

Epiphyllous Liverworts of Eastern Himalaya. Monalisa Dey and D. K. Singh. Botanical Survey of India, CGO Complex, 3rd MSO Building, Block F (5th Floor), DF Block, Sector 1, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 064. 2012, 415 pp. ISBN: 81-8177-041-2. Price: Rs 2336/US\$ 116.

The book under review is a comprehensive taxonomic treatment on the epiphyllous community of liverworts from Eastern Himalaya, which is one among the 'hotspots' recognized in the Indian subcontinent. It provides taxonomic account of 89 liverwort taxa belonging to 3 orders (Metzgeriales, Porellales and Jungermanniales), 7 families (Metzgeriaceae, Radulaceae, Frullaniaceae, Jubulaceae, Lejeuneaceae, Lophocoleaceae and Plagiochilaceae) and 19 genera (*Metzgeria* (8), *Radula* (6), *Frullania* (3), *Jubula* (1), *Acanthocoleus* (1), *Caudalejeunea* (1), *Cheilolejeunea* (2), *Cololejeunea* (24), *Colura* (1), *Drepanolejeunea* (8), *Lejeunea* (15), *Leptolejeunea* (8), *Lopholejeunea* (1), *Microlejeunea* (1), *Ptychanthus* (1), *Trocholejeunea* (2), *Tuyamaella* (1), *Heteroschyphus* (2) and *Plagiochila* (3)) from Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal (Darjeeling) in Eastern Himalayan territory. The systematic treatment of each taxon has been provided with keys at the level of orders, families, genera and species along with the citation, their synonyms, detailed taxonomic description, habitat detail, distribution in India as well as in world, characteristics of the species, specimens examined and a note discussing its specificity and affinity with allied species. All the taxa have been beautifully illustrated with line-drawings and photographs (both B/W and colour) along with SEM details showing leaf surface topography and sporoderm patterns.

The book provides a clear picture on the richness of the epiphyllous liverworts

of Eastern Himalaya. Porellales is the largest order with 75 species and 1 variety in 16 genera belonging to 4 families (Radulaceae, Frullaniaceae, Jubulaceae and Lejeuneaceae). The order Metzgeriales stands second with seven species and one variety in a single genus *Metzgeria* in single family, Metzgeriaceae. Jungermanniales is the third smallest order with five species under two genera, *Heteroschyphus* and *Plagiochila*, belonging to two families, Lophocoleaceae and Plagiochilaceae respectively. Among 89 investigated taxa, 7 species are new to Science, 25 are new to Indian bryoflora and 9 species are endemic to Eastern Himalaya.

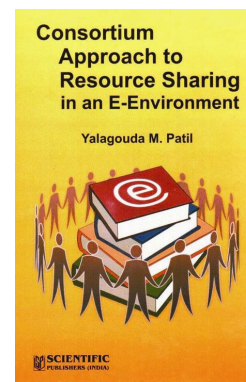
The compilation of the book is based on thorough review of the literature and investigation of a large number of epiphyllous bryophyte specimens collected from the area of study which has been extensively surveyed. The geography, topography, vegetation and climatic data (temperature, rainfall and humidity) of the studied area have been provided, supplemented with maps and histograms. The floristic analysis, habitat analysis, phorophytic analysis, distributional analysis and altitudinal analysis of 89 investigated taxa from the 3 states have also been provided with tables, pie charts and Venn diagrams indicating species richness in the genus, family and order, in different habitats, phorophytes, and at different altitudes in the three states. The account is supported by 216 figures.

The Indian subcontinent is rich in epiphyllous bryophytes, but information on these plants is rather scanty and sporadic. No comprehensive account of epiphyllous bryophytes in the country or bryogeographical regions was available before this publication, which serves to fill the knowledge gap.

This is a valuable contribution on the epiphyllous liverwort community of such a rich bryo-geographical region of the country (Eastern Himalaya). It is certainly a good identification manual, which has been precisely written, compiled and illustrated. The authors have done a commendable job and deserve heartiest congratulations from the entire bryological fraternity of the country.

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Consortium Approach to Resource Sharing in an E-Environment. Yalagouda M. Patil. Scientific Publisher (India), 5A, New Pali Road, P.O. Box 91, Jodhpur. 2014. 333 pp. Price: Rs 1250.

Y. M. Patil, with his wide experience as a librarian in three important libraries, namely Radio Astronomy Centre, TIFR, Ooty; National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (ICAR), Nagpur and Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bangalore has covered different aspects of consortia ranging from history to technology infrastructure and digital preservation. His practical knowledge of resource sharing through consortia has enriched the content encapsulated in different chapters of this book.

