

BOOK REVIEW

MARY S.G. LINCOLN. 2008. **Liverworts of New England: A Guide for the Amateur Naturalist.** (ISSN: 0077-8931, ISBN-10: 0-89327-478-X, ISBN-13: 978-089327-478-8, hbk., printed on FSC certified 86 lb. gsm glossy). Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden, Volume 99:1–161. The New York Botanical Garden Press, 200th Street and Kazimiroff Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458-5126, U.S.A. (**Orders:** 718-817-8721, 718-817-8842 fax, nybgpress@nybg.org). \$45.00, 161 pp., more than 105 color images, 200 b/w line drawings, 200 distribution maps, glossary, index, 7" × 10".

Liverworts because of their small size and specialized habitats mostly go unseen but this book should help beginners locate these fascinating life forms in the New England states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Early topical sections introduce the reader to liverwort habitats, distribution, morphology, anatomy, life cycle, terminology, and identification. The main body of the text is organized by thalloid liverworts with A. Elevated Receptacles; B. Buried Capsules; C. Simple thalloids; then the Leafy Liverworts D. with Feathery Leaves; E. Toothed Leaves and Incubous Insertion; F. Lobed Leaves and Incubous Insertion; G. with Entire Leaves and Incubous Insertion; H. with toothed leaves and Succubous Insertion; I. with Lobed Leaves and Succubous Insertion; J. with Entire Leaves and Succubous Insertion; K. with Lobed Leaves and Transverse Insertion; L. with Complicate-Bilobed Leaves, Larger Lobe on Top; M. with Complicate-Bilobed Leaves, Small Lobe on Top; N. Leafy-Thalloid Liverworts. Species are arranged into each of these categories and given species descriptions and distribution maps with the green shaded areas representing the known distribution. The maps are helpful in discerning quickly where a given species is found. Here 200 species in 62 genera are described.

Unfortunately too many habit color images lack the magnification, depth of field, and sharp focus to fully interpret the habit and morphological features. Furthermore, no captions are provided to guide the reader to important morphological structures shown, for example, *Ptilidium ciliare* on page 48. The quality of the color images limits the value of this book. There is no key to the species and the keys to the genera at the beginning of each category noted above, A through N, will be difficult to follow since the color images generally lack sufficient detail to illustrate key characters. The line drawings for the Illustrated Key to Hornworts and Liverworts are an additional source of information but are greatly reduced in size to fit on two pages. This book will give a general overview of the diversity, form, and beauty of liverworts for someone who encounters liverworts for the first time.—Harold W. Keller, Research Associate, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 1700 University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A.