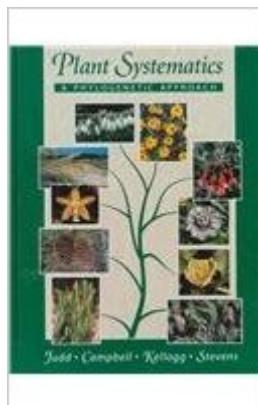


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Plant Systematics: A Phylogenetic Approach [With CD-ROM]



Synopsis

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There seems to be a pretty universal agreement that this is the book to have for those who want to keep up with what is happening in modern plant systematics. It is a wonderfully concise text that clearly states principles and gives good practical examples. Also it gives a good overview of the main groups in the APG-system (based on three genes combined with more traditional taxonomical characters). The conciseness is also, in a way, its weak point. It leaves out much that traditionally belongs in basic taxonomy texts, so that it is dubious how well this work is suited as an introduction to plant taxonomy. The many plant groups that are not treated detract from its usefulness as "system book". Another quibble is that the illustrations (line drawings) are all borrowed from other sources, so that style and quality varies.

Judd et al.'s text is the best systematics textbook I've encountered. The writing is very readable and understandable for both the undergraduate and graduate level. This book would be a good thorough text for either an undergraduate or graduate plant taxonomy course. In addition, it's a valuable addition to the shelves of professionals who utilize plant systematics in their work. It works well both as a reference and a straight-through read. Judd et al. use the theory-grounded, or phylogenetic approach to plant systematics and classification. This means that evolutionary assumptions are

made in classificatory schema. While their theoretical approach is explicitly stated and supported, the authors also present the alternative opinions. The text begins with a basic explanation of the field, then gives an insightful history of plant taxonomy, classification, and systematics. Specific problems and solutions for the plant kingdom follow. The information is very clearly presented and up to date, stressing an understanding of process.

This book is very good for teaching the modern systematics and taxonomy for undergraduate and graduated students. Examples of the new classifications in the book are based on morphological and molecular data in a phylogenetic context which is in this days the way to see any classification of living things. A weak point is that the authors give no references or web sites on where to purchase the softwares for the cladistic analysis so often performed and explain in their book. Otherwise I reccomend this book as primary refernce for those that will be teaching Plant taxonomy, Systematics, Advance Botany or, as a second reference for lectures such as Plant Morphology, and General Botany.

Last semester I used this book as textbook, and I think it is really wonderful book! It combined molecular development into plant taxonomy, and introduced many basic concepts and methods which was widely used in molecular research, but was not familiar to the undergraduate students. However, the author didn't pay much attention on the vegetative terminology, which gives readers some trouble.

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