

LITERATURE CITED (continued)

- Termites, Vol. II (Kumar Krishna and F. M. Weesner, eds.). Academic Press, New York.
- WILLIAMS, O. L. 1946. Wood preference tests. Pp. 572-573 in *Termites and Termite Control* (Charles A. Kofoid, ed.). Univ. California Press, Berkeley.
- WOOD, W. RAYMOND and DONALD LEE JOHNSON. 1978. A survey of disturbance processes in archaeological site formation. Pp. 315-381 in *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory I* (Michael B. Schiffer, ed.). Academic Press, New York.

NOTE

¹To distinguish naturally black items from those turned black by exposure to heat, one can gently scratch the specimen against a piece of white paper, and a carbonized item will generally leave a slight streak or smudge.

Book Review

The Desert Smells Like Rain: A Naturalist in Papago Indian Country. Gary Paul Nabhan. San Francisco: North Point Press, 1982. 148 pp., illus., \$12.50.

From an overture punctuated by spadefoot toads and desert thunderstorms, to a *pastorale* of bird-song around a desert oasis, and a crescendo of *marachi* and Papago polka bands, **The Desert Smells Like Rain** presents an intimate view of the Sonoran Desert and its native people. Ethnobiologist Gary Nabhan shares his experiences and insights while studying run-off agriculture and traditional crops in the borderlands of Arizona and Sonora. These adventures include a trek to *I'toi's* cave in the Baboquivari Mountains, a visit to a saguaro wine-drinking and rain-bringing ceremony, expeditions to two relic oases in the desert, and a pilgrimage to the *Fiesta* of San Francisco Xavier in Magdalena, Sonora. Along the way he introduces the reader to his Papago acquaintances, who are more friends than just informants.

In other chapters, Gary Nabhan explores the relationship between the disappearance of traditional foods and dietary patterns and the endemic increase of diabetes, cardiovascular problems, and other nutrition-related diseases among the Papago. He also examines the native view of the indigenous wild relatives of important cultivated plants. Wild tepary beans, gourds, cotton, and tobacco are all considered to be plants that Coyote, the trickster deity, has stolen or otherwise spoiled. An important theme throughout **The Desert Smells Like Rain** is Papago cognition of the changing hydraulic regime of the Sonoran Desert and the abandonment of traditional floodwater farming.

Ethnography, germplasm conservation, linguistics, and traditional agriculture are interwoven with insight, myth, and humor in **The Desert Smells Like Rain**. An extensive collection of notes and references is included, but in the back of the book where it doesn't interrupt the flow of the text.

Gary Paul Nabhan should be added to the list of authors that includes Alfred Russel Wallace, Charles Darwin, Edgar Anderson, and Stephen Jay Gould, natural history writers with the unique talent of being able to present a tremendous amount of information in an enjoyable and very readable style.

CHM