Notes RBG Edinb. 34:256, 1976) and a decision on its position may have to await its rediscovery.

Naturally, there is space for little synonymy; nevertheless it is disturbing to find that some of the synonyms given can only represent misidentifications of Cape material. For instance 'Fumaria muralis Sond. ex Koch—(=F. officinalis L.)' is certainly not a true statement as it stands, nor can 'Scirpus leucanthus Boeckeler—(=S. supinus L.)' be correct, or why is the earlier name not used? The entry under *Erigeron*, '*Capensis Houtt.—(=Conyza ambigua DC.)', is completely baffling. *Erigeron capensis* Houtt. is the basionym of *Vernonia capensis* (Houtt.) Druce, correctly cited further on. *Conyza ambigua* DC. is a synonym of *Erigeron bonariensis* (L.) Cronquist, which is an introduced weed, and the latter name is almost certainly the entry required here.

So much for the errors: they can be corrected. Like so many books containing a few mistakes, this one will be much used and much valued by those who deal with the Cape Flora and the authors have earned our gratitude.

B. L. BURTT

Two bulbous Southern Africans. In 1939 Dyer published a complete review of the genus *Cyrtanthus* as then known, including the species growing in tropical Africa. In the present account* the southern African species have been 'lifted' word-for-word from the 1939 paper, and seven new species have been added. Also included are species from the genera *Vallota* and *Anoiganthus*, now included in *Cyrtanthus*, and *C. herrei* which has been transferred from *Cryptostephanus*.

Altogether, 50 species are covered and there are 16 colour photographs, 31 black and white drawings and 21 maps showing the distribution of 46 of the species. Herbarium specimens at Edinburgh which were put through the key, were successfully identified, although occasionally specimens displayed characters outside the range of variation given in the descriptions. However, there are discrepancies between the descriptions of some species and the key: *C. huttonii* does not fit with the key lead 1b in bulb, leaf, peduncle or umbel characters; *C. falcatus* is keyed out as having a green to yellow-orange perianth with red-margined lobes, whereas the description says 'perianth red'; the leaves of *C. speciosus* are described as '1·25–2 cm broad', but the key (at lead 45b) gives them as 'up to 11 mm broad'—statements which in the latter case do not actually prevent one from keying out the species but in all cases make one wonder exactly what to believe. The key at lead 1b should read 'up to 60 mm in *C. purpureus*' if the description of the latter is correct.

A further discrepancy is the use of millimetres in the key and centimetres in the descriptions, which is both unnecessary and irritating and liable to lead to confusion should concentration waver. It is a pity that a complete index has not been provided; there is an index to the accepted species but one has to search through the text for synonyms which wastes time and patience.

Nevertheless, despite the criticisms, it is useful to have this updated account (which does not pretend to be a monograph) of a genus which has contributed a number of plants to European gardens, greenhouses and window-sills, and which deserves to be more widely cultivated.

Snijman's revision of *Haemanthus*† brings us another ornamental genus in the Amaryllidaceae. It is welcome in that it resolves the uncertainty over the actual size of the genus. Twenty-one species have finally been recognized, and each one has a detailed description followed by flowering and leafing time, distribution, habitat and relevant remarks about the plants. There are 23 distribution maps and 9 black and white figures. It is however, the colour plates (23 by Ellaphie Ward-Hilhorst, perhaps best-known in Britain for her *Pelargonium* illustrations, and 1 by Fay Anderson) which add enormously to the value of this revision, the detailed watercolour painting bringing the plants to life in a way that a botanical description rarely does. It is a great pity that so few revisions include illustrations

**A review of the southern African species of Cyrtanthus* by C. Reid & R. A. Dyer. American Plant Life Society, iv & 68 pp. 1984. $14 ($12 in USA and Canada).

†*A revision of the genus Haemanthus L. (Amaryllidaceae)* by Deirdré Snijman. National Botanic Gardens of South Africa; Journal of South African Botany, Supplementary Volume No. 12. viii & 139 pp. 1984. R18.

by able botanical artists, although presumably the cost of good colour printing is often a deciding factor, as is the cost of the artist!

Two keys to the species are provided. One is based mainly on vegetative characters and the other uses mainly floral characters. The keys work well, although the inclusion of only geographical characters in some leads is useless when cultivated plants of unknown origin are being identified. However, it can be argued that the identification of garden plants is not one of the objectives of a monographer.

The cytological studies carried out with C. G. Vosa of Oxford have been incorporated, and mention is made of the considerable ecological data gleaned from extensive fieldwork—Miss Snijman has herself seen and collected 15 of the species.

This admirable revision will please both growers who specialize in the more unusual bulbs, and taxonomists who wish accurately to name plants in the field and in their herbarium collections.

V. A. MATTHEWS

Flora of Turkey vol. 8. This volume* contains the petaloid monocotyledons, leaving for volume 9 the Glumiflorae.

Turkey must be considered as one of the centres of distribution for the bulbous monocotyledons so popular as garden plants, with a strong representation from the Liliaceae, the Amaryllidaceae and the Iridaceae, three horticulturally important families. Indeed, it is probably fair to say that this volume contains more horticulturally important species than all the other volumes of the Flora put together.

As with previous volumes the quality of the accounts is enhanced by the liberal use of external contributors as will be seen in the accounts of: *Tulipa* (by W. Marais), *Fritillaria* (by E. M. Rix), *Muscari* (by D. Stuart), *Chionodoxa* (by R. D. Meikle), *Colchicum* and *Galanthus* (by C. D. Brickell), *Sternbergia, Iris* and *Crocus* (by B. Mathew) and *Allium*, with 141 plus species the largest genus in the volume (by F. Kollman). In addition, there is an admirably detailed account of the Orchidaceae by J. Renz & G. Taubenheim who have used their extensive field experience in Turkey to the full.

The volume is adequately though not lavishly illustrated by line drawings and there are distribution maps for over a third of the species. The general format stays the same as that used in volume 7 with some irksome compromises, especially in the genus headings, demanded presumably by the use of an 'in house' composer. It is also a pity to note the steep increase in the cost per page as compared with volume 7. However, these are minor irritations in view of the continuing high standard of the work.

D. F. CHAMBERLAIN

Flora Iranica Papilionaceae. With the publication of part II of Papilionaceae (part I, the Vicieae, came out in 1979) the family, excluding the gargantuan *Astragalus*, is now complete. This is another massive contribution to floristic knowledge in SW Asia, the two parts dealing with c.638 species and 64 genera. The present volume†, as other recent large family accounts of *Flora Iranica*, is 2-partite, one text, the other of very useful, if unaesthetic, photographs of herbarium specimens covering a good percentage (c.80%) of the species in the text.

Eight specialists have contributed accounts with K. H. Rechinger, as usual, bearing the heaviest brunt in writing accounts and in latinizing and editing accounts from external contributors. Selecting and asking botanists to provide Flora accounts is fraught with worry

**Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands,* volume 8. Edited by P. H. Davis, assisted by R. R. Mill and Kit Tan. xx+633 pp., 19 figs, 110 distribution maps. 1984. Edinburgh University Press. ISBN 0 85224 494. Price £65.

†*Flora Iranica* ed. Karl Heinz Rechinger. Papilionaceae II. No. 157 auct. K. H. Rechinger, S. I. Ali, K. Browicz, A. Chrtková-Žertová, D. Heller, C. C. Heyn, M. Thulin, I. T. Vassilczenko; text 499 pp., tabulae 424. Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt Graz, Austria. December 1984.