

REVIEWS, NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS*

ABBOTT, ISABELLA A. and GEORGE J. HOLLENBERG, *Marine algae of California*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, xii, 827 pp., 699 ill., published 30 November 1976, ISBN 0-8047-0867-3, 16½ x 24½ cm, water-resistant buckram, price \$ 22.50. [The *Marine Algae of California* by Professors I. A. Abbott and G. J. Hollenberg represents the first comprehensive flora for California. I currently have six copies in use by my staff of marine biologists employed on a large baseline survey of rocky intertidal ecosystems in the Southern California Bight. This floristic treatment has resulted in an enormous advancement in accuracy and speed of identification owing to the much improved keys, descriptions, illustrations, and more extensive coverage of taxa. The previous work by G. M. Smith (*Marine Algae of the Monterey Peninsula, California*, 1944; with later supplement by Hollenberg and Abbott, 1966), although restricted to descriptions of entities only from the Monterey Peninsula, served for 30 years as an invaluable standard taxonomic reference throughout the western coast of North America because many of the taxa it included are distributed over a wide latitudinal gradient. The *Marine Algae of California* treats nearly double the taxa found in Smith (1944) and represents a quantum advance in our knowledge of California macroalgae. Contributing substantially to the excellence of this work is the authors' approach to understanding and documenting the taxa in terms of morphological variability throughout the distributional ranges. The nomenclature has been brought to date and the work is richly and accurately illustrated replete with drawings from specimens chosen as most representative of those likely to be encountered in the field. However, for ease of use I would have preferred that the publisher number each figure (we have done this by hand on our copies) in those plates containing multiple illustrations rather than describe the location (e.g., upper left, middle right) in the captions. The only gap left by this treatment concerns some of the commoner benthic blue-green algae (my own quantitative studies in Central and Southern California show that certain Cyanophyta dominate more of the rocky shoreline coverage than any other alga); however, given the fluctuating, specialized, and somewhat controversial nature of blue-green algal taxonomy, deletion of this group is justifiable. It is also apparent that the northern component of the flora has been treated in greater detail than is the case for the southern component — although the detail and coverage for both are quite impressive. The commemorative chapter by G. F. Papenfuss forms a well-chronicled and delightful introduction to the taxonomy that follows. All serious workers and students of the California rocky nearshore habitat have for some years been eagerly awaiting this flora by two of the world's foremost authorities on marine algal taxonomy and, as a result of its timely appearance, a sounder basis exists for considerable advances in our understanding of the biology and ecology of California seaweeds.], [MARK M. LITTLER (Irvine, Calif.)]

AGARDH, J. G., *Species genera et ordines algarum* vols. 1-3, reprint 1977. J. Cramer, in der A.R. Gantner Verlag Kommanditgesellschaft, FL-9490 Vaduz, Liechtenstein, ISBN 3-7682-1138-X, 3 volumes, buckram, Bibliotheca phycologica Band 31a, b, c, price DM 1200.— (subscription), DM 1500.— (regular). [Reprints of C. A. Agardh and Kützing's *Species algarum* have been available for some time. The great and much more comprehensive *Species genera et ordines plantarum* by the younger Agardh, however, was so far not available in a handy modern facsimile edition. With his Bibliotheca phycologica Cramer gradually fills the gaps in reprinting important phycological works. The present work came out between 1848 and 1901 and occupied Agardh for the greater part of his life-time. Copies are often incomplete. For a list of dates of publication reference is made to *Taxonomic literature* ed. 2, no. 54. The reprint is of excellent quality and complete. The importance of the work is clear and need not be restated. A discussion of the work and further

* Edited by R. S. Cowan and F. A. Stafleu. Unsigned notes in this issue are by F.A.S.