

This is an update of the 1972 edition and contains information about 356 culture collections in 52 countries. The directory of culture collections contains information on: address, curator, staff, main interests and functions and numbers of cultures of algae, bacteria, fungi, lichens, protozoa, tissue cultures, viruses (animal, bacterial, plant) and yeasts.

The catalogue also contains lists of valid names (Genus and species) for the organisms named in the collections.

The directory and catalogue will be useful to researchers and commercial interests in locating *bona fide* sources of microorganisms.

R. A. DATE

BOOK REVIEW

The Grasses of Southern Queensland by J. C. Tothill and J. B. Hacker and published by University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia 1983. \$A30.00.

This 475 page hard-backed book is a revision and major extension of the earlier invaluable 1973 book 'The Grasses of Southeast Queensland' by these authors. It includes all Queensland south of latitude 21° and records 140 genera and 584 species of grasses. This represents an increase of 36% in the number of genera and 67% in the number of species recorded in the previous work.

The book is an illustrated field guide to most (82%) of the grasses of Queensland. The book should have wide appeal to graziers, agriculturalists, naturalists, students and others interested in identifying and learning about the grasses of Queensland.

The format follows the previous work with Part I describing the vegetation, The Eastern Division by J. C. Tothill and The Western Division by W. H. Burrows. The regions comprise 26 geographic-vegetational units from coastal strand and foredunes to forblands of Western Queensland. These units are described in relation to the major tree, grass and forb components with a short agronomic comment and are illustrated with 14 photographic plates. Table 1 gives the distribution of grasses with respect to the vegetation units.

Part II comprises a description of the grass plant, pictorialized key and a detailed dichotomous key to generic level. The descriptive account, supported by stylized illustrations by J. B. Hacker, emphasizes the variation and taxonomic significance of the floral and vegetative organs, and is an invaluable aid to those not familiar with the peculiar characteristics of the grass family. The keys, supported by a useful glossary, are based on relatively simple characteristics and should be useable by most interested readers.

Part III contains detailed descriptions of 141 species. Information on occurrence and use is included. Following are keys to all species in the genera. Illustrations are on the opposite page.

In some instances, e.g., *Cynodon dactylon*, the detailed description section has not been updated to accommodate revised keys.

This book is a timely extension and updating of the previous work, and I am sure is a welcome addition to many bookshelves.

W. J. SCATTINI

NEW RELEASES OF PASTURE PLANTS

The following new pasture plant cultivars suitable for use in the subtropics and tropics have recently been released.

The cultivar descriptions have been extracted from the "Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars" which is published in the Journal of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science. The Registrar of cultivars is Dr. R. Oram, CSIRO, Division of Plant Industry, P.O. Box 1600, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601.