



Acanthaceae are one of the top fifteen species-rich flowering plant families, with about 4900 species distributed primarily in the Paleo- (Old World) and Neo- (New World) tropical and subtropical regions. The family shows a high degree of variation in growth forms, floral forms, and pollen types and with a wide distribution, the precise delineation of taxa is often challenging. Despite these challenges, the number of botanists actively contributing to new knowledge of the taxonomy, phylogeny, and biogeography of this family is estimated to be less than twenty.

Tripp *et al.* in their recently proposed revised classification of Acanthaceae in 2021 recognised and enumerated 191 accepted genera, provided diagnostic morphological characteristics for major lineages, dichotomous keys to the subfamilies, tribes and genera, and validated some names. This publication forms a baseline for botanists worldwide to pursue research in the family. It

is hoped that this might improve the paucity of taxonomic work on the family and increase publications on different taxonomic groups at both national and global levels.

The present issue of *Rheede* is exclusively dedicated to the family Acanthaceae and invited current research findings on discoveries, new records (for country and continent), taxonomic revisions, nomenclatural notes, molecular phylogenies, and biogeographic studies from across the globe. A total of 11 research articles from various parts of the world are accepted for publication. These articles include 12 new species, 12 new synonyms, and designation of type for many names and assessments of taxon conservation status. Thirty-three authors have contributed to this issue, seven of whom are from outside India, representing research institutions from Angola, China, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Gallego and Wood reports the anisophylly in some of the South American Acanthaceae members and its significance in the classification. In addition, six new species of *Justicia* are described with a note on their affinities, distribution, and conservation status. A synoptic revision of *Ruellia* in Angola by Darbyshire *et al.* discusses the taxonomy and conservation status (extinction risk) along with the description of two species new to science in detail. Soumiya *et al.* presented a comprehensive taxonomic revision of *Justicia* in peninsular India with a complete taxonomy for 18 species, type designation for six names, and treating nine names as new synonyms under already known species. King *et al.* described two species of *Lepidagathis* new to science from the low-elevation lateritic plateaus of Karnataka and Kerala, India with micrographs of pollen grains and seeds. Two new species, one each in *Dicliptera* (Rasingam *et al.*) and *Strobilanthes* (Mani *et al.*) from the Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats of India, respectively have been described. Gnanasekaran *et al.* have demonstrated that two recently described species of *Lepidagathis* from southern India are conspecific

with species already known and that share common geographical ranges. Deng and Asuncion, and Jaseela *et al.* have reported two species as new records to the flora of Peru (*Nelsonia canescens*) and to southern India (*Hygrophila phlomoides*), respectively. In addition, notes on the taxonomic identity and typifications of names in the genera, namely *Ruellia* (Basil *et al.*) and *Thunbergia* (Das & Bhattacharyya) are published.

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editorial process. Editors especially thank all the reviewers for their critical comments that enhanced the quality of articles.

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