern Europe.

This first volume, in addition to the main body of the text, includes a short introduction which comprises a history of botanical works on the flora of Greece, the scope and format of the flora, botanical exploration, geography, topography and geology, acknowledgements, and a key to the families included in the two volumes.

The body of the text comprises keys, family, generic and species descriptions, habitat and geographic data, bibliographic references, citation of types where available, and synonymy where names have been applied to the Greek flora in the various papers of Halacsy (between 1892–1912), Hayek (between 1917–1928), and in *Flora Aegaea*, *Flora of Bulgaria*, *Flora of Turkey*, *Flora Europaea*, or modern revisions and monographs. Chromosome numbers are also provided where known from the literature, or in greater detail if based on Greek material. The descriptions and keys appear to be sufficiently

detailed for the determination of specimens. Greece is divided into eight geographic regions for the purpose of the flora: Crete, Peloponnisos, Sterea Ellas, S. Pindhos, N. Pindhos, East Central, North Central, North East, Ionian Islands, and Aegean Islands. Within each major geographical region the distribution is indicated briefly, usually giving only the names of mountains on which the taxon has been found, but these data can sometimes take considerable space on the page. Comments are sometimes also provided on taxonomic relationships, subspecies, and interesting distributions.

There are many endemics to the alpine flora of Greece which may be unfamiliar to the North American botanist, but still such circumpolar species as *Oxyria digyna*, *Sagina procumbens*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, or cultivated species such as *Sorbus aucuparia* and the ever-present weeds in our flora such as *Thlaspi arvense*, *Stellaria media*, and *Capsella bursa-pastoris* will be readily recognized.

Twenty-four pages of references, an index to scientific names (with authorities), an index to mountain names, and a list of 46 new taxa and new combinations published in this volume complete the work.

This book, which Strid has edited and written with the aid of some 25 contributors, contains a wealth of information which will supplement *Flora Europaea*. It will be an invaluable source of information on the species found in the alpine regions of Greece for any taxonomist or plant geographer working on the plants of that region. It is to be hoped that Volume 2 will follow quickly.

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The Lichen-forming Fungi

By David L. Hawksworth and David J. Hill. 1984. Blackie & Son, Glasgow. viii + 158 pp. Illus. Cloth £16.95; paper £7.95.

"Lichen associations include some of the oldest living organisms and represent a major nutritional method adopted by one in five fungi." With these words the authors of *The Lichen-forming Fungi* open their preface and at the same time introduce the two

underlying contentions which will guide their pens throughout: first, that lichens possess a much higher interest value than is usually attributed to them; second, that far from being a discrete class of organisms, lichens are really just fungi that happen to feed on algae — it is time someone emphatically introduced them into the mainstream of mycology.

According to the advertisement on the back cover, *The Lichen-forming Fungi* has been written primarily



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