

Literature

Coulianos, Carl-Cedric & Ingmar Holmåsen 1991: *Galler. En fälthandbok om gallbildningar på vilda och odlade växter*. Interpublishing. Stockholm. 317 pp. + 277 figs. ISBN 91-86448-29-3. Price SEK 380. ["Galls. A field guide to galls of wild and cultivated plants." in Swedish].

According to the modern view, galls are defined as a formation resulting from abnormal growth of plant tissues, growth caused by a parasite. The parasites causing galls belong to diverse groups of organisms: fungi, mycoplasmae, bacteria, seed plants, nematodes, mites, insects and even viruses. Galls may be advantageous to the plant (as with mycorrhiza), but generally they are injurious. They are of special interest to scientists in applied biology, but also to biologists with general interests. Because of their certain degree of host specificity, the taxonomist can use galls as a tool in determination of the organism causing the gall.

The present book reviews the studies of galls in Scandinavia (i.e. Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland). The introductory chapters deal with definitions, biology or ecology of galls, gall causers, the history of gall research in Scandinavia, and contains instructions for collecting galls. Then follow 90 pages of keys to gall causers, arranged in alphabetic order of plant genera; 1100 different galls are treated in the key. The 277

excellent colour photographs make this guide highly attractive to the reader. A reference list (about 150 entries) is also included, as well as, a glossary, indexes to Swedish plantnames, galls and gall causers.

This guide is especially designed for amateur biologists in Scandinavia, as the Swedish language, at least to some degree, is understood in any of the countries, and it is so competently written that it is very useful for the scientist as well. Although the number of species of gall causers is limited, it includes a long reference list for use in further studies. Practically the only shortcoming, in my view, is the lack of synonymous generic names of the plants. As all genera come in alphabetical order, some plant species could be hidden in a less well-known combination, like *Arabis glabra* instead of *Turritis glabra*.

I consider this guide to be a tool without which many field biologist cannot get along.

Larry Huldén