

commendable job in bringing to fruition this publication within the remarkably short period of about four years of the commencement of the project. Our appreciation and congratulations to Father Saldanha.

The introductory part gives a succinct account of the physiography, geology, soil, bioclimate and vegetation types of Karnataka. There is also a brief account of the botanical history of the State. At page 23, in the reference to the group of botanists at Central College, the names should be Prof. Sampathkumaran and M. J. Thirumalachar and not as printed here.

The systematic part includes an artificial key to the families of flowering plants, native to or naturalised in Karnataka State. 64 families have been treated in this volume out of the 170 families envisaged for the entire flora. Those who are familiar with the Hassan district flora will notice that the format and sequence of family accounts follow the pattern set for that flora but for others and users of this flora, a note in the preamble that the sequence of the families is according to Cronquist's classification, would have been helpful.

The taxonomic descriptions of families, genera and species are concise and adequate, very carefully prepared and edited. The nomenclatural aspects, citations of authors and literature are all accurate and up to date. It would be difficult to find any discrepancy in

this regard. There is, however, an intriguing entry at page 139. Under the family, Nyctaginaceae, there is reference to *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*. How did this come here?. *Nyctanthes* is sometimes treated under a separate family, Nyctanthaceae. Is it that the author of this family account mixed up the two similar sounding names, Nyctaginaceae and Nyctanthaceae?!. At page 39, *Miliusa* appears under a wrong lead in the key.

The coloured photographs in 18 plates are excellent, the frontispiece of Suratkal Beach and the one of the evergreen forest at Charmudi Ghat, in particular, being outstanding. The line diagrams are accurately drawn, clear and pleasing to the eye.

Local names and economic uses are indicated for most of the species described in the flora. The colourful exotics frequently seen in the gardens and avenues of cities, particularly in Bangalore, are mentioned under the respective families.

Botanists in the country, particularly in Karnataka State, are under a deep debt of gratitude to Father Saldanha for providing them this excellent flora. We eagerly look forward to the appearance of the remaining volumes.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLICATION & INFORMATION DIRECTORATE

A National Seminar on "Underexploited and Unexploited Economic Plant Resources of India" is being held on 9-11 October, 1985, under the auspices of this Directorate in New Delhi, in collaboration with the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.

This Seminar is intended to highlight information on new and less known plant raw material resources of India with promising economic importance, based on original research work.

Research and/or review papers based on the main theme in any of the following areas are invited: (1) Bioconversion, (2) Biofertilisers, (3) Ethnobotany, (4) Genetic Improvement, (5) Geobotanical prospecting, (6) Growth & Development of less known econo-

mic plants, (7) Information on Import and Export of less known economic plants, (8) Pharmacognosy, (9) Pharmacology, (10) Phytochemistry, (11) Plant Introduction/Germplasm, (12) Plant protection, (13) Toxicology, and (14) Utilisation-General.

The Registration fee is Rs. 75/- upto 30.6.85 and Rs. 100/- after that date.

Last date for receipt of abstract (not exceeding 200 words) in duplicate is 30.6.85 and for full paper 14.8.85.

Those interested in participating in the Seminar may contact M. V. Viswanathan, Organising Secretary (Seminar), Publications & Information Directorate, Hillside Road, New Delhi 110 012.
