

FOREWORD

Since the appearance of Supplement XVI of *Index Kewensis*, many things have changed.

Sadly, we have to record the premature deaths of the two compilers of this Supplement, Mrs Leslie Pinner in 1982 and Miss Thalia Bence in 1983. Their places have been taken by Miss Rosemary Davies and Miss Katherine Lloyd.

The well-tried system of typing *Index Kewensis* entries on cards, filed in drawers and instantly available to all, had to be replaced by a system that both provided direct typesetting and saved duplication of effort. So in the mid-1970s, believing in the promised capabilities of computers, we agreed with the publishers of our sister publication *Kew Record* to a joint method of production. In this, *Index Kewensis* entries, which were already being incorporated into *Kew Record*, would be keyed for computer-aided typesetting, and would be 'stripped out' of *Kew Record* tapes automatically and run on their own to produce Supplement XVII.

But the computerization was troublesome: *Kew Record* slipped into arrears and *Index Kewensis* had to slip with it. Thus it is not until now that the complex technical problems have been overcome and the publication of Supplement XVII accomplished. This 5-year link with *Kew Record* also explains the departure from the usual typography for *Index Kewensis*, but does not explain the virtual disappearance of accents, which is due to other technical problems. With the arrival of our own computer at Kew, a very much better system is now in operation which has permitted us to restore many of these familiar features in Supplement XVIII, itself soon to be published.

With the change from traditional to a computerized system, we thought it timely to abandon Latin on the title page and in this Foreword, recognizing that English is now more widely understood.

As in Supplement XVI, the Cyrillic characters have been transliterated in accordance with British Standard 2979 (1958): *Transliteration of Cyrillic and Greek Characters*.

Names at all taxonomic ranks from family downwards are included.

Names at ranks above genus are arranged alphabetically under families in a separate sequence at the beginning of the volume.

The dagger (†) indicates the corrected re-entry of a name cited in an earlier volume.

Books published from 1976 to 1980 and journals received at Kew during this period or seen at the British Museum (Natural History) have been scanned. A few extra entries missed in previous years have also been included.

The production of this volume has involved a great deal of work not only by Mrs Pinner, Miss Bence, and latterly Miss Davies at Kew, but also by the staff of HMSO and Oxford University Press. For all this careful work, the rest of us must remain indebted.

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