

**Book review: Ettl H. & Gärtner G. 2014. Syllabus der Boden-,
Luft- und Flechtenalgen. 2 Auflage. Springer Spektrum,
New York, 773 pp.**



Recently we often speak about the “craft of scientific writing” and many books, lectures and internet sites provide significant and interesting guides on the topic. One of them suggests the following to those, who want to write a book review, or book report: “Try to appreciate the book: It will teach you something if you are open to learning.” (<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Book-Report>, accessed 24.10.2014). The book, which is the focus of this brief review, is easy to be appreciated. In fact, there is no other way to accept it, since it is the most profoundly presented collection of aero-terrestrial eukaryotic algae of the Earth, including lichen photobionts. Nowadays, when so-called “classical” phycology, based

mostly on algal morphology, cytology, reproduction and ecology, is generally considered obsolete, but still could not be fully and sufficiently replaced by “modern” studies alone, books like this one are strongly needed. The explanation is easy – it provides a reasonable bridge between these two lines in algal knowledge, linking, as far as it is possible, the classical system with recent molecular phylogenetic results, still keeping strong point of support on use of living cultures and proper terminology. Appreciation to this book comes also from the fact, that Univ. Prof. DrSc Georg Gärtner – the co-author, who updated it and prepared this second edition, fully kept the structure, keys, texts and figures of the first edition, and, following the model of classical algal flora of Pierre Bourrelly (1968–1972), made an appendix with recent data on transformed or newly described taxa, as well as on newly recorded for aero-terrestrial habitats species with relevant references. In this way, it introduces the recent knowledge, but in the same time gives a possibility to young users to become acquaint with this well-known and widely used Syllabus, commonly smilingly named “*Ettl & Gärtner 1995*”. The positive criticism, which has a purpose to increase the use of this book, could be expressed in two wishes: to see it as soon as possible translated in English language and to see it enlarged with data on cyanoprokaryotes, which are quite common and abundant aero-terrestrial inhabitants. But even in German language, the recently published second edition of Syllabus is of inestimable value for all those, who are open to learning.

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