Flora of Turkey vol. 4. Good wine needs no bush and a good Flora, though its reputation perhaps travels more slowly than that of good wine, needs none either. The great merits of the Flora of Turkey, which has reached the half-way stage with the publication of volume 4, must by now be well-known to everyone interested in systematics and phytogeography.

This volume follows the general pattern of the earlier ones and maintains the same high standards. It covers the families from Rosaceae to Dipsacaceae in the sequence used by Boissier in *Flora Orientalis*, with the exception of the Rubiaceae which has had to be deferred till a later volume. This sequence must be an unfamiliar one to many people and results in what to modern eyes is an odd assemblage of families. While one can see the advantage of correlating this Flora with *Flora Orientalis*, many users must feel that the perpetuation of an unfamiliar and antiquated classification is to be regretted.

Some points in the treatment of the two largest families (Rosaceae and Umbelliferae) seem specially worthy of mention. The treatment of genera containing large numbers of apomicts is always a difficult matter, but the difficulties seem to have been triumphantly overcome in, for example, the accounts of *Alchemilla*, *Rubus* and *Sorbus*. In the two latter genera in particular one would suspect that the authors have been assisted by the paucity of adequate specimens, but the accounts nevertheless seem to provide a firm basis for future work.

It has long been customary in Floras to recognize 'small' genera such as *Malus*, *Pyrus* and *Sorbus* in one part of the Rosaceae, but to keep the all-embracing genus *Prunus* in another part. It is good to see a better balance provided by the recognition of *Cerasus*, *Amygdalus* etc.; the generic distinctions here seem as good, if not better than those between the pomoid genera.

The greatest innovation in the account of the Umbelliferae is the provision of a multi-access key to the genera, in addition to the usual dichotomous key. Fairly extensive tests of this key have so far revealed only one minor defect: *Pimpinella saxifraga* gives the 'formula' AEHJLNPR which leads to two genera, *Apium* and *Pimpinella*, and these are distinguished by having stems leafy or stems leafless. Unfortunately, as the text says, *P. saxifraga* has cauline leaves, though much reduced, and so would key out to *Apium*. There is no doubt that this type of key is a great help in families like Umbelliferae and might with advantage by used in other Floras and other families. The identification of genera in the Compositae could well be made less difficult by the provision of a key of this sort.

European apiologists will find much to interest them, not least in the account of *Bupleurum*, where, amongst other things, the identity of the widespread species usually known as *B. lancifolium* is clarified.

It is regrettable that the name *Hippomarathrum* Link has been kept up for the genus containing the only species of *Cachrys* described by Linnaeus in *Species Plantarum*, but otherwise the nomenclature seems to be unexceptionable.

Dr Davis and his helpers are to be warmly congratulated on this excellent volume and deserve the best wishes of all systematic botanists for the completion of the remaining four volumes. The text-figures deserve a special word of praise; they are not only helpful, but are pleasing to the eye and one wishes that there could have been more of them.

T. G. TUTIN

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