

Grönland. Ein kleiner Pflanzenführer.

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The book is written in German and represents a typical guide book. Formally, it is divided into three main parts each of which brings different information. Subtitle of the first one: *Travel Diary* reflects perfectly content of the first part. It describes numerous sites worth to see not only from botanical point of view but also brings exhaustive information on geography of particular sites, natural monuments, history and heritage sites and local people. It represents a comprehensive source of travel information as it covers places from south to north of Greenland, exactly as a headline „From Kangerlussuaq to the Nares Strait (NW Greenland)“ says. Many colour photographs arranged in colour plates are there in the first part of the book to document a strong coherence between nature and an ordinary life of indigenous people in Greenland. Size of photographs forming the plates, however, is rather small and thus losing information value in some particular cases. On the other hand, some aquarelles showing plant species as well as typical landscapes are presented in the book which gives some additional value.

Information on *Plant Ecology and Vegetation Types* are given in the second part of the book. A colour map distinguishing different tundra types is presented so that a reader have a better idea of the vegetation typical for particular regions. Each tundra type is characterized by an overview of microclimate, water availability, and description of components of vegetation cover and their growth form characteristics. For each vegetation type, dominant and community-forming plant species are reported. In the third part covering *Plant Species*, a detailed description of the most common Greenlandic plants is made. Altogether, 54 plant species are characterized. Each description follows the same scheme starting with German and Latin name of the species. Then, Greenlandic, Danish, English and French equivalents are given. Three basic aspects of each species are described: (1) occurrence, (2) growth form and ecological functioning, and (3) specific information reported as *good to know*. In this section of the book, a detailed list of places where particular species occur is given including local geographical names. Similarly, information of plant height, growth form, shape and number of leaves and flowers is given in the third section. Finally, a wide spectrum of species-specific information is given for each plant species having an extent ranging from several lines up to three paragraphs. Except of higher plants, an attention is devoted also to green alga (*Chlamydomonas nivalis*) and typical lichens. In spite of the fact that lichens are reported only to a limited extent, it brings a message to a reader that algae and lichens represent an important components of snow-free terrestrial ecosystems of Greenland. Another typical feature of the guide book is that it brings a wide spectrum of non-botanical information. Quality of colour photographs represents a standard expected from publications of a guide book category. In spite of the fact that only single map of Greenland with indications of particular sites is presented, it provides sufficient topographic information about the sites (mainly settlements) and botanical localities reported in the text. The book might be ranked as a good compromise between a guide

book and local flora textbook. Thus, it may serve well the people interested in vegetation of Arctic, Greenland in particular. It may also attract people with general interest in polar ecology, conservation of nature and travelling to Arctic regions.

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