of systematic questions in order to provide explanations about the diversity of organisms within the frame of the theory of evolution." A very brief historical outline of the development of plant systematics concludes the chapter. Chapter 2 is devoted to the structure of natural populations, mutations, recombination, selection, and gene flow. Chapter 3, "Patterns of phenetic variability," deals with the interaction between heredity and environment. Subsequent chapters are devoted to "Breeding systems," "Speciation," "Hybridization," and "The species problem and classification."

In part 2 four chapters are devoted to major experimental techniques—genetics, cytology, chemistry, and mathematics and statistics. The final chapter reviews the combinations of techniques that may be needed for interpreting biosystematic relationships among diverse groups of plants. A glossary and a bibliography follow.

The author has obviously devoted much thought to the organization and writing of this volume with the student reader particularly in mind. Carefully selected examples illustrate basic principles, and no attempt is made to be exhaustive. The clearly written text reflects the author's thorough mastery of his subject, and his frequent mention of the still very incomplete state of our knowledge of plant relationships should serve to stimulate students to explore on their own. Solbrig's book is most timely and fills an urgent need in teaching a relatively new and highly promising field of botany.

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