

footsteps of the great American bamboo experts—the Floyd McClures, Cleo Calderóns, and Thomas Soderstroms of the world—and without a doubt they have done so.

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A Plague of Rats and Rubbervines: The Growing Threat of Species Invasions.

Yvonne Baskin. 2002. Island Press, Washington. Pp. vii + 377; photographs, appendices, notes, index. \$25.00 (hardcover). ISBN 1-55963-876-1

Non-indigenous species can cause great economic damage, irreversible ecological changes, and significant public health impacts. Executive Order 13112 of 1999, which established the National Invasive Species Council, has placed invasive species issues firmly on the United States' domestic policy agenda. In addition, invasive species have been elevated to the international trade and environmental policy agendas through a variety of international agreements, particularly the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS). The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (U.S.A.) (2002) has recently published a volume on invasions of non-indigenous plants and plant pests. International non-governmental scientific organizations like the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) have also made invasive species a priority. Baskin's book had its origins in the desire of SCOPE's Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) to produce a volume that could communicate these issues to the broadest possible audience.

The aim of the book, then, is to provide a fresh, comprehensive, and accessible view of the problems of invasive species. Specifically, Baskin emphasizes the global scope of invasive species problems—especially in relation to global trade—and devotes considerable space to the search for creative means of interdiction and control of non-indigenous species. The book is intended for a very broad, non-specialist audience.

The book's coverage is quite comprehensive, including chapters on the history of invasive species worldwide, agricultural pests, impacts of invasive species on biodiversity and the environment, and global trade. For a general audience, Chapter 6 is a particularly good review of recent research on predicting invasiveness from species and habitat traits. There are also chapters on quarantine and interdiction in relation to trade, and case studies of control efforts in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and the Galápagos Islands. The book closes with a sound set of policy and action recommendations.

Overall, the book achieves its desired aim, though whether it inspires the action it promotes will remain to be seen. Certainly the book is well written and engaging, and is very appropriate for its intended audience. Baskin's liberal use of anecdotes and quotes from interviews enhances the book's appeal to a general audience. As far as teaching is concerned, the whole book might be usable for an

honors non-majors' environmental science course or an undergraduate topics course (with supplemental readings from the primary literature). Portions of the text would also be suitable as assigned readings in a wide array of courses, especially Chapter 6.

REFERENCE CITED

National Research Council. 2002. *Predicting Invasions of Nonindigenous Plants and Plant Pests*. National Research Council, Committee on the Scientific Basis for Predicting the Invasive Potential of Nonindigenous Plants and Plant Pests in the United States. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C.

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Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge: Equitable Partnerships in Practice. Sarah A. Laird (ed.). 2002. People and Plants Conservation Series. Earthscan Publications, Ltd., London. Pp. 288. \$40.00 (paper). ISBN 1-85383-698-2

The primary aim of this outstanding book is to provide a broad overview, synthesis, and open discussion of practices and processes concerning fairness and equitable partnerships between north and south in biodiversity research and bioprospecting. The book is primarily oriented toward the applied social and natural scientists. The authors stress the need for addressing the practical use of concepts of equity developed in recent years and understanding the dynamic, rapidly changing contexts in which these concepts continue to evolve. The authors do not downplay the complexity of the issues.

The authors address questions such as: "What does equity mean?" and "How is equity practiced?" It is not an instruction manual, but rather a synthesis of information for informed experimentation, planning, and learning by stakeholders involved in the practice of ethnobiology. The chapters consistently provide well-written, balanced perspectives with thorough discussion of the issues, and they demonstrate a fine-tuned development of ideas. Clarity of expression and the use of well-defined policy terminology make the book accessible to a wide range of readers. It provides in-depth analysis of the complexities and challenges of globalization, intellectual property rights, and benefit sharing, yet the tone remains hopeful at a time when some are exiting the bioprospecting field in frustration.

The section on biodiversity research relationships—the longest in the book—lays the foundation for much of what follows. It covers topics such as codes of ethics, research guidelines, examples of policies, publication issues, balancing concerns, and "giving back" guidelines. The section emphasizes the need for biodiversity researchers and bioprospectors to re-evaluate their assumptions and ethical standards and to participate in the creation of national and international policy. Many sidebars and case studies from a diverse set of institutions flesh out