Dr. J. K. Maheshwari's 'Illustrations to the Flora of Delhi'* makes an admirable supplement to his Flora of that area. After a brief history of botanical illustration in India and a few pages of additions and corrections to his Flora, 278 line drawings by Shri D. M. Sonak are presented.

The drawings are cross-referenced to the appropriate page of the Flora of Delhi and supplemented by notes of flower colour etc. On the whole, the drawings give a clear picture of the plant and it is only seldom that a good impression of it is not gained at a glance. There are however instances where the diagnostic features of the plant are not clearly brought out—as is the case in *Sisymbrium irio* where the young fruits should overtop the flower buds—and occasionally (assuming the identifications be correct) the drawings have been made from atypical specimens such as *Aerva javanica* and *Phalaris minor*. A general point of criticism is the disturbing variation in the scales of reduction. For example, it is rather alarming to meet a bold pageful of *Veronica agrestis* followed so soon by a rather delicate *Tecomella undulata* whose flowers could really hold the whole *Veronica* plant. In other cases, there is a wastage of page space which, in the drawings of the Cucurbitaceae, could have been reduced by further details of flowers and fruit.

Apart from the omission of some commonly cultivated families, probably to be rectified in a subsequent volume, Dr. Maheshwari's aim to represent as many floristic elements as possible from the region has been successful and the book will prove useful to many.

J. M. LAMOND.

*Illustrations to the Flora of Delhi. By J. K. Maheshwari. New Delhi, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, 1966.

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