

titative, reproducible approach (e.g. relative number of localities in synanthropic syntaxa, or frequency distribution per urban zones). Some of the interpretations, e.g. the higher rate of "urbanophilous" taxa in the city centre, appear to be based on circular reasoning.

However, in fairness, such weaknesses are natural and to be expected in a pioneer work. They may constitute a challenge for others who follow the track, who will be glad to find an existing model to improve upon. Urban botany is still a novel, wide and promising field. W.G.

66. Niels BÖHLING, Werner GREUTER & Thomas RAUS – Zeigerwerte der Gefäßpflanzen der Südägäis (Griechenland). Indicator values of the vascular plants in the southern Aegean (Greece). [*Braun-Blanquetia* (ISSN 0393-5434), **32**.] – Dipartimento di Botanica ed Ecologia dell'Università, Camerino, & Station de Phytosociologie, Bailleul, 2002. 108 pages, 13 tables, portrait, 12 maps and graphs, 8 colour photographs; paper.

Niels BÖHLING, the principal author of this account, is not a newcomer to the Greek islands. When in 1994 he wrote his PhD thesis on the botany and landscape ecology of the island of Naxos in the Cyclades, he pioneered in the use of indicator values in the Aegean if not in the Mediterranean as a whole (see *OPTIMA* Newslett. 30: (39). 1996). He stuck to that specialty in the present work, by which he applied the concept of indicator values in a much larger area, increasing the number of vascular plant taxa scored from 931 (for Naxos) to the awesome total of 2442, being the total known floristic inventory of the southern sector of the Aegean archipelago.

The indicator values are ELLENBERG'S invention, and his precepts, modified but slightly, have been followed here. For each taxon, the preferences with respect to light, temperature, climate continentality, water supply, soil acidity, nutrient availability and salinity were assessed on a 9 or 10 unit scale (12 units for water supply). The result is a 7-digit numeral characterising each taxon, with the idea that the corresponding parameters of any given locality can then be assessed by averaging the indicator values of the plant taxa present. Other parameters, such as grazing pressure, might be added in the future.

Indicator values are so defined as to vary potentially, for widespread taxa, in the various parts of their area. This means that the values had to be assessed anew for all South Aegean taxa, even those for which they had already been established elsewhere. In order to achieve this, BÖHLING has spent almost one year on 12 different field trips, between 1997 and 2001, exploring the South Aegean island arc in all its parts. He has collected a large number of vouchers, of which the first set is being incorporated in the Berlin herbarium, has published various papers and notes, and discovered several new species. He may take justified pride in his achievements. W.G.

67. Jean LÉONARD – A contribution to the flora and vegetation of the deserts of Iran [vol. 8]; vol. 9, Phytogeographical considerations of the Irano-Turanian, Saharo-Sindian and Somali-Masaien phytochoria. Translated [from French into Persian] by M. GHORBANLI. [*Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, Publication No. 290*; 316.] – Islamic Republic of Iran, Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, [Tehran], 2002; 2003 (ISBN 964-473-138-7; -172-7). [8] + 208; 130 pages, tables, maps; 2 paper fascicles.

Two of the 10 parts of Jean Léonard's comprehensive monograph of the flora and vegetation of the deserts of Iran have now been translated into Persian. They are those that deal with the chorology of the plant taxa and the phytogeography of the area. The original French version of the text, published in 1988 and 1989, has been reviewed previously in this column (in *OPTIMA* Newslett. 25-29: (41)-(42). 1991). W.G.

Applied Botany

68. João Domingues de ALMEIDA, Arménio C. MATOS & A. Cristina TAVARES – Catálogo de plantas aromáticas e medicinales, Jardim Botânico de Coimbra. – Universidade de Coimbra, Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, Departamento de Botânica, Coimbra, [2003]. 53 pages; paper.

This tiny but lovingly written pamphlet is an inventory of the 259 vascular plant species grown in the "Medical School" of the Coimbra Botanic