

Book review

PARROTTA, J.A., FRANCIS, J.K. & R.R. DE ALMEIDA: Trees of the Tapajós - A photographic field guide. General Technical Report IITF-1. Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry. 1995. 370 p. (pbk).

This book is based on two years of field work (1992-94) in the Tapajós National Forest, located near Santarém in the western Pará State of Brazilian Amazonia.

The floristic inventory comprises 172 tree species commonly found in primary and secondary upland forests (terra firme). Species descriptions (in English and Portuguese) are organized alphabetically by family, genus, and species. For each species, usually six colour photographs are given that show key diagnostic features: leaves, some with fruits and/or flowers; a typical seedling; an immature tree trunk; the base of a mature tree; bark detail showing inner bark characteristics; and a vertical view of the trunk and crown of a mature tree. Each set of photographs is accompanied by the scientific name, common name or names used in the immediate vicinity of the Tapajós National Forest, and additional information not apparent from photographs to aid field identification such as tree size and characteristics of the foliage, fruit, bark and sap (or latex). A key for the identification of species, however, is not provided. Species identifications were reconfirmed with authorities at the Botanical Gardens of New York/U.S.A., Kew/U.K. and Rio de Janeiro/Brazil. Also included are a general introduction to the ecological characteristics of the Tapajós National Forest, a glossary of botanical terms used in the text, indices of scientific and local common names and references that were used to prepare this volume.

This book is a valuable tool to facilitate identification by non-specialists of the more common trees of the Tapajós National Forest and environs, many of which are also common to other forests of the region.

For complimentary copies (available to scientists working in the Amazon region) contact Dr. John Parrotta, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, USDA Forest Service-IITF, P.O. Box 25000, Rio Piedras, PR 00928-500, USA; Fax: +1-787-766-6302; E-mail: j_parrotta@upr1.upr.clu.edu

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