

A NEW JOURNAL: *FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT*. Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam. Published quarterly.

One could well question the need for another forestry journal, when at least 35 already exist in the English language alone, and many of these claim an international circulation. However, the Editor-in-Chief offers four main reasons why a new international journal of forest ecology and management is increasingly needed, namely:

- (1) To provide information necessary for forestry development in the tropical, subtropical and arid regions of the world.
- (2) To provide a forum for presentation of the knowledge necessary to maintain in perpetuity the world's natural and man-made ecosystems.
- (3) To overcome the "wide and continuing information gap" between resource managers and scientists.
- (4) To draw to the attention of forest managers, books, review articles, proceedings, etc., which are of importance in their subject.

These are all cogent reasons, and all are relevant to New Zealand forestry. But what characteristic sets this journal apart from our own *Journal of Forestry* and *Journal of Forestry Science*, both of which could claim to fulfil at least three of the reasons given? Only, I feel, its scope "embracing all forest ecosystems of the world". Time alone will tell whether such generality of approach is strength or weakness.

The Editorial Advisory Board comprises an impressive list of 29 forest scientists, representing 20 different countries, and including Professors P. J. McKelvey and F. J. Newhook. Europe and North America are well represented, but the list is disappointingly short for the subtropical and tropical regions, where some huge afforestation schemes are under way (e.g., the 300 000 ha/year *Eucalyptus* planting programme in Brazil).

In addition to its four papers, the first issue contains five book reviews, plus an interesting precis of a UN paper on the future utilisation of wood residues. The first paper in the new journal is by A. G. D. Whyte of the Canterbury University School of Forestry, who examines the forest manager's dilemma in deciding if and when to copper spray radiata pine plantations for protection against *Dothistroma pini*.

This is followed by two papers from the southern U.S.A., of particular interest to tree breeders in temperate regions;

but they lack the general application that the journal claims for its articles.

Probably the contribution that most nearly fulfils the Editors' objectives is a 27-page treatise on natural regeneration in tropical rainforest, by J. E. Fox of the W.A. Institute of Technology. To my (untrained) eye this looks like the "last word" on the subject, spiced with numerous examples, and with attention directed to rules of general application (*e.g.*, "The more intensive the exploitation, the fewer the possibilities for manipulation of light available to the silviculturist").

On balance I think this publication has made a promising beginning, with the first issue following in part the guidelines laid down by the Editors. My personal preference, however, would be for each issue of a journal like this to deal with a specific subject, bringing the world's available expertise together to bear on management problems which are relevant to a wide readership. One such subject could be the optimal siting of seed orchards for subtropical forestry schemes (a problem voiced by several delegates at the recent World Consultation on Forest Tree Breeding). I readily concede, though, that the editorial hassles would be tremendous!

If you want it for your bookshelf, the magazine is priced at U.S.\$46.95 for four issues; a free sample copy is available on request to the publishers.

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