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“Die Pflanzenwelt der Insel Krk”: a richly illustrated field guide for vascular plants, algae, mosses, lichens and macrofungi on the island of Krk

Felix Schlatti

REVIEW

The book “Pflanzenwelt der Insel Krk” (translated “Flora of the island of Krk”) [1] was published in May 2024 by the Natural Science Association for Carinthia. The book is written in German. The editor and author of many chapters is Walter K. Rottensteiner, an experienced author of botanical literature. For this volume he brought together 75 authors from 12 nations. The result is an attractively designed book with 1,452 pages. It fulfills the dream of many plant fans: a field guide with 3,655 illustrations for all detected wild plants and the most important cultivated species! Herbarium specimens from botanical surveys of the island are maintained at the Carinthian Botanic Center in Klagenfurt.

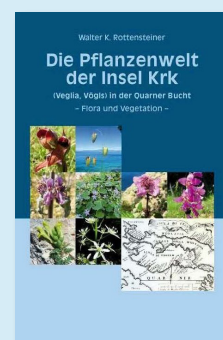
The book begins with a comprehensive chapter on the vegetation and natural areas of the island of Krk. It was written by Nenad Jasprica and revised by Anton Drescher and Ruth Drescher-Schneider. This chapter features a large number of memorable photos and a syntaxonomic overview.

After chapters on the landscape forms and natural reserves of the island of Krk, a special botanical treat follows. Ivana Vitasović-Kosić examines the flora from an ethnobotanical perspective, writing about local names and their uses as food and spices. Medical and cosmetic applications, especially in the form of herbal teas, are listed in separate paragraphs.

After a chapter on the special plant treasures, taxa are presented in systematically arranged chapters. In the chapters of Pteridophyta, Coniferophyta, dicotyledons, and monocotyledons, the families follow in alphabetical order. Within the families, the genera are also sorted alphabetically. This advantageous arrangement enables plant experts to quickly and easily find the correct family or genus identification key. If the family is uncertain, there is also the possibility of identifying it using an additional key. Written by Kurt Zernig, the “Schlüssel zu den Pflanzenfamilien” (translated “key to plant families”) can be found at the end of the book.

The chapters on freshwater algae, benthic macroalgae, mosses, lichens, and macrofungi give a good picture of the unexpected diversity of species in these groups. Even though there are no keys to help with species identification, a comparison with pictures and descriptions is possible. However, a determination of the Characeae down to the species level is possible. The macrofungi are summarized in a list of over 600 species based on current knowledge and are presented as typical examples.

“Die Pflanzenwelt der Insel Krk” targets a diverse readership. Experts can quickly and easily access the correct key for identification. Less experienced readers will find help, such as the family key, a chapter explaining technical terms, a scientific family, genus and



species index and a German-language family and genus index. Last but not least, the book is more than just a field guide! Plant fans and Krk enthusiasts can browse through the extensive introductory chapters of the “Pflanzenwelt der Insel Krk” and learn a lot about geography, vegetation, nature conservation areas and ethnobotany.

ORIGINAL TITLE

- [1] W. K. Rottensteiner (Ed.), *Die Pflanzenwelt der Insel Krk (Veglia, Vögels) in der Quarner Bucht. Flora und Vegetation*. Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, Austria: Verlag des Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereins für Kärnten, 2024. ISBN: 978-3-85328-103-1.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Felix Schlatti
Carinthian
Botanic Centre,
State Museum of
Carinthia, Austria
E-mail: felix.schlatti@kaernten.museum



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