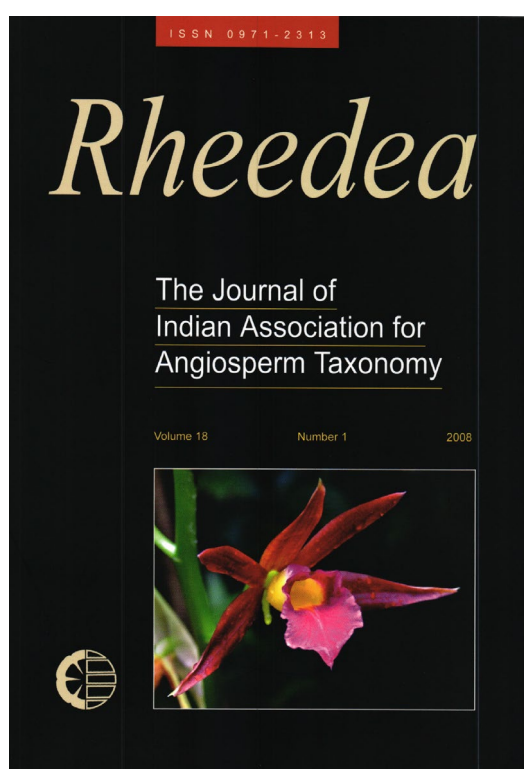




Book Review: Indian Plant Reproductive Ecology and Biodiversity

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for biomarkers or active constituents of these plants. A chemist or a biochemist who would like to refer to this book for pursuing research on these plants may not be in position to meaningfully use these unorganised data.

- 7 The detailed explanations on sidha, unani, homoeopathy and chapters 16 and 17 are superfluous and deviate from the central theme of the book.
- 8 Page 169: Catechol included in Flavonoids is not a flavonoid at all.
- 9 Page 169: In anthocyanins it is written that they are replaced by á-cyanin-3 in beet root. But in beet root the red pigments are indolic derivatives,

"Betacyanins".

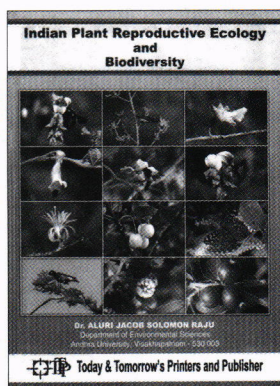
- 10 Page 169: Flavanols are flavan-3-ols and are colourless compounds.
- 11 Page 125: Anthrones are a group of derived anthraquinones and are to be grouped among quinones.

These points, after detailed reference work, may be added as "Errata" and provided along with the book if possible, or else may be corrected when a new edition is brought out. These comments do not, however, reduce the value of this enormous work and again I recommend this book to all libraries.

M. Daniel (Vadodara)

A.J. Solomon Raju 2007

Indian Plant Reproductive Ecology and Biodiversity, Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi, ISBN 81-7019-441-7 (India), 1-55528-229-1 (USA), pages 383, 45 colour plates, Indian Rupees 2495.00 (US\$ 200.00).



As the author explains in the preface, this book is an attempt to consolidate the available information on reproductive ecology of plants occurring in India. One who goes through this compilation will be surprised to see that out of the 226 taxa worked out so far in India, only 76 species are wild or indigenous and the rest

are exotic, cultivated or planted.

Data, in this book, are organised under three major titles: (i) Plant reproductive ecology and biodiversity (pp 1-8), (ii) Family and species wise description of reproductive ecology of Indian plant species (pp 9-266) and (iii) Reproductive ecology of Indian plants—An assessment (pp 267-280). There are three useful

tables (pp 281-304): the first lists out the species investigated for reproductive ecology; the second contains life form, flowering season, time of anthesis, nature of floral sexuality, breeding system and pollinators of species included; the third deals with floral morphological and functional characteristics. The book has 45 colour photoplates and an extensive bibliography containing 427 references (pp 305-326). These are followed by indices to plant and animal names. The work describes (elaborated version of tables 1-3) reproductive ecology of each species based on published literature.

One may wonder why the word biodiversity has crept in in the title of such a work as the word has no relevance in the context of the theme dealt; neither did the author try to make it relevant. The introductory part is too general. It does not explain the importance and discuss the issues of reproductive ecology as expected in a work of this nature. Some portions (components of biodiversity, over exploitation of biological resources etc.) are over stretched. Many points mentioned are not effectively connected to the main theme. Despite these minor flaws, the major part that provides family and species wise description of reproductive ecology is an essential baseline data for anybody who is interested in this field. Moreover, this is the first work

consolidating information on reproductive ecology of plant species so far worked out in India. The author deserves appreciation for this venture.

This book also enlightens, though not discussed, about the gaps we have to fill up in the immediate

future when we deal with our endemic species in terms of evolving strategies for conserving them.

T. S. Nayar and S. Suresh
(Thiruvananthapuram)

S. Gopakumar 2007

Common Trees of KAU(Kerala Agricultural University) Main Campus. CD Ver.1, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, KAU Post, Thrissur, Kerala, India. URL: <http://www.kau.edu>

Price not given



This interactive CD takes us for a short journey to the details of 161 common tree species growing in the campus of Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur. There are four search options: one for family and other three for Scientific,

English and Local names. Family search option provides an index to family names and to display of species names in the family. When any of the Scientific, English or Local names are selected, the species is displayed with photographs and details like habit, flower colour, uses and notes on the family and the species. There are provisions to print and export data and view the photographs in large format. Minimum system requirement only is needed to run the CD. It runs with a background music.

An introduction in the home page explaining the concept and functioning of the CD would have been helpful to the user. If the team were making use of the expertise of a plant taxonomist some errors could have been avoided. *Ravenala madagascariensis* Sonn. (not *Ravenala madagaseariensis*) belongs to Musaceae and not Palmae (Arecaceae). The picture given for *Borassus flabellifer* L. is the picture of *Livistona rotundifolia* (Lam.) Mart. Authors are not cited for many scientific names. There are errors in author citation also (eg. *Buchanania axillaris* (Desr.) Ramam. and not *Buchanania axillaris* Desr.). Some plants delt in the CD are not trees (*Jatropha curcas* L., *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (L.) Sw., *Helicteres isora* L.). It would have been more user friendly if English and Malayalam names were listed in alphabetical order in search window. When a name not listed in the CD is entered no negative answer is displayed.

In spite of such minor errors, a CD of this nature evolving a good presentation concept is timely. The layout is attractive and colour combinations used are sober. Photographs keep good quality. The CD is definitely useful for college students, especially those who use electronic media for educational purposes; so also common people interested in plants around.

S. Suresh (Thiruvananthapuram)