REVIEW

D.S. LITTLER & M.M. LITTLER: **South Pacific Reef Plants, a divers' guide to the plant life of South Pacific coral reefs.** OffShore Graphics, Inc., Washington DC, 331 pp., many illus. ISBN 0-9678901-9-5. Price: USD 45.

Those who know the book on Caribbean reef plants that recently has been published by the same authors, certainly had high expectations about this South Pacific counterpart. They will not be disappointed, although the subtitles of both books (that for the Caribbean reads: "an identification guide to the reef plants…") do already indicate the differences.

The present book is a 'user-friendly' introduction to c. 370 marine plants of the immense region, which is delimited to the north by the Equator, to the east by French Polynesia, to the south by the Tropic of Capricorn and to the west by Papua New Guinea. This divers' guide is meant to only scratch the surface in the identification of the hundreds of reef plants from such a vast area. The authors, however, made more than 2200 SCUBA dives over a ten year period to take the over 440 marvellous photographs. Although meant to be a divers' guide, its contents are of high scientific quality and contain keys to the genera, information on key characters (specific external features), complete scientific names, including data on publication of these names, a short and concise description, data on habitat, abundance, geographical distribution, classification and type locality. Separately also the depth and locality are given where the photograph has been taken. The nice drawings of morphological details that give the final touch to 'Caribbean Reef Plants' are piteously missing, but one can genuinely enjoy the colourful and well-prepared contents of this useful book.

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