
HENNIPMANN, E. AND M. C. ROSS. 1982. A monograph of the fern genus Platycerium (Polypodiaceae). North-Holland Publishing Co. Amsterdam, Oxford and New York, pp. 126 with black and white and color photographs and line drawings. Price US$32 (Dfl. 75). This monograph deals with the taxonomy and phylogenetic systematics of the staghorn ferns. The study is based on herbarium and living collections and on extensive field work by the authors. The publication is divided into a General Part and a Taxonomic Part: The General Part contains an in-depth discussion of the characters used and a phylogenetic analysis of these characters using only the apomorphic ones to form groups (sensu Hennig). The cladogram resulting from this character analysis is used to discuss parallel evolution, habitat and geographic distribution. This study shows the necessity of good character analysis for taxonomic studies and emphasizes the utility of phylogenetic systematics in monographic studies. The Taxonomic Part contains the usual fare for a good monograph, including keys, descriptions, distribution maps, etc. plus interesting sections on how to collect Platycerium and a list of materials needed for future work in the group. All in all, this monograph should serve as a model for future work in plant systematics. [V. A. Funk, Smithsonian Institution]


HUNNIA, A Journal of Botanical History (subscription: from North America, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; from outside North America, orders should be directed to Wheldon & Wesley Ltd., Lytton Lodge, Codicote, Hitchin, Herts., SG4 8TE, England. ISSN 0073-4071 Subscription rate $25 per volume. In 1979 this important journal was revived after a 14 year hiatus in its publication and six numbers in two volumes have appeared. As the subtitle indicates, the content is historical in one way or another and extremely valuable to botanists concerned with collectors, earlier botanists, special bibliographic analyses etc. For example, volume 3(1) (May 1979) is entirely occupied by a long paper on “Botanical Exploration in Washington, Oregon, California and adjacent regions” by John H. Thomas; the paper itself is historical because it was in type in 1969 and a preprint was distributed at the Seattle Congress that year but only now is published. Volume 3(2) (November 1979) contains eight papers on historic botanical letters, manuscripts, rate books etc.; volum 3(3) (December 1979) is mostly taken up by two papers, one by John H. Harvey on a very early map of Shaw, England, and a detailed analysis of Flora Danica, by Gunther Buchheim. Volume 4(1) (May 1981) is a highly important “Guide to the Botanical Records and Papers in the Archives of the Hunt Institute” by Michael T. Stieber and Anita L. Karg with the assistance of Donna M. Connelly and Karen K. Britz. Volume 4(2) (January 1982) contains primarily, four papers on historical subjects, but also a series of reviews is included of bibliographic books. Volume 4(3) (June 1982) is a “Register of plant collectors’ field notes held in North American Institutions,” by Michael T. Stieber, arranged so that workers may quickly discover where a collector travelled and often data in addition to those on labels. This is a high quality journal, very well edited and beautifully produced, that libraries in association with botanical systematists should certainly have available for their research. [R. S. Cowan]