FORSA, one of the earliest consortia for sharing resources of astronomy libraries in India, has a history of 25 years. Being a librarian at RRI, Patil was one of the stakeholders of this oldest consortium. NKRC, national-level consortia of CSIR laboratories and DST-funded institutions, which was formed in 2009, paved way for Patil to gain more knowledge and insight with respect to design, building and implementation of consortia. This book is an outcome of his experience gained as a FORSA Consortium Coordinator and Member of the National Coordination Committee of NKRC.

The book has 15 chapters. The first chapter deals with 'Resource sharing' giving the correct approach to the concept of a consortium. In the right sense, resource sharing as a concept in libraries is the predecessor to consortium in the present e-environment. History helps in understanding the concept better. History of consortia in some major countries like USA, UK, China and India is precisely discussed. The other chapters discuss in depth, more facets of consortia like guidelines for design and management,

types and models of consortia, pricing models, licensing aspect, skills required for price and access negotiation, technology requirement to make consortia happen and digital preservation of consortia content.

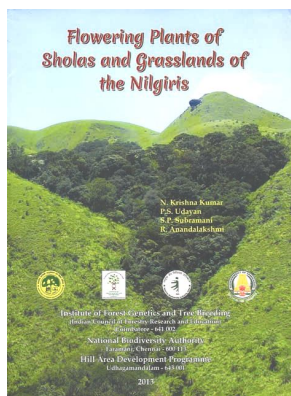
As the title of the book suggests, it deals with e-journals, their objectives and consortia in the electronic age. Consortia have become a reality only because of e-journals. This has been addressed precisely in the book. Copyright and licensing are the other sensitive issues associated with any consortia. Library professionals need to be well informed about these aspects, before entering into any consortia. The book has enough material for beginners. Negotiation is a skill which needs to be developed. This skill helps in bringing down the cost and enhanced content access. This is yet another area which is not addressed much in library science literature and this book throws light on this aspect.

In the last 25 years, India has seen many consortia. The book discusses elaborately the 17 major Indian initiatives giving information about background, participating libraries, core programme, reasons for formation, funding and governance, and thus acts as a ready reckoner.

The only negative aspect of this book is too many fragmentations, which may be ignored keeping in view the rich content of the book. Target audience could be library professionals, consortia administrators, students of library science, policy makers, etc. This is an excellent addition to the existing library science literature and can be a good reference tool to library consortia in the country. I congratulate the author for articulating his knowledge and ideas in the form of a book, which can be of use to the library science fraternity.

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Flowering Plants of Sholas and Grasslands of the Nilgiris. N. Krishna Kumar, P. S. Udayan, S. P. Subramani and R. Anandalakshmi, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, P.B. No. 1061, Coimbatore 641 002, India. 2013. 575 pp. Price: £40.99.

The Nilgiris District is an important floristic region of the Western Ghats. It is one of the most explored regions of the Western Ghats, but yet incompletely studied. One of the most comprehensive studies on the plants of the Nilgiris is by B. D. Sharma and his team in 1975, which enumerates 2769 plants from the entire district. However, several new species have been described from the Nilgiris in the last three decades.



Strobilanthes foliosus (Wight) Anders.

The book under review has compiled 641 taxa. The term 'shola' needs a critical definition. As I understand from the photographs provided in the book this term is used in a broader sense that includes patches of evergreen forests. The term 'solai' (in Tamil) used to denote dense evergreen patches, has always been misinterpreted as equivalent to the shola forests, which are of distinct climax vegetation type. This ambiguity in the concept is also employed by K. M. Matthew in his *Flora of Tamil Nadu Carnatic*. Shola forests are characterized by stunted nature of vegetation, restricted to the slopes and interspersed by rolling grasslands. Inclusion of plant species such as *Embelia ribes*, *Agapanthus africanus* and *Wattakaka volubilis*, is the result of confusion between shola and solai.

Baring this conceptual ambiguity, the book serves as a good reference volume for all those who are interested in knowing the plant wealth of sholas and grasslands. The book provides keys for identification, nomenclature and detailed description. It also provides good field notes, uses and citation to the specimens referred. The photo plates are helpful to the users, though the quality of images could have been better. The identification of some of the photographs is incorrect. For example, *Andrographis producta* is wrongly labelled as *A. alata* and *A. lawsonii* is wrongly labelled as *A. lobeloides*. Some of the herbarium sheets given in the plates could have been avoided, as there is no clarity in the photographs. The book could have served a wider audience, if it had been brought out as pictorial flora.

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