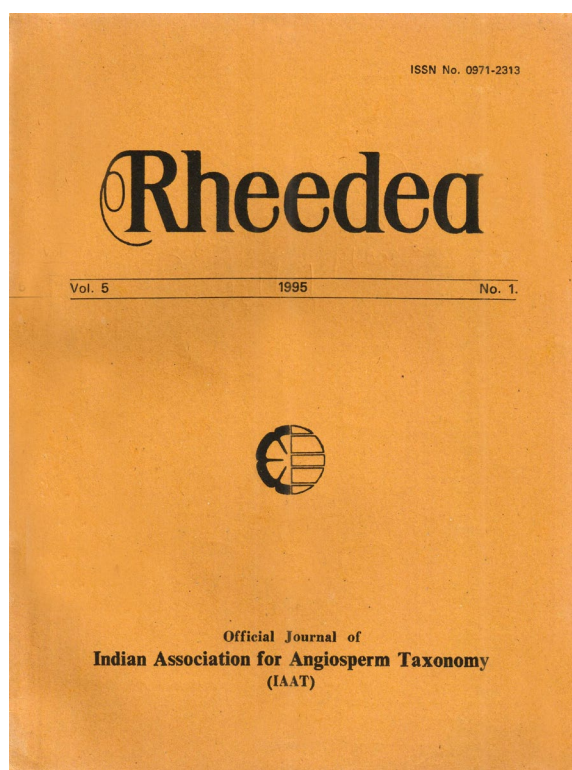




Book Review: Advances in Rubiaceae Macrosystematics

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Review :

Advances in Rubiaceae Macrosystematics. E. Robbrecht (ed.)
Opera Botanica Belgica 6.
National Botanic Garden of Belgium. Meise. 1993. pp. 200. Price?

Rubiaceae, with well over 10,000 species, is one of the five largest families of Flowering Plants. However, taxonomic researches in this family is comparatively very little, perhaps because the family cannot boast of many plants of economic or horticultural importance. Yet another reason for the little interest in Rubiaceae may be that, being a well defined family with comparatively unambiguously circumscribed taxa, it does not provide many obviously challenging problems.

The present volume on the macrosystematics of Rubiaceae, edited by E. Robbrecht, is a collection of 11 papers contributed by eight authors, who are experienced researchers in Rubiaceae. The book begins with an Introduction followed by a reappraisal of the delimitation of the family by E. Robbrecht himself, pointing out many examples of taxa of doubtful systematic position. The character states and taxonomic relationships of the group Prismatomerideae and the monotypic mangrove genus *Scyphiphora* are discussed by A. Igersheim & E. Robbrecht and C. Puff & U. Rohrhofer, respectively. The position of the genus *Octotropis* is clarified in the paper by E. Robbrecht, D. M. Bridson & D. B. Deb, necessitating the reinstatement of the tribal name Octotropideae which claims priority over Hypobathreae, while the position of another Indian genus *Pubistylus* is discussed by D. B. Deb & R. C. Rout. The taxonomic position of *Bertiera* is discussed by E. Robbrecht, U. Rohrhofer & C. Puff. Nomenclatural notes on some Rubiaceae genera are given by E. Robbrecht & D. M. Bridson. Aspects on pollen nuclear numbers in Rubiaceae and "pollen bud" formation in *Ophiorrhiza* are studied by C. Puff and A. Igersheim & M. Weber, respectively. A supplement to the 1988 outline of the classification of Rubiaceae is provided by E. Robbrecht, along with a very useful Index to the genera and their synonymy with their tribal/subtribal position.

This book invites our attention to some of the problems in Rubiaceae systematics, which should be addressed by classical as well as biosystematists.

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Announcements :

1. The Fifth Annual General Body Meeting of the IAAT and National symposium on NEW DIRECTIONS IN PLANT BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH would be held during 27—29, September 1995 at the Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Triuchirappalli-620 024. Those who are interested in participating and presenting papers and those who have not yet received communications about the symposium, may please contact the Organising Secretary, Prof. K. V. Krishnamurthy in this regard.

Secretary, IAAT.

2. The International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation and Economy, scheduled to have been held in Calicut during 22—24, September 1995 is postponed indefinitely.

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