

A NEW BOOK ON THE CYCADACEAE

CYCADS OF VIETNAM

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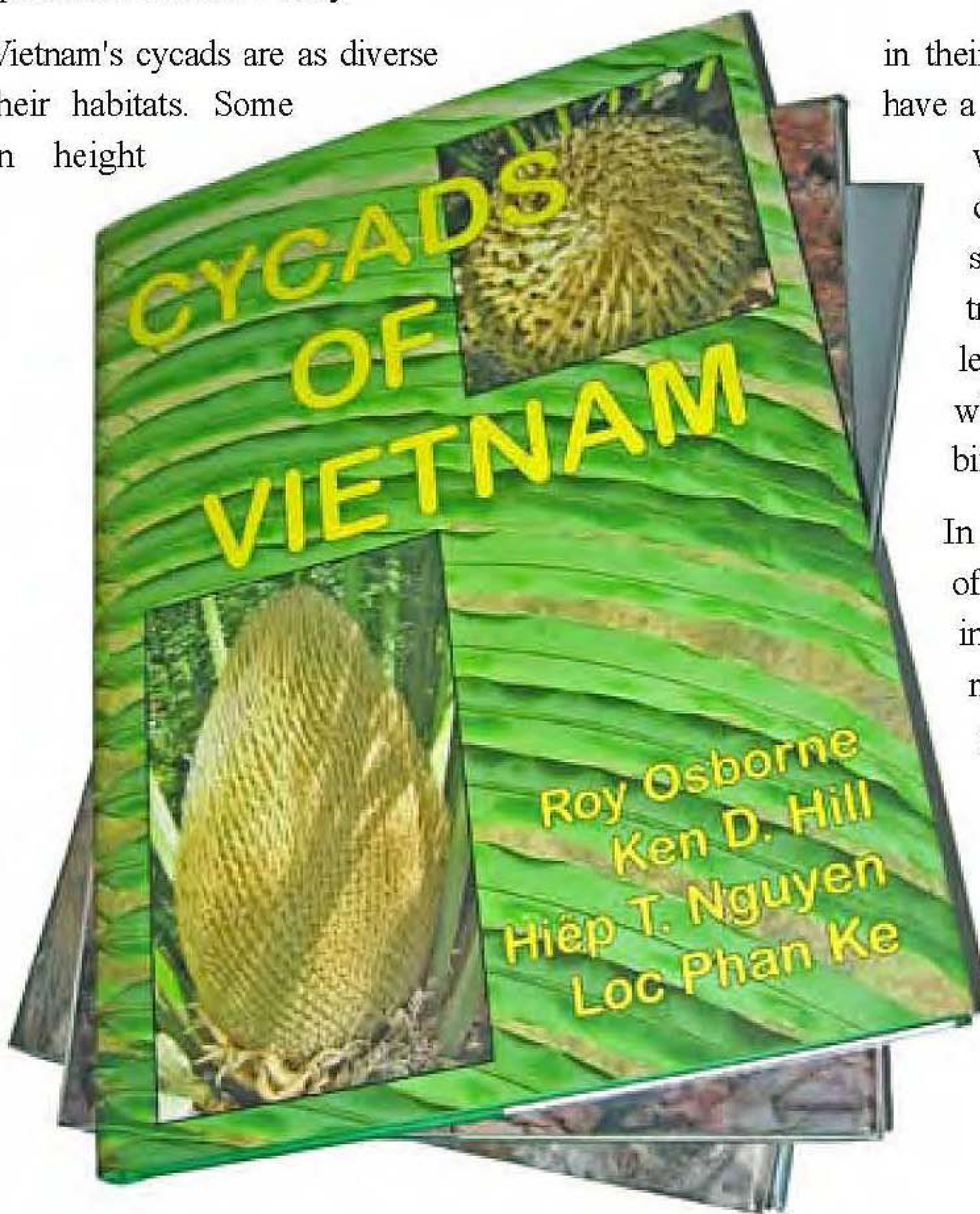
Only fairly recently has Vietnam become recognised as a country of enormous biological diversity. This is true not only in its fauna but also in its flora. New discoveries have revealed an abundance of cycads—fascinating plants now known to occupy a key position in plant evolution.

Vietnam's cycads, many of which have been named only in the last 10–15 years, occupy a variety of specialised habitats. Some are obligate beach-dwellers, some live only in the northern mountains, some occur on small offshore islands, while some grow in tiny crevices on near-vertical limestone cliffs. Many are found in areas of spectacular natural beauty.

Vietnam's cycads are as diverse
their habitats. Some
in height

in their morphology as they are in
have a tree-like form reaching 12 m
while others are bonsai-like
dwarfs. Some have strange
swollen 'elephant's foot'
trunks. Some have pinnate
leaves reaching 4.5 m in length
while others have multiple leaf
bifurcations.

In 'Cycads of Vietnam', each
of the 27 species is described
in detail with line drawings,
maps and numerous
photographs illustrating points
of interest. This book is
commended to cycad
hobbyists, nurserymen,
researchers, students,
conservation officials
and those with a general
interest in plant evolution
and matters botanical.



The book is richly illustrated with tables, drawings and around 200 photographs, showing habitats, male and female cones of the species and morphological details of the plants. The text covers various aspects of cycad, from History, Geography, Climate, Flora and fauna, Ecology and vegetation types, Distribution and relationships, Classification of *Cycas*, Vegetative morphology, Reproductive features, Pollination and seed dispersal, Hybridism, Toxicity, Ethnobotany, Conservation and Cultivation.

A Key to *Cycas* species in Vietnam is given before the species are treated individually. Each description has a distribution map and the species is very well illustrated, using photographs.

