

is to locate. Robin Foster reports that his collection was made quite by accident, when he slipped and fell traversing the landslide area, only to find this strange little fern virtually "under his nose." Even then, only careful scrutiny produced a dozen more plants. How many more inconspicuous ferns can we expect to encounter in the tropics—either by luck or through assiduous search—such as species of Hymenophyllaceae and Ophioglossaceae? Even the larger *Schizaea incurvata* has been reported but once from Peru. Obviously, awareness of special soil requirements or habitat preferences can increase the likelihood of finding certain rare ferns. North American collection reports inform us that *S. pusilla* usually is found "in wet, sandy areas" and "in sphagnum bogs"; and the Foster collection proved no exception to this. That is not to say the fern is not found in other, e.g., drier or rocky habitats, but according to Selling (p. 81, 1944): "It is distinctly a species which prefers moisture and acid soils." By their very nature, general and mass collecting expeditions will yield but a small percentage of such fortunate discoveries; but special awareness and advance preparation can raise the odds!

LITERATURE CITED

- SELLING, O. H. 1944. Studies in the recent and fossil species of *Schizaea*, with particular reference to their spore characters. *Acta Horti Gothob.* 16:1-112.
- TRYON, R. M. AND A. F. TRYON. 1982. *Ferns and allied plants, with special reference to tropical America*. New York: Springer-Verlag.

REVIEW

"*Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan, Volume 4*," edited by S. Kurata and T. Nakaike with the cooperation of the Nippon Fernist Club. 1985. x + 852 pp. + folding map. University of Tokyo Press. Yen 13,000. ISBN 4-13-061064-3.

The hundred pteridophytes depicted in volume four of this ongoing series bring us to the halfway point in coverage of the perhaps 800 Japanese taxa. The format of previous volumes, all previously reviewed (*Amer. Fern J.* 72:11, 1982; 72:48, 1982; 74:6, 1984) is faithfully followed.

Among genera wholly or partly contained in this volume are *Angiopteris*, *Bolbitis*, *Cyathea*, *Dryopteris* (31 species and varieties), *Equisetum*, *Gymnocarpium*, *Plagiogyria*, *Pteris*, *Tectaria*, and *Woodsia*. I noted an error in the spelling of *Pteris dispar* Kunze, a species whose two cytotypes were intensively studied and mapped by N. Nakato in *J. Jap. Bot.* 56:200-205, 1981. The tetraploid is northern, with larger spores and smaller scales than the diploid. Some authors have treated *dispar* as a variety of *Pteris semipinnata* L.—M. G. PRICE, Herbarium, North University Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.



Price, M G, Kurata, S , and Nakaike, T . 1987. "Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan, Volume 4." *American fern journal* 77, 65–65.

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