

BOOK REVIEW

A MODERN MULTILINGUAL GLOSSARY FOR TAXONOMIC

PTERIDOLOGY. D.B. Lellinger. 2002. Pteridologia No. 3. Hardback. 264 pp., 15 figures (line drawings). ISBN 0-933500-02-5. American Fern Society, Inc. www.amerfernsoc.org Price US \$28.00 + postage.

The presentation of this book is clear and easy to follow. It comprises a numbered list of preferred terms and their definitions, with English, Spanish, French and Portuguese paragraphs for each term. Synonyms (about 100 for the c. 1000 distinct terms), antonyms and related terms are provided where applicable. Contents, introduction and comprehensive indices are provided also in each language. Finally, word lists of the terms defined in the book are offered for downloading from the American Fern Society web site for use as dictionaries in word-processing programs.

I will quote from the introduction: "No attempt has been made to include archaic or obsolete uses or terms. All terms are defined as I believe they are currently used or should best be used. ... I have eliminated terms from the glossary that are difficult or impossible to define." This is a worthy aim, but does imply that anyone looking for guidance to previously written fern descriptions may not find what they are seeking.

When I first scanned this book, I wrote down a list of terms, definitions and miscellaneous observations that 'hit a nerve'. Since then, I have gradually whittled down my initial objections. Some arose from my own misconceptions, and in this respect, the book has been useful to me. There is variation in the precision of definitions for some groups of terms. In the section on laminae, the definitions for 648 lobe and 655 segment are very precise, even to the selective use of "fully connate" (lobe) and "fully adnate" (segment), but definitions of 650 pinna, 651 pinnule and 652 pinnulet (a neologism) seem to be much less rigorous viz. for the latter "a petiolulate or sessile division of a pinnule that is at least narrowed at the base".

The characterisation of 613 phyllopodium as "that portion of the stipe" should perhaps be recast, to include the possibility that a rhizome outgrowth may instead be involved. The terms 677 anadromous and 678 catadromous are defined only in relation to a pinna, with the "basal pinnule and/or vein group of the pinna directed towards the frond apex [base]". However, 496 dromy is defined more generally, and hence more correctly by reference to "basal axes or veins" and their relationship to "the second larger order of axes". This latter phrase might be better as "the next higher order of axes". With regard to spore formation, tetrad is defined (no. 764), but diad, as in some apomictic ferns, is not.

Term 819 raphe refers to the rhizocarp of *Marsilea*, but rhizocarp is listed only as a synonym of 822 sporocarp. While on the subject of *Marsilea*, a definition is given for the specialised cells on the submerged lamina of 'certain species' (644 hydropote/hydropotes), but in the section on indument, I struggled to find any suitable term for the uniquely constructed hairs in this genus.

This book is aimed at the Americas, not only in the choice of languages, but also the fern genera cited for some of the terms. On balance, I recommend this book to professional pteridologists, but I feel that the amateur would have valued the addition of explanatory illustrations and some sample descriptions.

Peter D. Bostock