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DAFNI A, KEVAN P G & HUSBAND B C (Eds): **Practical Pollination Biology**. – [XV + 590pp, 51 figures, 67 tables, 150 x 230 mm, Hardback]. – **Publ:** Enviroquest Ltd, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada 2005; **ISBN:** 0-9680123-0-7; **Pr:** US \$ 62,-. – – – [EGR-Nr 3.023]

This volume represents a very useful first line of reference for students and researchers actively involved in pollination research. It provides a wide ranging synthesis of practical information, a compendium of methodologies (including 155 protocols), and a good quantity of useful background information on many aspects of pollination biology as provided by the group of 30 highly experienced specialist contributors. In addition, it provides a useful entry point into the massive pollination literature. This volume alone contains over 1400 references and therefore provides a valuable, though far from exhaustive, resource in its own right.

In each chapter the contributing authors have attempted to provide succinct introductions to their topic areas, followed by a description of useful research techniques for both laboratory and field studies presented as step-by-step protocols. Whilst this protocol style works well for most techniques presented, some are not sufficiently complex to justify a complete protocol in their own right, and others would be easier to follow if presented in alternative ways.

This book should be of interest to researchers working in almost all areas of pollination related research as it covers such a diverse set of topic areas: floral form, function and phenology (Chapter 1), plant breeding systems and pollen dispersal by biotic pollinators (Chapter 2), pollen and stigma biology (Chapter 3), floral advertisements (Chapter 4), floral rewards (Chapter 5), the role of pollinator behaviour (Chapter 6) and conservation in pollination (Chapter 7), abiotic pollination (Chapter 8), and the effects of microclimate on pollination (Chapter 8).

In keeping with the hands-on ethos of the book, it has been published in hardback with heavy gauge paper and stout binding with the express intention of making it sufficiently durable to accompany the reader on field work. Whilst this will certainly prolong the volume's life, it adds considerably weight which might mean in reality it gets left behind when packing for days in the field. Even if this book does not become an everyday travelling companion it certainly deserves a place on any pollination biologist's reference shelf.

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