Notes RBG Edinb. 41(1): 122 (1983)

Book Review

South-west Asian woody plants—an atlas of distribution areas. Sixteen families of vascular plants are sampled in this first volume* of a projected series. The selection criteria embrace species of 33 genera whose distribution extends into south-west Asia, and whose systematic status is well understood. Sixty pages of text, in which distributions are summarized and reference is made to relevant literature, precede one hundred full-page maps. Dot distributions, one for each record, are superimposed on base-maps showing latitude and longitude, national boundaries, coastlines, lakes and rivers.

As a major contributor to the taxonomic treatment of woody families in south-west Asian floras, Dr Browicz's knowledge of the systematics of the groups treated in this volume is unsurpassed and lends authority to this work. His diligence in extracting distribution data from practically all the major herbaria has ensured that only fieldwork in remote, hitherto unexplored regions is likely to produce any significant extensions of range of the species mapped.

The completed maps offer the student a varied selection of characteristic distribution patterns of south-west Asian taxa. Economic uses are also briefly mentioned in the text, which is written in excellent English. Although the issue of this printed version of Browicz's 'Chorology' should ensure a wider distribution, it is to be hoped that this, and successive volumes, find their place in botanical and dendrological libraries worldwide.

John Edmondson

* Browicz, K., assisted by Zieliński, J. *Chorology of Trees and Shrubs of South-West Asia and Adjacent Regions*. Vol. 1 (2nd issue; the 1st issue of 1978 was mimeographed.) Polish Science Publishers, Warsaw, pp. 172, 100 maps. Price zł 250.