



## Buchbesprechungen – Book reviews

COESEL, P.F.M. & MEESTERS 2013: **European flora of the desmid genera *Staurastrum* and *Stauroidesmus*** – 358 pp., 120 pl., 2013.

KNNV Publishing, Zeist, The Netherlands.

ISBN 978-90-5011-458-5

Price €99,95

*Staurastrum* and *Stauroidesmus* are among the largest and most difficult desmid genera. Due to the lack of reliable identification books for Europa, diverse interpretations of taxa names by different authors from different countries led to much confusion in the taxonomy of both genera. It was thus necessary to bring some order in their taxonomy. The present book is a critical flora of the European representatives of the genera *Stauroidesmus* and *Staurastrum*. The geographical area of this flora covers Europe ranging from Iceland and the Azores to the western border of the former Soviet Union. It includes 35 species (and 22 varieties) of *Stauroidesmus* and 211 species (75 varieties) of *Staurastrum*. In both genera, the species are listed alphabetically. For each taxon, a description and illustrations are provided, as well as the ecology and the geographical distribution; taxonomical or nomenclatural notes are added when necessary. For highly variable or confused species, accounted infra-specific taxa and excluded ones are listed. There is also a long list of excluded species, including synonyms, questionable taxa and taxa with questionable European records. The iconography (line drawings) is abundant and clear, arranged according to the affinities of the species, thus allowing an easy comparison between the taxa. It provides for each taxon the original drawings, when possible and useful, and other figures from the European literature, all redrawn at the same scale (600×) and sometimes somewhat simplified; a list is given of the original names used by the authors for all figures reproduced in the plates. Clear dichotomic keys are presented for the identification of the taxa; that for *Staurastrum* is divided into five sections according to the ornamentation of the cell wall. The authors propose a more strict delimitation of the genus *Stauroidesmus* than proposed by Teiling: only species with distinct spines or acute mucros at the angles of the semi-cell are included in that genus, whereas species marked by blunt papillae or angular cell wall thickenings are returned to *Staurastrum*. However, this character must be appreciated on a population; allotment of isolated specimens with reduced spines or mucros to *Stauroidesmus* will remain problematic (see pl. 1 fig. 10 or pl. 16 figs 1–4).

Five new taxa are described: *Stauroidesmus triangularis* var. *indentatus*, *Staurastrum bayernense*, *S. bispiniferum*, *S. borgei* and *S. hirsutum* var. *pseudarnellii* and a number of new combinations and new names are established. Because it is not feasible to

preserve a single cell as type specimen, and according to art. 40.5 of the code, given illustrations are designated as holotypes of the new taxa.

The book is very well set out, text, keys and illustrations are clear and easy to use. Not only it brings order in two complicated and often confused genera and fulfils the aims of its authors, "to provide a useful identification manual" but it is also a beautiful book that will be an important addition to the library of every desmidiologist or other person interested in the taxonomy of desmids, their beauty or their usefulness in water quality studies.

PIERRE COMPÈRE, Meise

NEVES, M.A., I.G. BASEIA, E.R. DRECHSLER-SANTOS & A. GÓES-NETO (eds.): **Guide to the Common Fungi of the Semiarid Region of Brazil**. TECC Editora 2013, 132 pages, paperback, color. Language: English & Portuguese.

Distributed by: Itasca Books.

Price: US \$34.95

ISBN: 978-85-65005-03-6

This guide is an introduction to the fungi that occur in the semiarid region of Brazil. Identification keys and detailed descriptions (in English and Portuguese), color images, and spore illustrations of over 80 species are included. In addition, a short introduction to the semiarid region and the Kingdom Fungi (in English and Portuguese), an illustrated guide to collecting, preserving, and describing the types of fungi covered (in Portuguese), and a glossary (in Portuguese) are provided. This book is of great value for students and professional biologists who are interested in the semiarid region of Brazil, for amateur and professional mycologists, and anyone who has a general interest in natural history.

WOLFGANG FREY