

PREFACE

The publication of Volume 4 of *Flora Europaea* completes our account of the Dicotyledonous families, leaving a final fifth volume to cover the Monocotyledones. The present volume contains many genera of exceptional taxonomic difficulty and it is in no small measure due to the unfailing cooperation and advice we have received from our many friends and advisers who make up the *Flora Europaea* organization that we have been able to prepare it for publication within four years of the previous volume.

After a modest start nearly twenty years ago, the *Flora Europaea* organization is now a well-established feature of the botanical scene in Europe, and its significance has been widely appreciated in other continents. We are indebted to all our Regional Advisers and Advisory Editors for keeping faith with us year after year. To our authors we owe a special debt of gratitude for the way in which they have not only provided us with manuscripts but have accepted the very extensive modifications to which these have often been subjected during the various stages of editing. Problems of generic delimitation have been of special concern in some families in this volume and the willingness of our authors to accept, although not without extensive discussion and debate, proposals for the modification of their original generic disposition, in the interests of some degree of uniformity of treatment, has been testimony to their cooperation. As in the previous volumes, the Editorial Committee accepts full responsibility for the form in which the text appears.

Our team of Research Associates has remained unchanged during the preparation of this volume; Dr R. DeFilipps after five years' loyal service with us has now returned to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.

There has been a major change in the pattern of financial support for the project during the past years. The United Kingdom Science Research Council has provided support continuously for the project since 1959 but its final grant expired in 1973. We wish to express our profound appreciation of this outstanding support, amounting to over £130,000, which made the realization of the *Flora Europaea* project possible. Since 1973 we have been fortunate in obtaining grants from European sources outside the United Kingdom. The contributing bodies have been Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian; Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy; Fonds national de la recherche scientifique, Switzerland; Natural Science Research Council, Sweden; Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain; Trinity College, University of Dublin, Ireland; Royal Irish Academy; National Science Council, Ireland; National Research Council, Denmark; National Research Council, Iceland; M. Roger de Villemorin, France; Goulandris Botanical Museum, Greece; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France. At the time of writing £22,475 has been received or promised from these bodies and we are grateful to them and to our Advisers who have been instrumental in negotiating the grants. In particular we wish to acknowledge the role of the Natural Science Research Council of Sweden which has coordinated the work of seeking contributions within the West European Research Councils. A substantial grant has also been made by the *Flora Europaea* Trust Fund of the Linnean Society of London, which receives its income from the royalties from the *Flora*.

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The seventh *Flora Europaea* symposium was held in Coimbra in May 1972 and was arranged through the courtesy of Professor A. Fernandes. Financial support for this very successful meeting was provided by the Instituto de Alta Cultura, the Ministry of National Education, the Mayor of Coimbra and the Sociedade Broteriana.

We have continued to enjoy unfailing courtesy and assistance from the Keeper and Staff of the Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), London, and from the Director and Staff of the Herbarium and Library, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. We are also grateful to many other European institutions for their help in lending us material.

Once again we wish to acknowledge the exceedingly valuable contribution to the *Flora* made by Mr J. E. Dandy, one of our Advisory Editors, who has checked the nomenclature of most of the accounts in this volume and has been unsparing in his advice and suggestions. Dr W. T. Stearn has also generously given much assistance with nomenclatural problems. Other botanists who have assisted us in special ways include Mr P. D. Sell who has been responsible for the painstaking labour needed to prepare the index for the press, and Professor G. Wagenitz and Dr W. Gutermann who made valuable comments on many genera.

The University of Reading has continued to provide accommodation for the Secretariat in the Plant Science Laboratories and has handled the financial accounts of the project without charge. The Universities of Cambridge, Dublin, Leicester, Manchester and Ulster have also supported the members of the Editorial Committee in making facilities available to them. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Mrs Rosa Husain who has run the office at the Secretariat with great efficiency and loyalty.