

New Book on Cryptocoryne

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A recent German language publication by Niels Jacobsen entitled "Cryptocorynen" is an important addition to the understanding of this important aquatic genus which has always been a favorite of aquatic plant growers and fans of aquaria. The work was published in 1982 by Alfred Kern Verlag, Zweigniederlassung der Reimar Hobbing GmbH, Stuttgart and is a later updated German language edition of a 1979 book printed in Danish. Even for those unable to read German it is a must for any aroid lover and especially anyone with an interest in aquatic plants. The book treats the fifty species of *Cryptocoryne* and illustrates most of the species with line drawings or photographs, many of them in color. The close-up photographs of the inflorescences in color are particularly noteworthy. There is an extensive introduction with a discussion and illustration of the complex floral parts of *Cryptocoryne* as well as a good discussion of other morphological aspects of the genus, including fruits, the vegetative parts and chromosomes. Special attention is paid to the ecological requirements of *Cryptocoryne* and includes many habitat photographs. It also pays special attention to the growth requirements of *Cryptocoryne*, something so essential to those interested in cultivating these interesting plants. Finally the genus is divided into a number of groups or species complexes with all species in each group discussed in detail, including detailed growth requirements for many individual species.

There have been other revisions of *Cryptocoryne*, notably by de Wit (1970, 1971) and by Rataj (1975), there have been no works printed with so much detail given on the ecology, propagation and growth of the genus. The book will be a splendid addition to anyone's library.

Literature Cited

- Rataj, K. 1975. A revision of the genus *Cryptocoryne* Fischer, Studie CSAV, 3, Academia Praha, 113 pp., 63 figs.
- de Wit, H.C.D. 1970. A key to the species of *Cryptocoryne* Fisch. ex Wydl. (Araceae), Belmontiana, Miscellaneous Papers 6:257-280. (includes original descriptions of 7 new species with illustrations of 2 of them and photographs of 10 additional species)
- , 1971*. Aquarienpflanzen. Ulmer Verlag, Stuttgart
- *I have not seen the 1971 volume but according to Niels Jacobsen it differs substantially with de Wit, recognizing 64 species (including 1 hybrid) whereas the Jacobsen revision recognizes 54 species (including 1 hybrid).