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Flora of the Arabian Peninsula and Socotra, Vol. 1

A G Miller, T. A. Cope

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#9085595 in Books 1996-07-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.80 x 1.60 x 9.80l, #File Name: 0748604758586 pages | File size: 17.Mb

A G Miller, T. A. Cope : Flora of the Arabian Peninsula and Socotra, Vol. 1 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flora of the Arabian Peninsula and Socotra, Vol. 1:

6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. It's like the Arabian Peninsula: Dry and Informative By Jedidiah Carosaari Flora of the Arabian Peninsula and Socotra looks briefly at the geology and climate; then spends the vast majority of the book going through a taxonomic delineation, species by species of all plant life; and finally ends with maps indicating distribution of every species mentioned in the book. It has information on every species that a botanist

in this region of the world would want to study. But it is just really dry. Scholastic texts can be much more interesting, with better writing and more informative pictures. These pictures are black and white drawings of parts of plants. The writing describes alternate leaves and lobes and how many sepals a plant has. Unless you have vast training in botany, you'll have no idea what the plant actually looks like. The Table of Contents listed by ... and in the text is misleading- of 550 pages, only 30 deal with the topography and climate. Of those, the section on the History of Botanical Exploration is one paragraph; the section on Conservation is five- two of the more promising sections. There are many interesting plants in this region. Qat is a mild stimulant considered a Class A drug in America, legal in Britain, and chewed by all Yemeni men and half of the Yemeni women for a few hours every day. You can't be Yemeni and not be involved with it. But there's no listing for it in the Index; presumably it's under its scientific name. Suqutra is an amazing island, isolated for millions of years from the rest of the world and therefore exhibiting classic botanical gigantism due to the absence of predators. (The correct name of the island is Suqutra; the authors of the text use the Western name, Socotra.) It has umbrella trees, trees that look like giant carrots, and actual cucumber trees- trees that have become cucumbers. But without knowing the scientific names, you can't find them in this book. There is no listing of all species by area, so it is hard to find the Suqutri specimens. Once you do find them, the description is so dry you would know nothing of their magnificence. And the pictures show such small parts of the plants that you wouldn't be able to even recognize it as the wondrous organism it is. The book is basically a missed opportunity. But it's a handy and encompassing text for someone within this specific field who's willing to pay for it.

This is the first volume in a six-part series which charts the flora of the Arabian Peninsula and the Socotran archipelago. It covers all native flowering plants and ferns as well as major cultivated and amenity plants of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, the Sultanate of Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. The first part of this volume gives an introduction to topology and geology, climate, vegetation, floristics, phytogeography and conservation. Part two begins the systematic study of the flora. Each species is separately mapped with notes on ecology and distribution. Illustrations and keys are provided to aid identification. Each volume describes around 700 species and should be valuable to non-specialists and professionals alike. Volumes 1-4 of this series cover the dicot families, volume 5 covers the monocot families and volume 6 is a monographic introduction. The family order follows the Engler and Prantl system.

An excellent Flora of sound content, neat and spacious layout and strong binding, and is illustrated with plenty of good quality line drawings. An excellent flora and a landmark work for the area. An excellent Flora of sound content, neat and spacious layout and strong binding, and is illustrated with plenty of good quality line drawings. An excellent flora and a landmark work for the area. About the Author T. A. Cope is Curator of Grasses at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew