

## BOOKS NOTICES

SMITH, BRUCE D. 1995. **The Emergence of Agriculture**. (ISBN 0-7167-5055-4, hbk.). W.H. Freeman and Company, 4419 West 1980 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104, U.S.A. (801) 973-4660, (801) 977-9712 FAX. \$32.95. 230 pp, numerous b&w, color photos, and maps.

From the cover: "In *The Emergence of Agriculture*, well-known archaeologist Bruce Smith explores the initial emergence and early expansion of agriculture, and the transformations in human society that it made possible. Archaeologists have come to recognize that agriculture didn't just emerge in one or two places, from whence it spread to others, but was independently invented several times over, in widely separated parts of the world. In his book, Bruce Smith charts the course of the agricultural revolution as it occurred in the Middle East, Europe, China, Africa, and the Americas, showing, too, how basic archaeological methods and modern technologies such as plant analysis, radiocarbon dating, and DNA sampling are used to investigate this pivotal event. Although in the popular mind the agricultural revolution is often seen as a one-step transition from hunter-gatherer societies to farming ones, Smith shows how truly varied were the patterns of animal and plant domestication in different parts of the world." Contents include: Preface; In Search of Origins; Creating New Plants and Animals; New Technology and the Search for Agricultural Origins; The Fertile Crescent; Europe and Africa; East Asia; Middle and South America; Eastern North America and the Southwest; Epilogue: The Search for Explanations; Further Readings; Sources of Illustrations; and Index.

VENTOCILLA, JORGE, HERACLIO HERRERA, and VALERIO NUNEZ (Edited by Hans Roeder, translated by Elisabeth King). 1995. **Plants & Animals in the Life of the Kuna**. (ISBN 0-292-78725-1, pbk; 0-292-78726-x, hbk.). University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, U.S.A. 512-471-4032. \$12.95 (pbk.), \$25.00 (hbk.). 160 pp, 5 b&w photos, 33 line drawings, 3 maps.

"'The earth is the mother of all things...' begins this original and accessible book on how the Kuna Indians of Panama relate to the natural world. An integrative project involving Kuna traditional leaders and trained scholars, and fully illustrated by a Kuna artist, this translation of *Plantas y animales en la vida del pueblo Kuna* focuses on Kuna plant and animal life, social life, and social change as a means of saving traditional ecological knowledge and 'returning' it to the community." Contents include: Foreword by James Howe; Acknowledgments; Baba's Creation; Ready to Change; The Kuna; Rivers and Mountains; Terrestrial Fauna; Hunting in Gangandi; Money Creates Hunger; Submarine "Deforestation;" The Spirit of the *Uaga*; Medicinal Plants; The *Ueruk* Palm; To Be or Not to Be; Epilogue; Appendix A. (Scientific and Vernacular Names of Plants and Animals); Appendix B. (Kuna Communities); Glossary; Bibliography; Authors; and Index. The book is nicely illustrated.

REHM, S., EDITOR. 1994. **Multilingual Dictionary of Agronomic Plants.** (ISBN 0-7923-2970-8, hbk.). Kluwer Academic Publishers, 101 Philip Drive, Norwell, MA 02061, U.S.A. \$120.00. 286 pp.

From the Preface and Introduction: "This dictionary contains the names of nearly 2500 plant species, in some cases including subspecies and varieties. Tropical crops from all parts of the world receive the same attention as those from the temperate zone. Common names are given not only in English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish but also in many other languages, where such names are used in the technical literature.

'Agronomic plants' comprise not only the agricultural and horticultural crops but also pasture plants, green manure, soil covers, trees used in agroforestry, and major weeds. Purely ornamental plants have been excluded. Also included are plants which are presently being discussed as new crops, with considerable economic value.

The *Dictionary* includes five languages: English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish. The dictionary will meet the needs not only of scientists in agriculture, botany and geography but also those of agricultural extensionists, merchants in agricultural products and professional translators."

HUNTER, MALCOLM L. JR. 1995. **Fundamentals of Conservation Biology.** (ISBN 0-86542-371-1, hbk.). Blackwell Science, 238 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02142, U.S.A. (617) 876-7000, (617) 876-7022 FAX. \$42.95. 482 pp, numerous b&w illustrations.

From the cover: "The book focuses on what can be done to maintain biodiversity through management of ecosystems and populations. Starting with a succinct look at what conservation and biodiversity really mean and progressing to more complex topics such as mass extinctions, habitat degradation, and over-exploitation, Hunter creates a context in which the principles of conservation biology can be readily understood. Discussions of the social, political, and economic aspects of conservation biology issues are interwoven throughout the text and addressed independently in their own chapters. With a careful eye towards providing coverage that is balanced geographically, taxonomically, and environmentally, Hunter provides a superlative book that sets the standard in this increasingly important subject." Contents include: Preface; Conservation and Conservation Biology; What is Biodiversity; Species Diversity; Ecosystem Diversity; Genetic Diversity; Mass Extinctions and Global Change; Extinction Processes; Habitat Degradation and Loss; Over exploitation; Exotic Species; Managing Ecosystems; Managing Populations; Zoos and Gardens; Setting Priorities; Social Factors; Economics; Politics and Action; Epilogue; Literature Cited and Author Index; Species Index; and Subject Index.



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