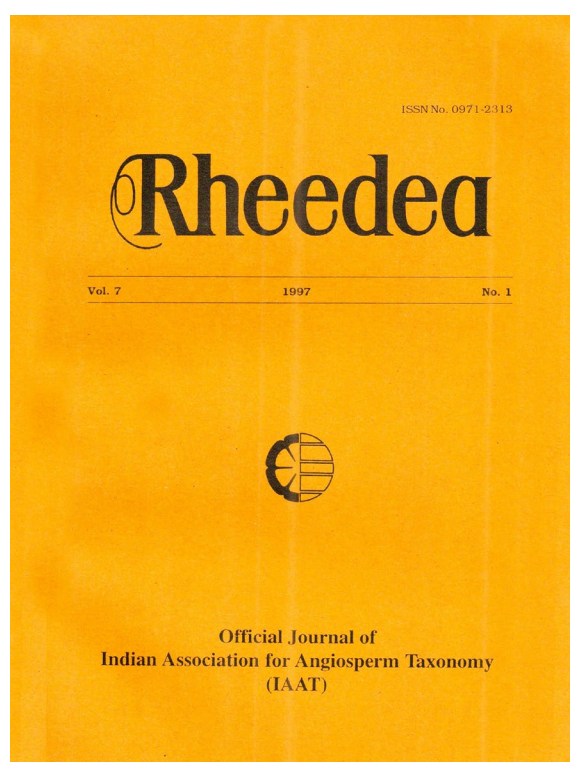




Book Review: Hot spots of endemic plants of India, Nepal and Bhutan

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How to cite:

Manilal K.S. 1997. Book Review: Hot spots of endemic plants of India, Nepal and Bhutan. *Rheedeia* 7(1): 65.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedeia.1997.07.01.12>

Published in print: 30.06.1997

Published Online: 01.01.2022

Book Reviews

HOT SPOTS OF ENDEMIC PLANTS OF INDIA, NEPAL AND BHUTAN. M.P.Nayar. 1996. Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram. pp.254. PB. Rs.600/-; US \$50/-; £ 35/-.

Endemic flora is the exclusive biological wealth of a country since they do not occur anywhere else on earth. The richness and uniqueness of the biodiversity of any country depends to a great extent to its endemic species and, therefore, it is essential that a clear understanding of the endemic flora and fauna as well as the megacentres of endemism are the first requirements for any effective measures aimed at the protection and preservation of biodiversity of any region.

In this book, Dr. M.P. Nayar has dealt with the endemic plants of India, Nepal and Bhutan, and their mega- and micro-centres in the three countries, in considerable detail. Comprehensive lists of endemic plants are given, pertaining to the various phytogeographic and climatic regions. The explanations of various common terms and other important matters connected with endemism, provided in the preliminary chapters would be helpful to students and non-biologists too, as a very useful introduction to the subject.

This is a scholarly work which would be valuable both as an introduction to the subject as well as a reference book for planners, policy-makers and biologists who are concerned with the protection and preservation of biodiversity.

Dr. K.S.Manilal

THE FLORA OF ORISSA, 4 Vols. H.O. Saxena & M. Brahmam. Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar-751 013, Orissa, India, and Orissa Forest Development Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar-751 001, Orissa. (HB). Price: Rs.800.00 for complete set of 4 volumes. Available from the Divisional Manager, Commercial Division, Orissa Forest Development Corporation Ltd., Plot No.217/218, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India. Vol.1 *Ranunculaceae* to *Fabaceae*: April 1994, pp.I-LXIV, 1-633, 1 map and 16 plant drawings; Vol.2. *Rosaceae* to *Martyniaceae*: April 1995, pp.635-1322, 35 plant drawings; Vol.3. *Acanthaceae* to *Commelinaceae*: December 1995, pp.1323-2008, 16 plant drawings; Vol.4. *Flagellariaceae* to *Poaceae*, *Gymnoperms* and *Pteridophyta*; Statistical analysis of the flora, Bibliography, General indices: March 1996, pp.2009-2918, 8 plant drawings.

The titled book running in four volumes, deals with the flora of Orissa State which is endowed with a rich and varied flora due to its diversified topography and other physical features. The need for a comprehensive flora of Orissa has been felt ever since its formation in 1936. Haines' *Botany of Bihar and Orissa* (1921-25) written some 70-75 years back has not only become