REVIEW

JUDY WHEELER, NEVILLE MARCHANT & MARGARET LEWINGTON: **Flora of the South West. Volume 1.** Flora of Australia Supplementary Series 12. University of Western Australia Press, Crawly, Western Australia, 2002. xiv, 470 pp., illus. ISBN 0-642-56814-6. Ibid., **Volume 2.** 502 pp., illus. ISBN 0-642-56815-4. Sold as set: ISBN 0-642-56816-2. Price: AUD 165 (2-vol. set in slipcase).

This two-volume book deals with the flora of a small area along the south-western coast of Western Australia between Bunbury and Albany. The format of this Flora is rather different from that of most Floras. After the introduction, which describes the area and its flora and introduces the reader to the key and the main characters used, the book is divided into two sections: the Key Section (221 pp.) and the Plant Families Section (751 pp.). The key in the first section is of a format for the greater part different from 'normal' keys. The primary divisions in the key use two sets of characters: Petal colour (including perianth and inflorescence colour) and flower-shape (2/3, 4, 5, 6 petals, pea flowers, daisies, orchids, others, heads, spikelets). Each group formed in this way has a normal key that leads to a genus name in the Plant Families Section. All entries in the key are illustrated. In the Plant Families Section keys are absent; however, all species are described and illustrated with at least one drawing of a detail. Larger genera are divided into groups which are described to guide you in identification.

The wealth of illustrations give the book a pleasant appearance. It is well printed in a clear layout. However, the lack of keys in the Plant Families Section may make it less user-friendly than the authors intended it to be. The book is recommended for all who want to identify plants from the Australian South West.

FRITS ADEMA