

BOBSI

Vol. I. No. 1. Pp. v-vi (1959)

INTRODUCING "BOBSI"

The Botanical Survey of India (established 1890) which this day is 69 years old, has all along been serving a real and useful need. Its activities were publicised largely through the "Records" and the "Annual Reports" of the Survey, which hitherto were the only official organs of the Department. With the changing requirements of the country, a corresponding change in the pattern and policies of the publications of the Survey was keenly felt. The administration of the Botanical Survey of India now feels pleasure in offering to the interested public, the present publication of their "Bulletin of the Botanical Survey of India" (BOBSI), in a distinct and separate form, to supplement their "Records" and the "Annual Reports". In this, it appears expedient to state briefly the circumstances which have led to the present arrangement, and the objectives which have commended themselves.

With the implementation of the scheme for the re-organisation of the Botanical Survey of India, towards the close of the year 1954, the Survey assumed greater responsibilities in making available to a much wider circle of Botanists, University students and scientific enquirers, material information on the flora and the vegetation of the Indian Union, based on up-to-date and authentic data, and in supplementing the information already available on the flora of our country through intensive explorations of the hitherto un-explored and under-explored areas, which areas themselves are appreciable, many of them also quite beyond the scope of exploration by ordinary means and with normal facilities. Expedition in these efforts is a primary consideration in the furtherance of the Botanical knowledge of our country. The "Annual Reports" and the "Records" of the Botanical Survey, which make their appearances at intervals, perhaps too remote to keep abreast with the scientific progress enlivened through the present activities of the

Survey, may not be able to fulfil this mission. Also, for purposes of too miscellaneous a nature, and yet of sufficient importance, calculated to promote botanical knowledge and scientific investigations, the "Records" and "Reports" are unsuitable. These and other factors weighed in considering the most effective means to be pursued for the special furtherance of the objective of making available up-to-date information on the Flora of the country and on other cognate matters, as expeditiously as practicable. The solution was found in the present concept of the Bulletin. It is gratifying to mention that the Government of India sanction was obtained on the 27th June, 1958, to give this Bulletin a detached and separate existence from its *congeners*.

The Bulletin is principally devoted to scientific information, especially as related to the Indian Botany, its floristic, vegetation and utilitarian aspects. It is with the hope of collecting and recording with precision facts on such cognate matters that "BOBSI" has now been released. The encouragement it would receive from its readers, it is believed, would give it a continued and uninterrupted existence.

Editor