

Book review

FOISSNER, W., BERGER, H. AND KOHMAN, F. (1992): TAXONOMISCHE UND ÖKOLOGISCHE REVISION DER CILIATEN DES SAPROBIENSYSTEMS II: PERITRICHA, HETEROTRICHA, ODONTOSTOMATA. - INFORMATIONSDBERICHTE DES BAYERS. LANDESAMTES FÜR WASSERWIRTSCHAFT 5/92, PP. 502.

Manuals on biological water qualification usually have rich lists of Ciliata species, so in Bavaria, in the series "Wasserwirtschaftsverwaltung" made for water conservancy practice already the second volume on these protozoan organisms, which in majority are water quality indicators has been out. Similarly to the first volume, Foissner and his fellow researchers revised great taxonomic units, a subclass (Peritricha) and two orders (Heterotrichida and Odontostomatida) in conformity with recent requirements. The extent of this volume of 95 species is of 502 pages, and also this volume is based on formerly published papers, completed with the presentation of establishment and results of some other hydrobiologists - ecologists who are working on protozoa. Dendrograms which help identifications, introduce clearly the relationships, photos of living specimens, drawings of different authors, the lightmicroscopical and scanning-electronmicroscopical exposures of preparations made by up-to-date methods give extremely comprehensive knowledge of species. Introduction of species is so varied, that occasionally a scientist may become suspicious, whether it is the same species in every case, or not and may become unsure, whether it is possible to come to know Ciliata, at all? In case I should not admire the work and should not respect the authors, I would say: less would be more.

Unfortunately, I have my doubts about, whether a specialist of water conservancy (not a protozoologist) has enough time to give himself up entirely to identify a species. (Not rarely when such a book with relatively few species comes out, the "occurrence" of these species increases abruptly.)

Though in the fore-part there is an arrangement titled Konversionsfaktoren, Produktivität, Nomenklatur, but I think it would have been more fortunate to put it to the end of the evaluation. In my opinion this is the least successful part of all. I can recommend this book of wonderful get-up to all those who deal with protozoology, though it is rather difficult to handle it, because of its weight and extent. I had my book rebound into two volumes, so it is easier to handle and is worth the money.

The book is in German, its price is 80 DM.

Subscription: Bayerisches Landesamt für Wasserwirtschaft, Lazarettstr. 67, 8000 München 19.

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