



BOOK REVIEWS

Tree Planting and Management

The Hillier Book Of Tree Planting And Management by Keith Rushford, published by David Charles, Newton Abbot, 1987. 224pp. Available through Hodder and Stoughton Ltd, Auckland for \$39.95.

On the basis of his past writings, I approached Keith Rushford's book expecting a clear detailed account of amenity tree planting and management, particularly in the urban environment. I finished reading it somewhat disappointed at the content and still unsure to whom it was addressed. According to the blurb on the dust jacket this is "the authoritative guide . . . for estate managers, foresters . . ." etc. This is absolute nonsense, as it is not an authoritative guide on any aspect of forestry.

I was not totally disappointed in my expectations however: this is a clearly written, profusely illustrated book which is easily read and very well edited. However, if it was intended as a text on urban forestry it pales in comparison to Grey and Deneke's recent volume. Similarly, if it is intended as a guide to amenity trees in Britain it is not nearly so useful as Mitchell and Jobling's earlier book.

In short, if you have \$40 to spend on a light, easily read book about trees, this may be just what you are looking for. But if you want detailed information or discussion in depth, look elsewhere.

J.D. Allen

Southern Beeches

Southern Beeches by A.L. Poole - Wellington : DSIR, Science Information Publishing Centre, 1987.

The author, Lindsay Poole, has culminated his lifelong interest in the southern beeches with this very valuable and readable 148 pp book on the genus.

His book has been designed to provide a comparison of the southern hemisphere beeches, *Nothofagus*, and to surmise on how they are related to each

other both ecologically and genetically. The comparisons are carried yet further to the closely related northern hemisphere beeches of the genus *Fagus*. The theme is apparent in the chapter layout. The first of the eight chapters broadly describes the extant and fossil distributions of both *Fagus* and *Nothofagus* and also briefly mentions some of the other close relatives such as the oaks and chestnuts. Some of the history of nomenclature is recorded and a little on the hypotheses relating to origin, evolution and migration of these interesting genera.

The second chapter provides a brief description of the various northern hemisphere beeches - their distribution and a little on their taxonomy and ecology. This sets the scene for the following five chapters which systematically describe, in turn, the southern beech forests of New Zealand, Australia, South America, the New Guinea highlands and New Caledonia. In each case the resume is given of the ecology and distributional patterns of each of the species. Particular emphasis is placed on describing the forest communities of which they form a part and recording similarities in the components of these communities over the full range of the genus. Pests and pathogens are described and various aspects of the management of the forests are given for each different country.

The final, eighth, chapter provides morphological comparisons, particularly using pollen and bud veneration characteristics, to elucidate relationships between the various species of southern beeches. These comparisons are also extended to include the northern beeches. This chapter attempts to utilise information provided in the previous chapters to illuminate hypotheses attempting to explain the history of the southern beeches from an origin in Gondwanaland, through migration via continental drift, to present distributions in widely separated countries around the Southern Pacific basin.

The layout of the book is good, the text concise and readable, and scientific jargon at a minimum and certainly within the realm of understanding of most students of forestry or biology. Black and white photographs and diagrams are of good quality and illustrative of the text. The text has obviously been well vetted during the printing stage and mistakes are refreshingly few. The book is, for the most part, scientifically sound, considering it includes such a range of

scientific disciplines, though unfortunately a few instances do occur where information given has become outmoded. For instance, Poole relates the death of beech trees in New Zealand to outbreaks of the beech buprestid *Nas-cioides enysii*. This was formerly believed to be so, but subsequently this insect was exonerated and the blame related primarily to the incidence of ambrosia beetles of the *Platypus* genus. However, such shortcomings are few and detract little from the overall value.

Poole's book is of value to the phyge-nist and taxonomist of the Fagaceae, but it is also unique in that it compares and relates the forests between the various countries which together cover the geographic orbit of the southern beeches. As such it will form an invaluable addition to the library of those with a more general interest in the forests of this most fascinating region. It is an essential text to students of plant geography. As the author so rightfully points out, "the beeches as a whole remain attractive as one of the most promising tools in following the ancient pathways of flowering plants".

Poole's book restates the various hypotheses on the origin and migration routes of the species of this key group and discusses similarities and dissimilarities of extant species in this context.

John Wardle

Sweden forestry tour is on

The Elma Wood 89 Tour, referred to in recent issues of NZ Forestry, has been confirmed.

Departing from New Zealand in late May, tour members will attend the four-day Elmia International Forestry Fair in central Sweden, before enjoying an extensive study tour, visiting a wide range of forestry organisations, operations and geographical regions.

Virtually all interest in the venture has come from the farm forestry sector.

Enquiries welcomed

It may still be possible to accommodate one or two more tour members. Enquiries are welcomed by Project Organiser Kevin Jamieson, Phone (04) 781-165.