

Preface

Botany, as we all are well aware, is the science of plants. Botany is essentially a sub-category of Biology. Though fungi and algae have some non-green species, their study is also included in botany. It is believed that approximately 4 lac species are studied under this field of biology. Botany happens to be one of the most ancient fields of science, as it has been studied since the evolution of human beings. Humans started identifying harmful and useful plants at a very early age. It was only in early 15th century that they started cultivating edible and medicinal plants. Padua botanical garden is one of the most ancient gardens which studied plants with written records and botanical study parameters.

In the present age of advancement in technology and technical assistance used to study plants, some of the most advanced techniques available today include electron and optical microscopy, cell imaging, enzymes analysis, genetic engineering, etc. The advancements in the field of botany are such that today, it is possible to create hybrids of plants these days. This is also because botanists have invented techniques to explore molecular genetics and DNA sequencing to classify species more specifically.

This book has been produced with the motive of exploring and spreading knowledge related to botanical sciences, and to help students as well as botanists in their studies and researches. I especially wish to acknowledge the contributing authors, without whom a work of this magnitude would clearly not have been realizable. I thank all our authors for allocating much of their scarce time to this project. Not only do I appreciate their participation, but also their adherence as a group to the time parameters set for this publication.

Editor