

Book review copied and pasted from online version in Plant Science Bulletin 46(4):132.

up of a flower's parts. I do appreciate Bernhard's attempts to bring the information to the level of all readers, but he is not always successful.

In closing, I found Peter Bernhard's *The Rose's Kiss* to be an overall enjoyable treatment of the world of flowers. He succeeds in turning what could be a dry text over the heads of many lay people into a charming trip where flowers take on a "rosy" glow. - Alyson Lee-Fox, Comstock Park, Michigan.

Whilst reading **Britain's Rare Flowers** (T & AD Poyser Natural History, ISBN 0-85661-114-X), a lovely book by natural historian Peter Marren, I was transported to the many wonderful wild and bucolic places of the English countryside (oops, I was starting to wax into the accent!). There are many public and apparently natural areas in that country, but Marren reminds us that the entire landscape has long been under the influence of human beings, and some of the most picturesque and beautiful things thrive only in the midst of regular human disturbances.

Marren describes his own early interests and growing passion for finding rare flowers, and takes us on a number of searches for elusive and rarely seen plants. He discusses what is rarity, and the many ways that a species may enter that situation. He considers the role that life history may play, as well as the potentially negative role of overly enthusiastic collectors.

Included is a sad chapter on lost flowers (there are some twenty nationally extinct species), followed by a chapter on new natives _ some overlooked in the past, others obviously new from hybrid origin. When one looks at Clapham, Tutin and Warburg's *Flora of the British Isles*, indeed a large proportion of the flora is naturalized. Certain species (such as the corn cockle) have all but disappeared due to different techniques employed by farmers; in fact these rare plants may have been introduced initially as weeds and naturalized. Marren includes in an Appendix the first records of rare and Red Data Book flowers and ferns, quite an interesting summary.

This immensely readable book was written for the lay audience, but there is much to commend it to botanists and ecologists who are interested in rare species and their conservation. It is beautifully illustrated, with color photos of plants, maps of distributions, and also some drawings of plants. The illustrations dwindle as the book progresses, perhaps a measure of economy. There are many good citations of the primary scientific literature, though not exhaustive. I recommend it to all who love flowers and are concerned about their continued existence. -Suzanne Koptur, Florida International University, Miami, FL 33199

Windows taskbar: Type here to search, 3:54 PM, 8/13/2019