

Botanical Drift:
Protagonists of the
Invasive Herbarium

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Botanical Drift reads Kew's imperial garden against the grain, submitting its rational government of trees and shrubs to playful kinds of aesthetic measurement. It makes visible the often violent intercourse of knowledge and power, and through a kind of interrogative mimicry, both represents, and releases a kind of healing laughter at the violent absurdities of the drives for rational accumulation and the capture of nature.

"Long gone is the time when vegetation betokened impassive torpor and a dumb semi-existence. Today, more than ever, to be a plant is to drift between biological kingdoms, geographical locations, and ontological categories. This collection endeavours to live up to the contemporary condition of the flora. Let yourself be carried away by its marvellous vegetal musings and speculations, situated somewhere between art and philosophy."

Michael Marder, author of *Grafts* and (with Luce Irigaray) *Through Vegetal Being*

"*Botanical Drift* is itself a kind of museum, in the original Hellenic sense of a pandisciplinary temple of the muses. It records a confrontation in 2014 of visual artists, historians, dancers, anthropologists, horticulturalists and photographers with the plants, archives and images accumulated at Kew. Those collections had their origins in deliberate attempts to collect the plant world in gardens and museums in connection with the global expansion of British power. These interventions read this imperial garden against the grain, submitting its rational government of trees and shrubs to playful kinds of aesthetic measurement, re-rooting plants (and knowledge) back in the cultures from which they were seized, and making visible the often violent intercourse of knowledge and power. Through a kind of interrogative mimicry, they both represent, and offer a kind of healing laughter at, the violent absurdities of the drives for rational accumulation and the capture of nature."

Richard Drayton, author of *Nature's Government*

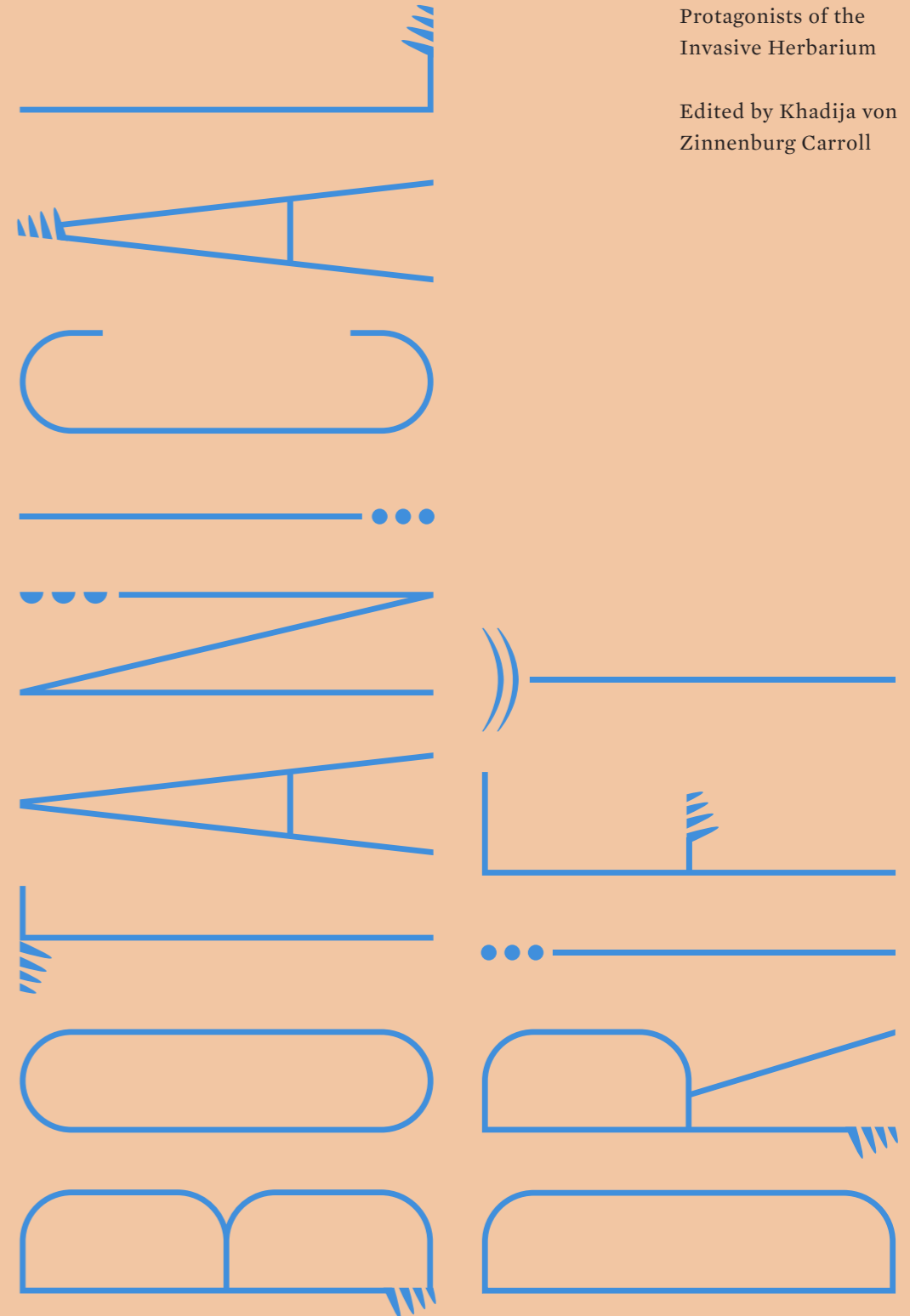
"Doluptas quiaecu ptiorumque de pratem ex estionseque pres et ilis qui con rectati orest, non cuscia valoribus idus dicipsame dolorep ereicim porioritias saeribusam quam aliquo nosseque sin et vent atent mo odio et fugiae rest, quis ipsandit voluptibus et, commoditat exceded utem voluptaquis et velibust ametur alitate eum derio beria dolore pe sequatur?"

Maja and Rueben Fowkes

SternbergPress



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Edited by Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll



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