

REVIEWS

Flora of Bhutan, Including a Record of Plants from Sikkim, Vol. 1 Part 3, edited by A.J.C. Grierson and D.G. Long. Pp. 465 – 834, 16 figs. Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 1987. Price £ 14.

The present installment contains treatments of the families Crassulaceae, Saxifragaceae, Parnassiaceae, Hydrangeaceae, Grossulariaceae, Philadelphaceae, Iteaceae, Balanitaceae by A.J.G. Grierson; Hamamelidaceae, Pittosporaceae, Connaraceae, Podostemaceae, Oxalidaceae, Tropaeolaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Daphniphyllaceae by D.G. Long; Rosaceae, Leguminosae, Zygophyllaceae, Linaceae by A.J.C. Grierson & D.G. Long; and Geraniaceae by E.J.F. Campbell & D.G. Long.

Flora of Bhutan is the first local account since J.D. Hooker's *Flora of British India*. This flora is intended as a handbook for the identification of the East Himalayan plants in Bhutan. It is of value not only to Bhutanese botanists and foresters but also to botanists and foresters elsewhere, as well as to taxonomists, horticulturalists and others who appreciate the Himalayan elements.

This issue is of the same format as the previous ones (part 1, 1983; part 2, 1984). The families are treated according to the Englerian system. Each species is given a concise but informative description. Diagnostic keys provided down to the specific taxa are concise, and usually based on readily recognizable characters. However, closely related species of certain genera are not always keyed out, e.g. *Sedum* (p. 482), *Saxifraga* (p. 493 – 495), *Millettia* (p. 658), etc. Recent nomenclature has been followed, relevant synonymy and local names are given, as well as brief notes on ecology, local distribution, flowering periods and occasional notes on taxonomic problems and local uses. *Cassia fistula* L. (p. 628), a common tree in deciduous forests of the seasonal region of Thailand, is no doubt a native of Thailand, Burma and India. Selected species exemplifying the diversity within each family are well illustrated with line drawings. In all, this is an admirable book, the production of which has evidently involved an immense task by the editors. It is excellently produced in a handy size (14.5 × 20.3 cm) convenient to be used in the field. The price is reasonable for a book of this size (369 pages) and quality. The further parts are eagerly expected.

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