

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Current Trends in Geology—IX: Himalayan Thrusts and Associated Rocks** by P. S. Seklani, (Published by Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, 2413/5, Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110 005) 1986, pp. 290, Price: Rs. 395/-. US \$ 65.

This volume is a collection of 15 papers on tectonics of different parts of Himalaya, covering western, central as well as Nepal Himalaya. Although the title gives the impression that the Himalayan thrusts are the focus of attention, the subject matter of a few papers covers a much wider scope, such as "The types of structural records of orogeny in the course of an idealised cycle of plate tectonics" by Josef Jaros, "Deformation and strain history of rocks around Chamba, Himachal Pradesh" by A. M. Bhola and Yogesh Sharma, "Note on the possible linkages between Peninsular and Himalayan Precambrian belts" by D. P. Dhondal.

Local information on thrust tectonics in Garhwal and Kumaun Himalaya has been well-documented in the papers by P. S. Saklani and V. K. Bahuguna, M. R. W. Jonson, D. B. Yedekar and K. B. Powar. It may be pointed out that in the construction of balanced cross-section for estimating the shortening of the crust it is necessary to have precise knowledge of the stratigraphy in an unambiguous manner as well as determination of the state of matter (Rheology) of the rocks undergoing deformation. In the absence of such precise knowledge the estimation of shortening is to be treated with caution. The papers by Josef Jaros, Wieslaw Bogacz & Jozef Krokowski, A. K. Dubey and M. I. Bhat give a broad perspective of the possible course of evolution during orogeny *vis-a-vis* plate tectonics. The possibility of reactivation of basement faults may turn out to be an interesting topic of work for future research workers.

The attempt to bring out such a volume is indeed commendable. However, it would have been beneficial for the readers if the editor grouped the scattered papers into different parts based on the subject matter and given a summarized note for each part. The introduction given by the editor at the beginning of the volume does not serve this purpose.

As usual the price is beyond the reach of

individual readers.

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**Biology, Conservation and Culture of Orchids** by Suraj Prakash Vij, (Published for the Orchid Society of India by Affiliated East West Press Pvt. Ltd., 104 Nirmal Tower, 26, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, 110 001), pp. 452, Price Rs. 495/-.

This volume brings together the papers presented at a National Symposium on biology, conservation and culture of orchids organised by the Orchid Society of India at the Dept. of Botany, Punjab University during April 1985.

A total of 54 papers was presented out of which 46 are reproduced in this book by some of the leading orchidologists of the country. There is a historical account reviewing the researches on Indian orchids. The papers discuss embryology, cytogenetics, breeding, phytochemistry, physiology of flowering, *in vitro* seed germination and utility of some of these plants. There are articles on the regional floristics with special reference to the orchid species identifying the commercially viable genotypes. In his key note address Prof. Abraham has emphasised the potential application of plant tissue culture in the mass multiplication and improvement of orchids for commercialisation.

There is an update on chromosome numbers of Indian orchids by Dr. Vij *et al.* This will be very useful indeed for marker characters in solving various problems connected with the taxonomy and phylogeny.

The book has a large number of excellent photographs and a fairly comprehensive list of references at the end of each paper which should be useful to students, research workers, growers, breeders and phylogeneticists as well. Those who are interested in commercial cultivation of the orchids will miss an authoritative paper on the problems associated with the cultivation of orchids.

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