

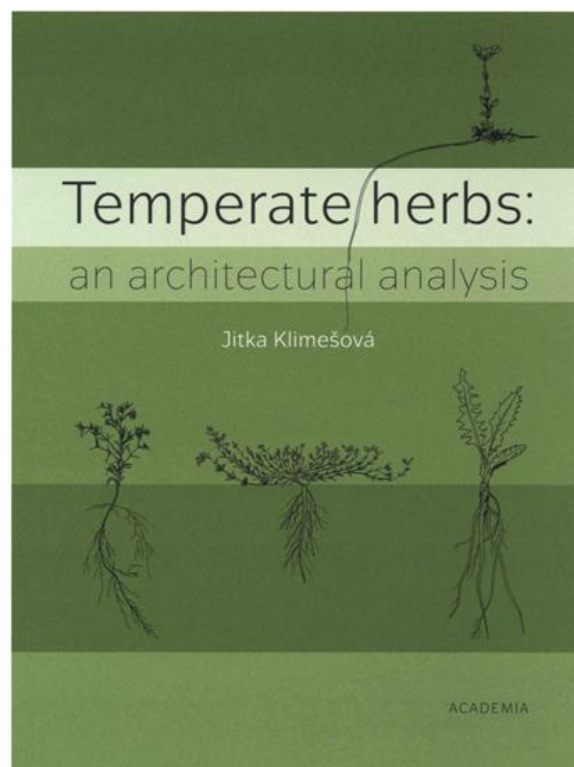
Book Review

DOI: 10.21570/EDGG.PG.44.58-58

Klimešová, J. 2018. Temperate herbs: an architectural analysis. Praha: Academia, 274 pp., ISBN: 978-80-200-2760-3 (Hardcover: 520 CZK, ~ 20 €).

Functional analysis of plant communities based on plant morphology is deeply rooted in the history of botany and plant ecology. The pioneering work of plant ecology by Warming (*Plantensamefund*, 1895, translated and reworked in German as *Lehrbuch der Ökologischen Pflanzengeographie* co-authored by P. Gräbner, 1896) listed several growth forms of plants, which formed a basis for the life-form classification of Raunkiaer (1934). The Raunkiaer life-forms are widely cited and still used today. Most approaches to study the functioning of plant communities frequently just consider aboveground traits and interactions, however the understanding of belowground processes in plant interactions and coexistence is gaining increasing attention (Vos & Kazan 2016; Li et al. 2017).

In the age of trait-based ecology, much analytical information related to plant architecture e.g., plant growth forms, morphology and traits of plant organs is used in research, but a unified classification of angiosperms based on plant architecture are still lacking. The comprehensive book of Klimešová (2018) is one of the first attempts to fill this gap; the author aimed to (i) provide a brief synthesis of architectural classification universal for all growth forms, (ii) to summarise architectural categories relevant for herbs in the temperate region and to (iii) introduce these categories by using examples from Central Europe. The book has a very compact 17-page intro followed by a part containing 1614 line drawings of 706 herb species in more than 200 pages. The drawings of the book were based on a more than twenty years of field research by the author and co-workers and formed the basis of the CLO-PLA database (<https://clopla.butbn.cas.cz/>). As the CLO-PLA database is used frequently in trait-based analyses, this book helps to visualise the clonal and bud-bank trait categories used in the database. The book covers the most important taxa and most all genera of Central Europe and it is easy to use. The drawings are of high quality and the book is designed in an attractive, minimalist style. All in all, the book provides a very useful and comprehensive basis for researchers who would like to get familiar with the architecture of plants and belowground-trait ecology.



Raunkiaer, C. 1934. *The life forms of plants and statistical plant geography*. Oxford University Press, London.

Vos, C.M.F. & Kazan, K. (eds.) 2016. *Belowground defence strategies in plants*. Springer International Publishing, CH.

Li, H., Liu, B., Ma, Z. & Guo, D. 2017. Diverse belowground resource strategies underlie plant species coexistence and spatial distribution in three grasslands along a precipitation gradient. *New Phytologist* 216: 1140-1150.

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