

BOOK REVIEW

EDWARD F. ANDERSON. 2001. **The Cactus Family**. (ISBN 0-88192-498-9, hbk.). Timber Press, 133 S.W. Second Ave., Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204, USA. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, 800-327-5680, 503-227-2878, 503-227-3070 fax). \$99.95, 776 pp, 1008 color photos, 6 b/w photos, 3 drawings, 8 maps, hard-cover, 8" × 11".

This is another fine publication from Timber Press, this time by author Edward F. Anderson, who has spent over 45 years researching cacti and is currently in residence at the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona. The author brings a number of talents to the table, an ethnobotanical interest, a conservationist ethic, and exceptional photography. *The Cactus Family* is an encyclopedic reference to the genera of the Cactaceae family and is nothing short of landmark.

The book begins with five chapters covering introductory information on the science of cacti. Chapter one covers the distinctive features of cacti, such as growth forms, stems, roots, flowers, as well as chemistry, physiology, and distribution. Chapter two discusses the ethnobotany of cacti. This chapter thoroughly covers peyote, the San Pedro cactus, Saguaro, cacti for food and medicine, ceremonial and religious uses, as sources of dyes, and its role in horticulture. This chapter is highlighted by color photographs of indigenous people preparing cacti for a number of uses. Chapter three is devoted to the conservation of cacti, specifically *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and the legal protection of cacti. Chapter four is contributed by Roger Brown and covers the cultivation of cacti. Light, containers, potting media, water, fertilizer, air circulation, pests, and propagation are all covered in this chapter. Chapter five covers the classification of cacti, the problems with it, its history, and an overview of the cactus classification of the International Cactaceae Systematics Group. These chapters set up the bulk of the book, the encyclopedic reference for the family.

Covered in the treatment are 125 genera and 1810 species. For each taxon, its latin and common names are given, along with a description of the plant and a color photograph where available. There are 1000 color photos in all making this an invaluable resource for cactus lovers and investigators. An appendix of maps and botanic gardens and herbaria with significant collections of cacti, a glossary, literature cited, and indices of scientific and common names close the book.

There is no other book that comprehensively discusses the botany, conservation, cultivation and ethnobotany of cacti than *The Cactus Family*. This culmination of a lifetime of research this beautifully illustrated and exceptionally written treatment of the Cactaceae family that will be useful to the systematist, ethnobotanist, or conservationist among us.—Kevin D. Janni, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., kjanni@brit.org.



Janni, Kevin D. 2001. "Book Review." *SIDA, contributions to botany* 19, 718–718.

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