

SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

The term systematic botany encompasses the domain not only of the higher plants, but also of the lower plants. Since it is not possible to treat adequately the various plant-groups under a single volume, this edition is restricted to a discussion of the angiosperms. It has been designed as a textbook for the undergraduate students (Pass and Honours) of all the Indian universities and it will be helpful to postgraduate students in Botany as well as to the study of Agriculture and allied subjects.

The author has abandoned Bentham-Hooker's system and presented a new scheme of 'angiosperm-classification'. Although the latter scheme, like any other envisaged before, has its shortcomings, it represents the most probable natural relationship among flowering plants. Almost all the taxa prevalent in the Indian flora have been dealt with, covering 44 orders and 193 families. Generally, each order has been discussed in the light of phylogeny and with emphasis on its general features, circumscription inter-relationship, origin and means of identification of various families (by bracketed keys). Those families prominent in the country's flora have been described under six or seven different heads, depending on the available information. Though the inconspicuous ones have not been categorised likewise, one can even find in them the array of items under each family being suitably treated. Moreover, the nomenclature of plants have been checked and brought up-to-date as far as possible. Part one is an expose of taxonomic principles, while parts three and four, deal with the dicotyledonous and monocotyledonous plants respectively. Under part two, there are certain specialised topics which have a bearing on the study of the systematic botany of angiosperms. A list of important books and papers is inserted at the end of each part. In brief, the author has made an attempt to give a complete picture of angiosperm systematically.

Subhash Chandra Datta, Professor of Botany at the University of Calcutta, is in range of teaching and research in ecophysiology and chemical ecology of plants. He obtained his masters degree from Calcutta (1953), working under the supervision of Prof. SM Sircar. He completed his PhD under Prof. Stuart Dunn at the University of New Hampshire (USA) in 1957. He started his career as Associate Professor from Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana (USA). Before joining the University of Baghdad as Assistant Professor, he served as Senior Research Fellow at Jadavpur University. He was employed at Visva-Bharati as their first Professor of Botany in 1979 and worked as Co-ordinator of the School of Life Sciences there. During the academic year 1968-69, he worked under Prof. Michael Evenari at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a Post-doctoral Fellow. He visited Israel for the second time in 1986 when he donned the robes of a Visiting Professor at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. In 1983, he toured Finland as a Visiting Professor and was a Study-Visitor (senior category) in Great Britain being sponsored by the Royal Society of London. He has investigated problems of mineral nutrition, plant-growth substances, post-harvest physiology of fruits, dormancy of seeds, allelopathy, air pollution, etc. He has produced twenty-one PhD. He has published more than one hundred research papers in the journals of international repute.



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