

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

South African Journal of Botany 77 (2011) 805

SOUTH AFRICAN  
JOURNAL OF BOTANY[www.elsevier.com/locate/sajb](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/sajb)

## Book review

**Diversity, Phylogeny, and Evolution in the Monocotyledons**, O. Seberg, G. Petersen, A.S. Barfod, J.I. Davis (Eds.), Aarhus University Press, Aarhus, Denmark, 2010, Price €53.95, Soft cover, 663 pages, ISBN: 978-87-7934-398-6, Website: [www.unipress.dk](http://www.unipress.dk)

*Diversity, Phylogeny and Evolution of the Monocotyledons* includes 32 peer-reviewed papers (reviews and reports) by the world's leading specialists, based on presentations made at the Fourth International Conference on the Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons and the Fourth International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution, held in Copenhagen 2008.

These conferences are always held in a very friendly, constructive and joyful atmosphere and are a great opportunity to update oneself with the newest developments within the field as well as to cultivate network and collaboration. The proceedings from these meetings generally become standard reference papers for a number of years following their publication, because they present excellent reviews of specific fields, and often include the latest, preliminary and unpublished results, which may likely take several years to be formally published.

*Diversity, Phylogeny and Evolution of the Monocotyledons* covers contributions from the majority of the conference sessions. Each contribution is self-contained and can be extracted and utilized on its own. It is noteworthy that the number of contributions to the proceedings have halved from two to one volume since the Third International Conference on the Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons. In a time where researchers are often forced to consider impact factors

and other bibliometrics increasingly influence funding and career options, it is still gratifying to see such a range of excellent contributions to this volume. *Diversity, Phylogeny and Evolution of the Monocotyledons* should, as the previous volumes, be included in research libraries covering the field and should at least be glanced through by researchers in the field wanting to keep updated and seeking new inspiration.

Many of the chapters present the latest molecular phylogenetic work of their respective groups, but many chapters also go beyond this and use phylogenetic hypotheses to infer broader questions such as the evolution of mycoheterotrophy, drivers of diversification, species delimitation, biogeography, dating and origin of lineages and key-traits, polyploidy and hybridization in various Monocotyledonous lineages. Other chapters include work on epigenetics in *Dactylorhiza*, fossil records of grasses and aroids and grass, morphology and reproduction. A whole chapter is dedicated to the Danish diplomat Gunnar Seidenfaden's contribution to orchidology — a celebration of the great skills and enthusiasm shown by many professional and amateur scientists and lovers of Monocotyledons.

It is with great anticipation that we await the Fifth International Conference on the Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons hosted by the New York Botanical Garden, 7–13 July, 2013.

Nina Rønsted

*Natural Products Research, University of Copenhagen,  
Universitetsparken 2, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark  
E-mail address: [nr@farma.ku.dk](mailto:nr@farma.ku.dk).*