



Review: BOOK REVIEW

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BOOK REVIEW

ARTURO GÓMEZ-POMPA, MICHAEL F. ALLEN, SCOTT L. FEDICK, JUAN J. JIMÉNEZ-OSORNIO (Eds.). 2003. **The Lowland Maya Area: Three Millennia at the Human-Wildland Interface**. (ISBN 1 56022 971 3, pbk.). Food Products Press, An Imprint of the Haworth Press, Inc, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580, U.S.A. (Orders: www.haworthpress.com, 1-800-429-6784). \$79.95, 659 pp., b/w illustrations, b/w photographs, 6" × 8".

The Lowland Maya have lived in the Yucatan Peninsula for over 3,000 years. This book takes an integrative approach in seeking to understand how the Lowland Maya have interacted with their environment so successfully without destroying its biodiversity. A total of 36 chapters, this book is a compendium of scientific and anthropological information from specialists in a wide range of fields including ethnobotany, ecology, geology, biodiversity, archaeology, horticulture, botany, anthropology, and history.

Areas of focus include the physical nature of the lowland environment, biodiversity, agriculture, interactions between plants and people, and a section on the future of the region. Included is a discussion of the impact of climate change on the area. The agriculture section includes an interesting chapter on the cultivation and distribution of the chocolate tree (*Theobroma cacao* L.), the possible use of periphyton as a fertilizer, and a chapter on bioprospecting plants and fungi in El Eden Ecological Reserve in Mexico.

The El Eden Ecological Reserve is discussed extensively with several chapters on its biodiversity including butterfly fauna, fungi, periphyton in wetlands, and ants. Chapters on the Maya view of fields and forests, traditional plant use, and anthropogenic plants document the Lowland Mayan concept of their environment, providing clues for their successful interaction with their world.

This is a "big picture" book filled with detailed chapters intended to help the reader understand that picture. The helpful "Summary of Recommendations" at the end of the book reviews this wealth of information and includes recommendations for the future.—*Marissa Oppel, Museum Assistant, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., moppel@brit.org.*

BOOK NOTICE

CARMEN ULLOA ULLOA, JAMES L. ZARUCCHI, and BLANCA LEÓN. 2004. **Diez años de adiciones a la flora del Perú, 1993–2003**. Arnaldoa. Edición Especial. Noviembre 2004. Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Privada Antenor Orrego, Apartado 1001, Trujillo, PERÚ. (Contact: asagastegui@upao.edu.pe). Price not given, 242 pp., 6 1/2" × 9 1/8".

Summary.—"Of the 1845 new additions to the Peruvian flora, 840 are new taxa described from Peruvian material, 669 names are new records for Peru, and 336 are taxonomic changes. The new total for the flora is 18,652 species of seed plants. Some 480 new bibliographic records are listed."