

# Preface

The plant is still always right and hasn't evolved much since the original edition of this book was published. However, it has been subjected to all sorts of genetic manipulation and investigation, which has had two consequences for the topic of this book. First, cladistic analyses of flowering plants have revealed much detail of their origins and ancestral affinities, and a new word has arisen: *eudicot* (28). This translates as "good" dicotyledon, but does not imply that the excluded dicotyledons (basal dicots, 28) are dysfunctional, morphologically or otherwise. Second, a perennial feature of morphological discussion revolves around the homologies between different organ categories (246), and this discussion is now compounded (but not confounded) by knowledge of whether apparently very different organs share a common controlling genetic programme (38, 247).

The book itself has evolved gently. The drawings are now larger and augmented, happily by the same excellent botanical artist, and the photographs have multiplied (same photographer, same camera, same film). The text has been tweaked a little, or a lot in some instances, in light of recent morphological investigations. The references to published research and opinion have been substantially updated, the better to give the diligent reader a lead into an internet literature survey of any topic, and they are now cross-referenced to their location in the text. For those readers interested in learning more, a few well-chosen key words, be they morphological entities, researchers' names, or both, submitted to Google scholar ([http://scholar.google.com/advanced\\_scholar\\_search](http://scholar.google.com/advanced_scholar_search)) will elicit a most satisfactory response.