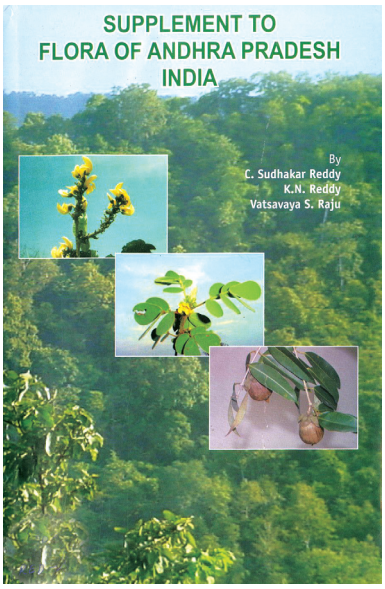
BOOK REVIEW

Supplement to Flora of Andhra Pradesh, India by C. Sudhakar Reddy, K.N. Reddy, Vatsavaya S. Raju, published by Deep Publications, New Delhi, 2008. ISBN : 81-85622-17-3, Price : Rs.600.00.



The book under review, compiled by Drs. C. Sudhakar Reddy, K.N. Reddy & Vatsavaya S. Raju, has added 272 species to the Flora of Andhra Pradesh and with this inclusion, the state accounts for about 2803 species belonging to 1051 genera under 185 families. Such publications usually do not require a separate review if they are in tune with earlier published flora on the state. In fact while planning such a publication, the authors are supposed to adopt some guidelines (even if they are self imposed!) and these are to be elaborated either in the introduction or in the methods. These are to be followed consistently to keep up some order all through the text. This is not done fully and where it is stated, it is not carried over. The result is that there is no uniformity for various species. There was no rationale in works mentioned/chosen under citation. Floras as distant as Flora China (Page 29) and Flora Dehradun (Page 13) were quoted for reasons known only to authors for certain species. The purpose of citation is to give the correct name and also a glance on how the taxon under reference was quoted with other names in various floras and effectively link correct name with synonyms. In a state flora, this is expected in the order of the original citation followed by relevant regional flora and the district flora/other works / the present work from where the taxon under reference was reported for the first time to the state. Standard conventions were not allowed while citing both for author names and also established floras. Far worse is that the abbreviations used in the citations are varied from species to species. Authors' names are usually abbreviated following Brummit and Powell (1992) and for that of titles of books *Taxonomic literature* ed. 2 (Stafleu & Cowan, 1976-88). For periodicals, Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum (Lawrence & al., 1968) and Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum / Supplementum (Bridson & Smith, 1991) are usually followed. There was a great divergence in the abbreviations applied for established works (Flora of British India, Wallich's Catalogue, De Condoll's Prodromus, Plantae Asiaticae Rariores, Gamble, Fl. Madras, Wight Icones, Flora of India). In integrated works, authors of various families were given in the citation for certain species (Page 30, 32, 33 & 36) and for others only the titles of publication (Page 25, 26) were given. Journals were italicized (Page 19, 24, 25) in some places and not in other places (Page 30, 68). Usually, page number of the cited name with the description is quoted and not the whole page range where this article appeared (Page 7, 14, 17 & 19). For certain species, page numbers of both original publication and reproduced editions were given (Page 26, 27) for floras like that of Madras Presidency. Four species were described new after Flora of Andhra Pradesh (1997) and while reporting these species, the location of types should have been given more appropriately which was avoided for some of them and their names were also excluded in index given at the end. The citation referring to the first report for the state was unfortunately not included in the citation (Page 34). This was given under the notes.

The reviewers happened to see Flora of Andhra Pradesh Vol.5 (Addition, Floristic Analysis and Further Illustrations) published by Pulliah & Karuppasamy during same year (2008). The volume contains about 82 pages text followed by illustrations. It has essentially enumeration of missed out plants in Flora of Andhra Pradesh published in 3 volumes (1997). Many of the species included there are also in the present supplement and descriptions were much same in both the works. The punctuation in descriptions was thrown to winds. For few genera, the component species were keyed out (Page 8, 79) but for majority others, it was left out. While citing specimens, the authors have not given the dates which should have given some clue whether the taxon under consideration was a missed out old collection or a new collection after the publication of Flora of Andhra Pradesh (1997). The measurements given for morphological features did not agree between the tables and descriptions (Page 17, 18) and also between the descriptions and keys (Page 18 and 19). The authors with little more effort on their part could have done it much better. Taxonomy, as such, is voluminous and carelessly done errors further burden the subject than serving the purpose. Further, such works add no glory to authors who are considered established in their chosen field.

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