

Flora of Gujarat State—Part 1 & 2 by G. L. Shah, Sardar Patel University, Vallab Vidyanagar, 1978. Price : Rs. 60.00.

The urgent need of National, State and District Floras has been of late felt strongly by botanists all over the country. Botanical Survey of India has therefore, undertaken this stupendous task of preparing these floras and has been progressing in the right direction. Eleven Fascicles of the Flora of India have already come out and more are to follow. Flora programmes, though mainly confined to the Botanical Survey are also to certain extent carried out in selected Universities where facilities for such work exist. The outcome of one such work is the Flora of Gujarat State by G. L. Shah from the Sardar Patel University.

It was possible for the author to write the flora of Gujarat as there were in the past a number of contributions and collections from this area. Notable among the early contributions are Raizada and Santapau (1957) on Gir Forest, Santapau (1962), Santapau and Janardhanan (1967) on Saurashtra and a number of doctoral theses on different areas of Gujarat by students of the author (*vide* bibliography in the Flora). The introductory part deals with geography, geology, soil, climate, general pattern of vegetation and economically important plants. Families are keyed out in the usual dichotomous pattern. Systematic enumeration follows the usual pattern of key to species, correct name with original and pertinent references, a short description of the taxon in 4-6 lines and phenological data. Bibliography and index to scientific and local names are in the last chapters.

A few general observations are worth mentioning. The date of publication is mentioned as February 1978, but the Foreword is dated March 1978. A botanical history of the

area, if given in the introduction, would have increased the value. There is no need of author citations for taxa referred to in the vegetation account. Descriptions of many taxa start with measurements. The leads of the key in many instances (*vide* pp. 32, 70, 73, 124, 125, 191, 247, 759, 760 and 761) are not contrasting. The key is trichotomous in many places (pp. 28, 29, 30, 102, 175, 178, 191, 192, 216, 217, 240, 261, 262, 266, 267 and 716), a fact already mentioned by the author himself on page 25.

The nomenclature of the following taxa has not been brought up to date. For example *Nymphaea stellata* (p. 58) is *N. nauchali* Burm. f., *Polygala chinensis* auct. non. L. (p. 80) is *P. arvensis* Willd., *Caesalpinia crista* (p. 264) is *C. bonduc* (L.) Roxb., *Eclipta prostrata* (p. 379) is *E. alba* L., *Haplanthus* (p. 539) is *Haplanthodes* Kuntze and *Trewia polycarpa* (p. 636) is *T. nudiflora* L., *Launaea glomerata* (p. 387) is *L. capitata* (Spr.) Dandy, *Bothriochloa intermedia* (p. 789) is *B. bladhii* (Retz.) Blake, *Digitaria adscendens* (p. 813) is *D. ciliaris* (Retz.) Koel., *Eragrostis poaeoides* (p. 826) is *E. minor* Host, *Paspalum distichum* (p. 852) is *P. paspaloides* (Michx.) Scribn. and *Tragus biflorus* (p. 877) is *T. roxburghii* Panigrahi.

The name *Vigna khandalensis* (p. 258) has already been effectively published in 1972 by Raghavan and Wadhwa (*Curr. Sci.* 41 : 420) and the present combination made by the author is, therefore, superfluous (Article 63, ICBN 1978). The genus *Flemingia* Roxb. ex W. T. Ait (Dec. 1812) is conserved (ICBN 351. 1978) against *Flemingia* Roxb. ex Rottler (1803) and *Lourea* ['Luorea'] Necker ex J. St. Hil. (1812). Therefore, the correct generic name for the taxon, must be *Flemingia* Roxb. ex W. T. Ait. and not *Maughania* J. St. Hil. (Jan. 1813) or *Moghania* J. St. Hil. (Feb. 1813) [also see *Taxon* 21 : 533. 1972]. The author citation for

Abutilon (p. 95) is Miller and not Tournefort ex Linnaeus. The leaflets in *Indigofera angulosa* are opposite and not alternate as mentioned in the key (p. 216). Full citation for *Indigofera linifolia* var. *campbellii* (p. 221) is missing.

Barring these few shortcomings the flora

as a whole will satisfy the long-felt need of a modern state flora of Gujarat and will generate further interest in the study of floristics among the botanists and students. It is an useful addition to the Indian Floristics.

K. THOTHATHRI AND R. K. BASAK
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