point is not fully discussed) because the salt deserts are often found in physiographic situations with enhanced moisture as well as salt in the soil. To quote, "Maritime salt marshes . . . comprise areas of land bordering on the sea, more or less covered with vegetation, and subject to periodic inundation by the tide. . . . Salt deserts, on the other hand, are inland areas carrying a similar or almost identical type of vegetation." Although not excluded by the definition of salt marshes above, mangroves were not discussed. The criteria for excluding coastal, tidal communities (such as mangroves) and for delimiting salt desert seems to be the presence of a similar type of vegetation throughout, based largely on the plant community approach.

The heart of the text is a thorough discussion of salt marshes, in much detail for England and becoming more attenuated with remoteness from the general North Atlantic region. The focus is primarily vegetational, with an emphasis on diagrammatic "successional" relationships. In this broad synthesis, the author points out the difficulties inherent from the different terminology and methods of study used by various researchers. For the nonspecialist reader this difficulty is greatly compounded. I feel that the enthusiasm of some plant sociologists for reducing communities to an orderly sequence of names has almost forced the awakening of the schools which emphasize the species-level approach to vegetation. In the present text the very commendable section on autecology could have been expanded profitably. A further help would have been the inclusion, early in the book, of a table setting forth the species named throughout, in their taxonomic relationships, together with life form or similar means of bringing the names to life for a reader in another part of the world. The illustrations are numerous and seem well chosen. They were not always fully intelligible to me; this is more so for materials close to the author's background and work. I felt somewhat like an intruder when confronted with places whose names were given or which were even mapped on a very local scale, but which diligent use of an atlas failed to reveal.

I have included these criticisms, which certainly are minor considering the scope of Chapman's valuable work, as suggestions for the forthcoming publication on mangroves, and as a plea for further recognition by authors of the fact that a work as important as this one will have an international audience, the members of which simply are unable, with the references reasonably available to them, to enter on terms of familiarity into a discussion of local situations.

A world map showing the extent of salt marsh and salt desert vegetation would have been very helpful. This map would better define the world-wide extent and importance of these areas and would help in locating local areas. It would also clarify whether a given area, which may be known to the reader, had been omitted from the discussion because of limited space or because it was not considered to meet the criteria for the book.

Little discussion is included on the animal life and the nature of the ecosystem in the several areas. A special dividend for the botanist is the care given to including the algae of those areas for which information was available. Very interesting are the reports of mosses in certain northern salt marshes. Throughout there are excellent cross references for the discussions. *Salt Marshes and Salt Deserts of the World* advances significantly our understanding of one of the world's partially remaining frontiers of agricultural and scientific knowledge.

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