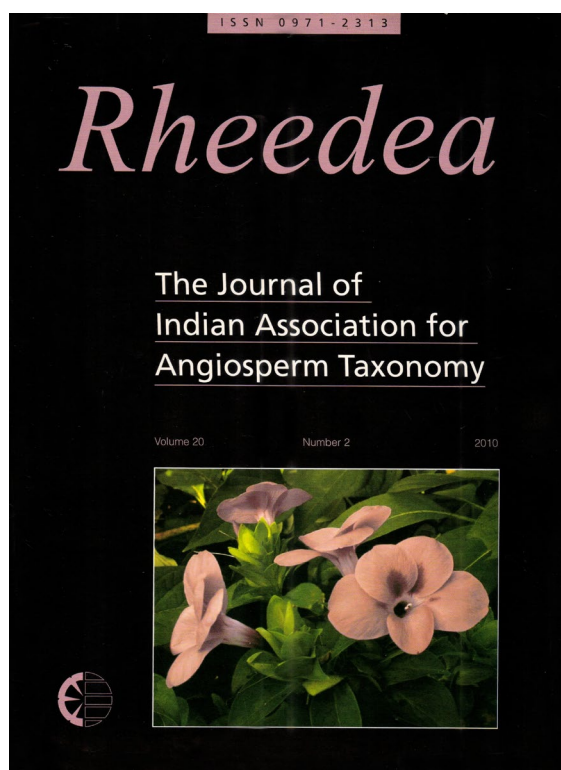




Book Review: Bamboos at TBGRI

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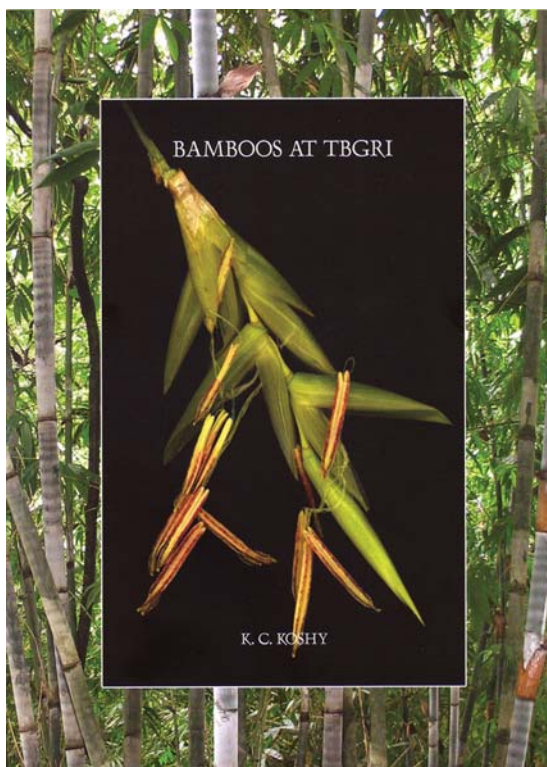
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Book Review

K.C. Koshy 2010

Bamboos at TBGRI, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 562, Kerala, India. Pages 104 + cover, colour photographs: Total 128 (including 4 cover photographs and 11 full page photographs), painting 1, graph 1 and map 1.

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The conservation and use of bamboo resources has been of great concern in several parts of the world especially Asia, south and Southeast Asia where the utilization of bamboo has been significant in the traditional and cultural practices. Several national and international funding agencies have been supporting R & D activities on collection, conservation and use of bamboo resources. The *ex situ* collection of bamboos established at TBGRI is perhaps the best living collection in southern India. Owing to the incomplete exploration of the bamboo flora and inadequacy of scientific collection, the taxonomic inventory of the bamboos is still under a long way to go. The ability to recognise

the diversity of bamboos and efforts towards the conservation and collection of important bamboo species is highly significant. The effort made by the author is commendable.

The first chapter dealing with the history on the establishing of the bambusetum at TBGRI is well organised and exhaustive. In the second chapter the advantages of the bambusetum are discussed well. There are several unidentified species included. A detailed account of 68 species representing 15 genera is given. For each species the locality with GPS coordinates, collection number, date and specimens deposited in the TBGRI herbarium are also given. The map of bambusetum is an useful guide. The photographs included for several species are of good quality. However, it would have been of much use, if the photographs were given as a single plate for each species depicting all identifying characters for easy recognition of the species. It is felt that the author has not seen a publication on a new combination *Dendrocalamus stocksii* (Munro) M. Kumar, Remesh & Unnikrishnan, to accommodate a widely occurring economically important bamboo in South and Central India, which was formerly described under *Oxytenanthera* Munro and *Pseudoxytenanthera* Soderstr. & R.P. Ellis. It would have been better had the author included region wise distribution of the species and the status. The third chapter on the sustained utilisation is well organised. The study undertaken on bamboo hybridization is challenging and is a brave attempt.

The design and print quality is excellent. The price of the book is high and may not be affordable to many. On the whole the book is a useful resource for students and teachers engaged in bamboo research.

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