BOOK REVIEW

Flora of Turkey Vol. 5. The publication of the latest volume of the *Flora of Turkey** certainly represents a major event. The fifth in the planned series of eight volumes, it provides real hope that this will become one of the rather few great Floras not only started but also *completed* in our time. Going through the reviews of the first four volumes I am somewhat in despair to find new words of praise and it is very tempting to plagiarize some earlier statements like "the well-known standards of the preceding volumes are adhered to" (or even surpassed in this fifth one) or "it amply fulfills our highest expectations". But here I just wish to congratulate Dr Davis and his collaborators on this masterpiece.

For synantherologists it is a particularly major event since the whole volume is devoted to the Compositae. It contains about 1,130 species in 130 genera and has been elaborated by more than twenty expert collaborators. Uniformity of treatment has been achieved by the co-ordinating and firm hand of the editor. One of the highlights is certainly Wagenitz's treatment of *Centaurea* (deliberately taken in the wide sense) with no fewer than 172 enumerated species; it is by far the largest Compositae genus in Turkey. One equally welcomes the excellent revisions of *Anthemis* (Grierson & Yavin), *Achillea* (by Huber-Morath to whom the volume is dedicated), *Tanacetum* (Grierson), *Cirsium* (Davis & Parris) and *Taraxacum* (van Soest) to name only a few genera where the correct determination of Turkish plants has, until today, been an almost hopeless task.

As I have already explained my doubts concerning the new philosophy on *Hieracium* and "*Pilosella*" (Sell & West) elsewhere (Anal. Inst. Bot. Cavanilles 32:189–196, 1975), I do not wish to repeat them here. But it is rather frustrating to see some hawkweeds treated by such procedures as have rightly been castigated in another context by Davis & Hedge (Candollea 30:344, 1975). However, in most of the genera in the volume, the increase of knowledge, the new synonyms, the critical remarks and the clear indication of unsolved (or insoluble) problems, are together of great importance far beyond the area dealt with.

One of the weakest points in Compositae today is the delimitation of genera where the fashionable splitting is advocated by as many people as is lumping. Conformity can hardly be reached in our time, not even in treatments as carefully organised as this one. So here we find rather strong splitting in the Filagininae whereas *Gnaphalium* has remained untouched; *Aster* has lost *Galatella* and *Crinitaria* (which works very well with the few Turkish species but not at all within the entire group) whereas, in contrast, *Inula* even includes *Dittrichia* (which I do not believe to be justified). The modern splitting in Chrysantheminae, now accepted more or less generally, does not affect the Turkish situation so much because most species there are now put in *Tanacetum*. In the *Matricaria/Tripleurospermum* complex, Rauschert's unfortunate re-typifications, which would have spoiled the whole nomenclature concerned, have not been accepted. Jeffrey's interesting rearrangement of the *Lactuca* group transfers *L. quercina* to *Mulgedium* which looks at least somewhat unusual, but may be justified.

A few special words must be dedicated to some technical aids in the Flora. The most impressive of them is the perfectly elaborated multi-access key to the genera (in addition to a "normal", dichotomous one) which facilitates the determinations to the same extent as has already been proved in the Umbelliferae treatment of vol. 4. Moreover, there is a most useful chapter on "Structural variation and usage of terms" (where the continental reader may find the explanation of some less familiar terms like "disciform" or "coronula" —and he certainly will enjoy the use of "achene" instead of "cypsela"). Finally, special praise ought to be attributed to the excellent illustrations of flowers, fruits and pappus details; likewise, the unique arrangements of leaf silhouettes are of great help with determinations in some critical genera.

It will be of great interest to compare this remarkable treatment of Compositae with that in *Flora Europaea* which hopefully will be available in a short time—and one may wish that both will not only offer a similar degree of accomplishment but also may not show too many discordances.

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* Flora of Turkey and the east Aegean islands, vol. 5, edited by P. H. Davis assisted by V. A. Matthews, F. K. Kupicha and B. S. Parris. Edinburgh University Press 1975. Price £35.