1965-03

Book Notices

The Ohio Journal of Science. v65 n2 (March, 1965), 59-59
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Index Nominum Lichenum; Inter Annos 1932 et 1960 Divulgatorum. I. Mackenzie Lamb.

This book is a continuation of the monumental nine volume Catalogus Lichenum Universalis (1921–1940) of Alexander Zahlbruckner which attempted to list all the names used for lichens through the year 1931. The current work differs from Zahlbruckner in having the genera, and under each genus the subordinate taxa, arranged alphabetically rather than systematically; in listing only literature references in which the names have been proposed; and in not making any taxonomic changes. It is similar in listing the basonyms for new combinations, in cross indexing synonyms, and in giving the substrates and geographical regions of new species. The supplementary tenth volume of Zahlbruckner (1938–1949) which was not indexed has its names included in their proper places in the current work. Although the period covered is 1932–60, some older names omitted by Zahlbruckner are included as are validly proposed names of lichen fungi which are no longer acceptable according to the current international rules of botanical nomenclature (1961) since the lichen name is now regarded as applying to the fungus symbiont as well.

There are a surprisingly large number of names included: 415 genera, 8205 species (only 5684 newly described, the others being new combinations), and 6789 taxa below the species rank. Dr. Lamb has placed lichenologists and all others interested in this group in a most advantageous position. With this work and Zahlbruckner, they will have ready reference to any lichen name used through 1960. Dr. Lamb is to be commended for the careful and laborous job of compiling this index. The only fault, a minor one, that could be found is the use of Roman numerals throughout for citing journal volumes, when generally Arabic numbers are used.

The Ronald Press has done a fine job of printing this work on high quality paper using very legible print and a strong, lasting binding. The price, though more than most books but lower than many less useful and more ephemeral books, is not unreasonable. Libraries and individuals interested in the names of lichens cannot afford to be without this valuable reference work.

Emanuel D. Rudolph