
REVIEWS

Water-Hyacinth (*Eicchornia crassipes*) Most Troublesome Weed of the World. By Brij Gopal and K. P. Sharma. (Hindasia Publishers, New Delhi), Price Rs. 125.

The book gives a general account of the morphological, anatomical, physiological, ecological and cytogenetical aspects of the aquatic weed water-hyacinth. Besides, its distribution, the damage it causes, the methods of control, its possible utilisation are also given. It is a good compilation with 1,457 references.

The manner in which this weed has spread and come to occupy large stretches of water in the country and the disadvantages that go with it are described nicely. The change in the thinking of man to use it, instead of fighting it, is highlighted and with this it is hoped that the plant becomes a blessing than a curse.

For the high cost of the book the paper used is rather poor.

The book can serve as a source book for information on the botanical and control aspects of this weed.

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Annual Review of Entomology. Edited by Thomas E. Mittler *et al.* (Annual Reviews Inc., Palo Alto, California, U.S.A.), Vol. 26, 1981. Pp. 490. Price \$21.00.

The latest volume in this well-known series of entomological reviews contains 17 articles covering a broad range of topics contributed by various specialists. Three of them deal with subjects concerning biological control of pests: natural and applied control of insects by Protozoa, the biology of mosquito predators of the genus *Toxorhynchites*, and selected successful examples of classical biological control that have mostly been reported over the last three decades. Field studies of genetic control of mosquitoes, using sterile male release, in compatibility and translocation systems, are summarised in another article. Two other reviews also relate to medical entomology: one on changing patterns of diseases caused by viruses and other pathogens transmitted by ticks to man, domestic animals and wildlife, and the other an ecological appraisal of Chagas' disease with special reference to the ethology and role of insect vectors in disease transmission and to contributory human social factors.

Palaeozoic insects and the phylogeny of insect orders are considered in two different articles. Insect pests of tomatoes and their management in Europe and the U.S.A., and the cereal leaf beetle problem in North America, following the introduction of this pest from Europe, form the subjects of two reviews. The other titles include: regulation of the juvenile hormone titer; insect behaviour, resource exploitation, and fitness; insect conservation; delayed neurotoxicity and other consequences of organophosphate esters; the nutritional ecology of immature insects; the biology of *Heliconius* and related genera; and the biology of spiroplasmas.

Author and subject indices are given and the chapter titles of volumes 17-26 grouped under major subject divisions are also listed at the end of the present volume.

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Colemania, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1981. An International Journal of Entomology, P.O. Box 2564, 123. Brigade Road, Bangalore 560 025.

This is the opening issue of a new journal that is expected to appear thrice a year and has an Editorial Board with several international specialists. The scope of the journal is quite broad, covering all aspects of entomology, and the present number of 70 pages contains nine papers, mostly taxonomic, and three short notes. There are also book notices, notes and news items of topical interest. The journal is named after the late Dr. Leslie C. Coleman, a Canadian agricultural scientist who served the former Mysore State Dept. of Agriculture for many years and in various capacities, finally becoming the State's first Director of Agriculture. Dr. Coleman did a lot of pioneering and outstanding work in agricultural entomology in India and the new journal deriving its title from his name is certainly a fitting and well-deserved tribute to his memory.

The journal is neatly produced by offset and has an attractive format. The individual and institutional subscriptions (Rs. 60 and Rs. 150, respectively) appear to be reasonable at the present cost of producing good scientific publications. Since there are few entomological periodicals of high international standard

published in India, the new journal should have a productive and prosperous future if it fulfils the aims it has set for itself.

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Inorganic Chemistry Concepts Vol. II, By Prof. P. L. Soni and Prof. Mohan Katyal. (Sultan Chand & Sons, New Delhi), 1981. Pp. 321, Price: Rs. 22.50.

The book covers some of the topics taught at the undergraduate level of some Indian Universities. The book is well-written and explains the subject matter with the help of large number of diagrams and figures. Most of the chemical reactions involved have been explained with the help of equations. The chapter on Principles

of Metallurgy has been very well written and the inclusion of the use of Ellingham Diagrams in explaining metallurgical principles is a novel feature of this book, which is not found in many text-books of Inorganic Chemistry. I consider the book adequate for the undergraduate students of Indian Universities. It may however be pointed out that the language could have been better. Often the book reads more like the class notes of a Professor rather than a text-book. The authors could have taken greater care in the correction of the proofs as there are many mistakes left uncorrected, for example sodium ion has been printed as N^+ . The authors may look into these shortcomings in the future editions of the book.

Except for the above shortcomings I consider this as a good book for the undergraduate students of our Universities.

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S. P. WALVEKAR.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF CHEMISTS, FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The first Annual Conference of the Indian Council of Chemists will be held at Agra on 20th and 21st September, 1981.

The principal objective of the conference will be to provide a forum for wide-ranging discussions and critical debate of recent experimental results and theoretical ideas in different fields of chemistry. The Conference will adopt the Constitution of the Council and shall elect its office-bearers.

The scientific programme will include invited papers, oral presentations, poster sessions and panel discussions. The highlight of the programme shall be a symposium on coordination chemistry and symposia in the field of organic and physical chemistry. Dele-

gates have to get registered by paying the registration fee of Rs. 30 only preferably by August 31, 1981.

Scientists are invited to submit two copies of the abstract (not more than 500 words) by August 15, 1981. One copy of the abstract must be sent to the Scientist-Incharge of the appropriate session and the other copy to Dr. Greesh Saxena, Department of Chemistry, R.B.S. College, Agra 282 002. Registered participants will receive a kit containing abstract book, programme, list of participants, etc., at the registration desk. Registration fee for accompanying adults is fixed at Rs. 30 only.

Address for Correspondence: Dr. Greesh Saxena, Department of Chemistry, R.B.S. College, Agra 282 002.