

BOOK REVIEW

The *Sphagnum* Ponds of Simmelried in Germany: A Biodiversity Hot-Spot for Microscopic Organisms, M. Kreutz, W. Foissner. Protozoological Monographs, vol. 3. Shaker-Publishers, Aachen (2006) (267pp., €30.00, Paperback, ISBN: 3-8322-2544-7).

The third volume of the *Protozoological Monographs* presents descriptions of 656 species of microscopic organisms (bacteria, protists, micro-metazoa) living in a wetland with ponds in southern Germany. The authors emphasize the extremely high biodiversity of this biotope which is inhabited by more than 800 tiny species, including many undescribed, rare and partially endemic ones.

Besides a general introduction, the short general part includes a characterisation of the Semmelried, the methods of sampling and investigation, and a list of the recorded ciliate species to exemplify the high biodiversity.

The main part of the book is dominated by the numerous high-quality micrographs of the organisms (supplemented by appropriate legends). Mainly differ-

ential interference contrast, but also bright and dark field as well as polarization techniques were used for documentation. Brilliant colour plates were assembled and supplemented by scanning electron micrographs depicting surface details. The structures are absolutely clear; no dirt or other deficiencies impair the pictures. This was accomplished by outstanding microscopic skills combined with the professional use of picture editing computer software.

The book is not designed for determination of microscopic organisms, but since it shows so many species – including common ones – it can be used as a valuable supplement. Hobby as well as professional microscopists will enjoy studying the photos and marvel at the diversity of bacteria, flagellates, algae, amoebae, ciliates, rotifers, crustaceans, worms, insect larvae, etc. in the *Sphagnum* ponds of Simmelried.

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