Tomus tertius Turciae: The third volume of the *Flora of Turkey** consists entirely of the Leguminosae and as such contains a large number of plants important as fodder in the arid areas of the Near East; no doubt it may, because of this fact and the intrinsic attractiveness of the legumes, gain even more attention than its predecessors. The most striking feature about the book, of course, is that practically one-third of its total avoirdupois encompasses the genus *Astragalus*, and the first impression is that this part of the Flora (the "bed of nails" of any Oriental Flora) has been very adequately done; the present reviewer, who was engaged almost concurrently on the same genus for the *Flora of Iraq*, takes comfort from the high degree of agreement in the areas of overlap. The authors wisely stress the provisional nature of the account, pointing out that some species accepted "will probably . . . be reduced to synonymy . . ." Never a truer word! Certainly, for example, *Astragalus psilacmos* Bge. and *A. wartoensis* Boiss., both stated here to be "closely allied to *A. amblolepis* and possibly conspecific", have been sunk out of hand into the latter species for the Flora of Iraq. It was of particular interest (and relief!) to see that Chamberlain and Matthews have abandoned any attempt at subgeneric division of this genus and relied on sectional division, precisely as the reviewer has for Iraq.

As one continues to peruse the volume, impressions of the remainder are equally pleasing. Certainly there are areas of disagreement—for example, the treatment of the annual vetches seems over-critical, and the recognition of five varieties of *Vicia sativa* L. (apart from subsp. *amphicarpa*) surely goes too far. But these are matters of opinion, which will ever differ in taxonomy.

One does, of course, find minor errors. For example, the synonym given for the genus *Vavilovia* is *Pisum* Sect. *Lophotropis* Jaub. & Spach; in fact this should be *Alophotropis*. Section *Lophotropis* contains those species which Dr Davis has left in *Pisum*. One detects a changing of horses in the middle of the stream without subsequent regard to nomenclature when one sees *Vicia cracca* L. subsp. *stenophylla* Vel. Velenovsky gave this plant subspecific rank under *V. tenuifolia* Roth, not *V. cracca*—as no doubt Dr Davis did originally! Some minor inconsistencies occur—for instance in *Pisum*, where the generic description allows 2–6 leaflets, but *Pisum sativum* var. *elatius* is described as having leaflets in (2–)3–4 pairs. The generic description of *Sophora* continues the error that in the species of this genus the stamens are "free except at the base", in spite of a reference to a note by the reviewer in which it is demonstrated that this is not so, and in the common Turkish species they are fused for up to about one-third of their length.

It is hoped that Dr Davis will eventually publish a list of abbreviations of periodicals. For these, we are told (p. xiv), abbreviations are used that "should be readily comprehensible". But even experienced workers (and the work should surely be aimed far lower than this—at relatively inexperienced Near and Middle Eastern workers with very limited library facilities) might wonder at "*Trifolium sylvaticum* Gérard ex Lois. in J. Bot. Rédigé 2: 367 (1809)". What does the "Edited Journal of Botany" mean? Aren't they all? Surely "Desv. Journ. Bot. Ser. 1" or something similar would have been more acceptable. Some few earlier places of publication have been missed, including one from an obvious source—*Melilotus officinalis* (L.) Pall., as given in Dandy's *List of British Vascular Plants*.

Misprints are few and minor, such as the *Psoralea* named after what is presumably a musical instrument (the *jaubertina*). The figures are of superb quality—especially the immensely useful line drawings of *Trifolium* calyces; the only exceptions are the rather crumpled *Astragalus* standards of fig. 1.

As with previous volumes the book is clearly set out, beautifully printed and firmly bound—a fact which no doubt explains why a left hook to the bank account goes along with the delight to the eye. And when one recalls the botanical works of the past to which undue perfectionism has written "R.I.P.", one feels of any minor errors that it would be worth putting up with a lot more than these to have this superb work available for use.

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* Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands, Volume 3. Edited by P. H. Davis. Pp. 17 + 628. University Press, Edinburgh. 1970. Price £9.9s.