

## BOOK REVIEW

*'The Grasses of Southern Queensland'* by J.C. Tothill and J.B. Hacker  
(Publishers: University of Queensland Press) 1983.

This book is a comprehensive illustrated field guide to most (82%) of the grasses of Queensland. The present title does not do justice to the area covered in the text – maybe 'Central and Southern' would have been more descriptive of the area of Queensland covered. Notwithstanding the pedantics, the book should have wide appeal to pastoralists, agriculturalists, naturalists, students and professionals interested in studying and identifying the grasses of Queensland. At \$19.95 this 475 page hard-backed book is true value for money.

This edition is a revision and a major extension of the earlier successful work, 'The Grasses of Southeast Queensland' (1973), by the same authors. It now includes all of Queensland south of latitude 21°, recording 140 genera and 584 species of grasses, an increase of 36% in the number of genera and 67% in the number of species recorded in the previous work.

The format follows the previous work with Part I containing a classification of the region into 26 geographic-vegetational units ranging from strand and fore-dunes on the coast, to the channel country and arid interior spinifex. These are described in relation to the grass flora and illustrated by 14 photographic plates. Of particular value is a concluding table that records the distribution of all the grass species in relation to the vegetation units.

Part II introduces, describes and illustrates the grass plant followed by a pictorialized key and a dichotomous key to generic level. These are invaluable aids to those not familiar with the characteristics of the grass family. The keys, supported by a useful glossary, are based on relatively simple characters and should be within the range of most interested readers.

Part III, comprising most of the book, contains detailed descriptions of 141 species representing the 140 genera recorded. Included is useful information about the economic importance of the species and their ecological distribution. Following are keys to all species found in the genera. Throughout the format is consistent, with illustrations being placed on the opposite page.

For those who want to delve deeper into the grass flora, they will find the book well referenced throughout.

It is disappointing that it was not opportune to include the grasses of the northern part of Queensland in this edition – the deficiency is only some 19 genera and a little over 120 species. However, the success of the current edition no doubt will encourage the authors to rectify this situation at a later date.

*Eric Anderson*

---

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### Man in the Centre

Proceedings of a Symposium held at CSIRO, Alice Springs, in April 1979. Published by CSIRO Melbourne 1983.

ISBN 0 643 03508 7 . . . . . 232 pp.

These proceedings bring together knowledge of the 'Centre' in papers on such topics as the description of the physical and biological inheritance, the coming of European man, development of resource knowledge, existing resource use, society as resource managers and future resource problems. Contributing authors are drawn from CSIRO, State Government organisations, universities, consultants and private individuals.

The cost of this publication is \$8.00 and anyone wishing to purchase a copy should write, enclosing a cheque, payable to CSIRO, to:

Gillian Crook  
CSIRO Division of Groundwater Research  
Private Bag, P.O.,  
Wembley, W.A. 6014.