

advocating sustainable use and participatory research. A final summary of recommendations synthesizes the collective effort and suggests how the Mayan lowlands and *El Edén* might serve as an example of long-term human-ecology interaction.

The editors have borrowed from a truly interdisciplinary cross section of knowledge and compiled it into a logical and accessible volume. Although a glossary of Spanish and Maya words would have made the book a bit friendlier, a detailed table of contents and index create an easily navigable reference. *The Lowland Maya Area* would be a useful reference for any student, researcher, or development worker with an interest in the region.

ANTHONY AMEND
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HONOLULU, HI 96822
AMEND@HAWAII.EDU

Bejucos y Plantas Trepadoras de Puerto Rico e Islas Virgenes. Pedro Acevedo-Rodríguez. 2003. Smithsonian Institution, MRC-166, Washington, DC 20560. To order, contact the author by email: acevedo.pedro@nsmnh.si.edu. ii + 491 pp. (paperback). \$30.00, including shipping. ISBN 0-9743280-0-6.

For all those who know Pedro's other recent book (*Flora of St. John U.S. Virgin Islands*. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY, 1996), the quality of this new volume will be no surprise. This attractive and well-researched book lives up to the standards he set with that other contribution. Moreover, Bobbi Angell, who illustrated Pedro's first book and Scott Mori's *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Central French Guiana* (The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY, Part 1, 1997, Part 2, 2002), also did the line drawings for this book. That is another big plus for the quality of workmanship.

Some will consider the fact that this book is in Spanish a drawback. Others of us relish books in that language. For those who do not read Spanish, it will be easy enough to use the keys and descriptions by relying on words cognate with scientific English.

The book is laid out much like a scientific paper. It begins with a *Resumen/Abstract*. That is followed by an *Introducción* which includes general comments on morphology of stems in climbers, mechanisms of climbing and holding, and diversity and distribution, and methods. Then there are the acknowledgments, general references, and the systematic treatment. This is followed by a list of the specimens studied, those used to make the drawings, a glossary, an index of scientific names, and another to common names. In this time of a publisher's tendency to put photographs

and biographies of authors on dust covers, the inclusion of this on p. 491 is a pleasant surprise.

The introduction contains a series of black and white photographs showing some of the variations on the anatomical tricks that climbing plants have used to support their mass. There is a plate of line drawings of the methods used to climb and attach plants to their supports.

The systematic segment includes keys to larger divisions and then within, keys to each species. Each of the 386 species treated is illustrated with a line drawing, and we are told that the text covers 65 families and 187 genera. Some 278 are native, 34 endemic, 64 naturalized, and about 49 cultivated.

There is not an abundance of material directly addressing economic botany in the book. However, there are lists of common names for the species in Spanish, English, and sometimes other languages that should be of interest. For readers of this journal, the great value of this study will be the detailed illustrations that accompany the identification aids of keys, descriptions, and ranges. Many species have detailed dissections of living flowers along with habit sketches. For each species, the description is followed by phenology, status (exotic, cultivated, escaped, native, endemic, etc.), distribution within Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and elsewhere in the world. This is followed by public forests where the species has been found. Families have selected references in addition to the general citations given earlier.

Although there are not many of us who revel in plants with climbing life-forms, few are enthusiastic enough to name their children after them. Pedro Acevedo is one of two people I know of with a daughter named "Liana." That enthusiasm for plants comes through on each page of this valuable and pleasingly produced book. For everyone interested in plants, this is a steal at the price!

DANIEL F. AUSTIN
ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM
TUCSON, AZ 85743
DAUSTIN@DESERTMUSEUM.ORG

Na Msu'u kia 'i Kwara'ae/Our Forest of Kwara'ae.

Michael Kwa'ioloa and Ben Burt. 2001. The British Museum Press, 46 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3QQ Great Britain. 260 pp. (paperback). £24.00. ISBN 0-7141-2533-4.

Kwara'ae is the largest cultural group in the Solomon Islands with great national influence. Kwara'ae territory extends as a band across the island of Malaita with traditional communities primarily focused upon inland and upland agriculture and arboriculture. The Kwara'ae language has long served as the most important indigenous language for discussion of plants

Bejucos y Plantas Trepadoras de Puerto Rico e Islas Virgenes. By Pedro Acevedo-Rodríguez, illustrations by Bobbi Angel. 2003. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. ii + 491pp. ISBN 0-9743280-06 (softcover). Price not indicated. Contact P. Acevedo-Rodríguez, Dept. Botany, MRC-166, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012.

This volume on the climbing plants of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands originated in the U.S. Department of Agriculture publication "Los bejucos de Puerto Rico, Volumen 1" by the same author, in 1985. That first work has been completely rewritten, expanded (to 386 species, according to the abstract, but 387 species on p. 11), and provided with new botanical drawings of almost all of the species (one or two lack a drawing, depending on which count is accurate) treated as being native or naturalized to Puerto Rico and the adjacent Virgin Islands.

The book is well written providing keys to

plant families (pteridophytes and flowering plants) that have a climbing growth form. Further keys take the user to the genus or species level.

The entry for each species is quite useful: long plant descriptions and comments on phenology, status in the islands, ecological information and distribution within the islands and elsewhere, and where the plants can be found in the public forests. Additional comments are provided for some species on taxonomy and similar species, in several instances. Select literature references are clustered at the end of each family. A short synonymy and common names are provided for each taxon.

The line drawings of the species were rendered by Bobbi Angell and either show one species or details of several species per figure (plate); so a rather good economy of space usage was reached—many species being shown in much detail but including more species (385 species) than the number of figures (180 figures). Bobbi has done a very nice job of illustrating this volume.

The text includes explanations and aids for the user, such as a discussion of the morphology of climbing plants (including a few micrographs of cross sections of stems to show the variation in wood anatomy), and a glossary at the end of the book. Unusual to volumes that are also considered field guides is the extensive documentation of the herbarium specimens examined and the voucher specimens studied by the artist.

The scope of plants included may leave one wondering a bit—a few species are usually not considered climbing plants (e.g., *Desmodium*, *Blechnum*), however, it seems safe to include them in an inclusive field guide, so that if anyone might consider them as “climbing” the user would encounter them in the book.

The guide will be useful to a wide audience and, because of the inclusiveness of knowledge presented, will probably be useful for quite some time. This is not the usual field guide—it is more appropriately a flora of the climbing plants in its intensity and will satisfy the botanist and the ecologist, also.—THOMAS A. ZANONI, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458-5126.