

obsoleta and the consequent elevation of *E. o. spiloides* to a species (as *Elaphe Spiloides*) which now includes all Ontario populations (Burbink et al. 2000; Burbink 2001).

The book concludes with a four-page Glossary presenting an English translation for genus, species, and subspecific names, and an 102-page Bibliography. I did not note any more recent than the year 2000. Citations in the species accounts reference sources for most but the more general statements allowing them to be verified and/or searched for additional information.

Its through synthesis of the literature will make this

a standard reference for years to come for both researchers and naturalists with any interest in snakes.

Literature Cited

- Burbink, E. T. 2001. Systematics of the eastern rat snake complex (*Elaphe obsoleta*). Herpetological Monographs 15: 1-53.
 Burbink, E. T., R. Lawson, and J. B. Slowinski. 2000. Mitochondrial DNA phylogeography of the polytypic North American rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*): a critique of the subspecies concept. Evolution 54(6): 2107-2118.

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BOTANY

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Trees

By David More and John White. 2002. Timber Press, Inc., 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, Oregon 97204-3527, USA www.timberpress.com; hardcover, 800 pages. U.S. \$79.95.

This is an absolutely beautiful book. Usually with one and a half pages per species are presented: painted illustrations of trees, flowers, fruits and leaves, often at different stages in spring, summer, fall and winter "found in Britain, France, Germany and the Low Countries – common or rare, native or introduced, growing wild or cultivated in arboreta, parks and gardens", by artist David More.

The accompanying text written by John White describes the native range of each species, approximate time of its introduction into cultivation, where it came from, the preferable habitat, various cultivars and various additional interesting information.

All of this is in family sequence beginning with the Ginkgo family and ending with the Palm family. Over 1000 species are treated.

The book begins with a Table of Contents of two pages, two pages of Foreword and an Introduction of eleven pages with descriptive information including a list of trees for problem sites or special needs. It is completed by a Glossary, an Index of Scientific Names and an Index of Common Names. Its weight is about six pounds and for that reason should be best either kept at home or in an office and not carried into a garden or arboretum.

One thing that was not mentioned in the text is the possibility of a cultivated tree species invading into open or non-cultivated areas. Three species that have spread extensively in some areas in the vicinity of Toronto are Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*).

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Carnivorous Plants of the United States and Canada: Second Edition

By Donald E. Schnell. 2002. Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon. 468 pages. U.S. \$39.95.

This book contains a wealth of information and absolutely beautiful colour pictures of 55 carnivorous plants which occur in the United States and Canada, some as far north as the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Alaska. It is a tremendous step ahead of the author's first edition which was published by John F. Blair in 1976 and numbered 125 pages.

In the new edition, there is a short three-page Preface in which the author calls attention to the changes, developments and explanations in the following text, the elimination of the cultivation chapter, comments about the photographs and thanks to many unnamed individuals and especially to his wife, Brenda.

The next 68 pages are devoted to Carnivorous Plants: An Introduction under the following headings: Carnivorous or Insectivorous, General Characteristics Related to Habitat, Must Carnivorous Plants be Carnivorous? Trapping Mechanisms, How Traps Attract Prey, Carnivorous Plant Communities, Carnivorous Plant Habitats, and Some General Notes on Cultivating Carnivorous Plants. All of these sections contain interesting information.

This is followed by the chapters Venus Flytrap, Eastern North American Pitcher Plants, California Pitcher Plant, Sundews, Butterworts, Bladderworts and Other Possible Carnivorous Seed Plants. Within each of these chapters is easy to read information on the families, genera and species, scientific names, and common names, descriptions, flowering seasons, dis-