

BOOKS

Book review, by John Steel



Malcolm, W.M.; Malcolm, N. 2000. *Mosses and other bryophytes: an illustrated glossary.* 220 pp. H/back. Micro-optics Press, Nelson.
\$80.00.

This book has been a little time coming. I seem to remember it being mooted a couple of years back and then early in 2000 I received the advanced flier but it was not until November that I finally had a copy in my hot little hands. This is an excellent book with about 1500 entries supported by nearly 1000 colour photographs which, as well as serving particular references, also illustrate nearly 400 different species - all from New Zealand.

Technical terms can pose daunting problems to amateurs and professionals alike and this is especially so in less popular subjects like bryology. Even when explained in a glossary, one may still have difficulties interpreting a particular entry. Bill and Nancy's book, however, has overcome this, providing them with a vehicle for their superb micro-photography. The glossary is comprehensive. One excellent touch that appealed to me was that where an entry included reference to another term, this was not only given but briefly defined so I didn't have to go hunting it out elsewhere. I suppose it is natural for my deviant senses to try to find omissions but, try as I might, I could only come up with a few irrelevant (and doubtful) terms which were usually of a more general nature. I might have liked to see moss, liverwort and hornwort defined but accept that this could be outside the scope of the book.

The \$80 price tag may seem high but in my opinion this as good value as one can find. It is available from Manaaki Whenua Press, Box 40, Lincoln, who give a 20% discount to members of Botanical Societies (see next page). Or it may be ordered through the University Bookshop, Great King Street, Dunedin

Discounts from Manaaki Whenua Press – Don't forget that Manaaki Whenua Press is still offering members of Botanical Societies a generous 20% discount off all their publications except for their already bargain offer of all 5 volumes of the NZ Flora for \$100. As well as the bryophyte book reviewed above, they have stocks of the excellent field book "Lichens of rainforest in Tasmania" which we reviewed last year, list price \$44.95, and of Bill and Nancy Malcolm's latest "New Zealand Lichens", list price \$42.50 which we will review next issue. So do remember to mention that you are a BSO member when you order.

Arnolds Books, 11 New Regent St, Christchurch, are buyers and sellers of 'Antiquarian Natural History Books'. They put out a mouth-watering list of Botanical books for sale. Check them out on <http://www.bydesign.net.nz/arnold> books, or email: arnold@netaccess.co.nz