REVIEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Names for dipterocarp timbers and trees from Asia. J.M. Fundter, 251 pp., 1982. Pudoc, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Price: Dfl. 80.00 (cloth).

This extensive catalogue consists of three main parts:

- 1: A list of vernacular and trade names, with their geographical origin and botanical identity (140 pp., c. 5,500 names!).
- 2: A list of botanical species names (mainly those accepted in Ashton's recent revision for *Flora Malesiana* – see *IAWA Bull.* n.s. 3: 166) followed by their vernacular and trade names, data on wood density and durability, and on ecology and distribution of the species.
- 3: A list of botanical synonyms. There is a long list of references (not cited elsewhere in the book) and a useful map of Asia, with a detailed subdivision into districts of the most important dipterocarp countries.

The book will be an invaluable guide in the jungle of trade and vernacular names for this important timber producing family. Some problems will remain: the author has marked 'preferred tree names' with an asterisk, but what to think of several of those preferred tree names for a single botanical species from the same restricted geographical area? The data on density show very wide ranges for some species, often related to geographical distribution. It would have been a blessing if for all individual species references were given to the relevant literature on density, durability class and distribution, enabling the user to increase his knowledge, or to judge the reliability of these data by himself. However, this would probably have led to expansion of the book by at least another hundred pages. So far we are already much indebted to the author for bringing the nomenclatural and technical information together.

Pieter Baas

The effect of cyclophysis on tracheid width and basic density in Norway Spruce. P.O. Olesen, 80 pp., illus., 1982. Forest Tree Improvement 15. Akademisk Forlag, St. Kannikestraede 6–8, DK-1169 København, Denmark. Price: D.Kr. 50.00 (paper).

This publication concerns an elegant and detailed study of differences between the wood of sexually and vegetatively reproduced Norway Spruce. The author studied tracheid width and basic density (in relation to growth ring width) as functions of distance from the pith

and/or tree height in no less than 46 sexually reproduced and 21 vegetatively propagated, mature trees, including stand-grown and open-grown individuals.

The results allow the following main conclusions: cambial initials derived from a mature apical meristem increase in width with increasing distance from the pith faster than cambial initials derived from a juvenile apical meristem. There is hardly any correlation between tracheid width and basic density, and the different behaviour of tracheid dimensions in sexually and vegetatively propagated trees is of no practical influence on basic density level.

Apart from these main themes, there are thoughtful discussions of factors other than degree of maturity of the apical meristem (cyclophysis) affecting anatomical and density parameters. Studies of this type are of great value in both fundamental and applied wood science. The present paper is the last in a series of studies published over the last 10 years.

Pieter Baas

Indonesian Forestry Abstracts. Dutch literature until about 1960. Compiled by a team coordinated by C.O. van Goor and Junus Kartasubrata, xviii + 658 pp., 1982. Pudoc, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Price: Dfl. 200.00 (cloth).

A wealth of literature on forestry and forest products in Indonesia was published in the Dutch language before the country became independent and the results of many important research projects thus remained inaccessible to the international community. The present, handsomely produced volume remedies this state of affairs by giving informative abstracts of 6,026 publications published before 1960. This Herculean task was undertaken as a co-operative venture by the Directorate-General of Forestry and the Forest State Corporation (both of the Republic of Indonesia) and the State Forest Service of the Netherlands and the Dorschkamp Research Institute for Forestry and Landscape Planning. Abstracts are classified according to the Oxford System of Decimal Classification for Forestry (ODC). Wood anatomy thus comes under Forest Products and their utilisation. 47 Abstracts deal with wood structure and identification; another 21 with various other anatomical aspects. To the readers of this Bulletin all 580 or so abstracts on forest products are of potential interest, and a good many listed under the headings 'Factors of the environment. Biology', 'Silviculture' and 'Forest

mensuration' as well. The information contained in the abstracts is at least sufficient to judge whether a paper is a 'must' for complete translation; often it is comprehensive enough to serve as a replacement of the original paper. This obviously depends on the needs of the user.

The compilers are to be congratulated with the appearance of this book. Two hundred guilders (c. US\$ 80) is not too high a price for access to the results of many decades of active tropical forestry and forest products research.

Pieter Baas

Pulping trials on *Pinus patula* and *Pinus radiata* grown in plantations in Kenya. E.R. Palmer, J.S. Johnson, S. Ganguli, J.A. Gibbs and A.P. Dutta, 56 pp., 1982. Report of the Tropical Products Institute (56/62 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LU, U.K.), L63. Price £ 4.90 (free to institutions in countries eligible to British Aid).

Data on bark content, wood density, fibre dimensions, chemical composition, and pulping properties of 5 *Pinus patula* trees and 3 *P. radiata* trees from three districts in Kenya. The results are compared with previously obtained data for *P. patula*.

Forest biomass. T. Satoo (translated and revised by H.A. Madgwick), vii + 152 pp. (illus.), 1982. Nijhoff/Junk, The Hague-Boston-London. Price Dfl. 80 or approx. US\$ 35.00 (cloth).

A review and discussion of the current knowledge on measuring forest biomass and on factors affecting biomass and rate of production. The book is an updated version of a text first published in Japanese.

Forest fire prevention and control. T. van Nao (ed.), xix + 236 pp., 1982. Nijhoff/Junk, The Hague-Boston-London. Price Dfl. 90.00 or approx. US\$ 39.50 (cloth).

This book contains the proceedings of an international seminar organised by the Timber Committee of the United Nations Economic

Commission for Europe, held at Warsaw, Poland in May, 1981. Apart from the small circle of specialised readers, the book should be welcomed by those concerned with environmental conservation. The quality of the camera-ready typing and its subsequent reproduction in print leave much to be desired.

Machine stress grading and nondestructive testing of wood. Compiled by Anne Handley, 48 pp., 1982. Annotated Bibliography No. F29. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Slough, U.K. Price: £ 10.15.

This bibliography contains 194 abstracts from the CAB database 1972–1982. It is a continuation of Annotated Bibliography F7 which covered the period from 1961 to 1971.

Making wood speak: An introduction to dendrochronology. Yvonne Trenard, 30 pp., 1982. Reprint from Forestry Abstracts 43, no. 12. Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Slough, U.K. Price: £ 5.50.

A very readable introduction to dendrochronology with an emphasis on methodological problems. The original French version is directly available from the author (Centre Technique du Bois, 10 Avenue de Saint-Mandé, 75012 Paris, France). The present translation is by K.E. Langdon, and was also published in Forest Products Abstracts. One wonders why the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux has become so overcommercialised by selling reprints at such a high price.

Chainsaw Lumbermaking. Will Malloff, vii + 211 pp., illus., 1982. The Taunton Press, Newtown, Connecticut, U.S.A. Price: US\$ 22.95 (hard cover).

According to the publishers this book 'will prove to be a valuable tool for all builders or craftsmen who want to mill their own lumber.' It is announced here for the benefit of those wood anatomists who keep in touch with their research material as amateur craftsmen.