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**[Review of: G. Erdtman (1986) Pollen morphology and plant taxonomy: Angiosperms (an introduction to palynology)]**

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**Erdtman, G. (1952, reprinted 1966, re-issued 1986 & 2009) : Pollen Morphology and Plant taxonomy. Angiosperms. An introduction to the study of pollen grains and spores. ISBN 9789004081222. E.J. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands (<http://brill.nl>), 553 pages, €125 / USD 185.**

It is only very rare that ground breaking and high quality publications receive the status of evergreen. Among these classical publications is beyond any doubt the book “Pollen morphology and Plant Taxonomy” of Gunnar Erdtman. The morphological descriptions and the hand-drawn illustrations (palynograms) of pollen grains and spores form the main part of this book. Families are according to Engler’s ‘Syllabus der Pflanzenfamilien’ (1937). First published by Almqvist & Wiksell in Stockholm (1952), Erdtman’s book was reprinted in 1966 by Hafner Publishing Company, New York and London. Also this second imprint was sold very soon and a generation of palynologists searched the lists of antiquarian booksellers to obtain a copy. In 1986 publisher E.J. Brill in Leiden made this classical book available for a third time. But also this edition run out of stock soon. Young

palynologists without access to well stocked libraries missed this important source of information. I have observed students studying the pollen morphology of selected tropical plant families not realizing that Gunnar Erdtman had done this job some fifty years before with an accuracy and quality that is hard to surpass. It is with great pleasure to announce that publisher Brill has digitised the 1986-edition which is now available as a printing-on-demand edition. For the angiosperms taxonomical changes since 1952 can be compensated by using ‘The Plant-Book’ by Mabberley (1987) in combination with the 25 page index of genera and families. The printing-on-demand edition is a hard cover book with pages glued together. Although such book production requires a lower quality of paper the brilliance of the illustrations is hardly affected. The price of € 125 / USD 185 is reasonable for libraries but costly for serious students who like to buy a private copy.

Reference: Mabberley, D.J. (1987, followed by many reprints). The plant-book. A portable dictionary of the higher plants. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

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