

Preface

In nature, subordination of organic beings in groups under groups is an established fact rather than an artifact. As against the abiotic things, the organic or living beings exhibit a state of dynamism due to the cause and effect of infinite evolutionary forces represented in the form of plasticity or variability within and between the groups. This demands peculiar flexibility in circumscribing the different categories of taxonomic hierarchy to meet the special requirements of biological classification especially at the higher levels. The biological plasticity of organisms and flexibility demands in their classification has resulted in lots of subjective judgments and concepts causing several misconceptions and controversies regarding the taxonomic categories. Different authorities have grouped the flowering plants into 199 - 430 families. However, it has been realized that the taxonomy is currently facing lots of hurdles due to the ignorance of general principles of taxonomy which constitutes the backbone of the subject.

It is really gratifying to me to bring this volume totally committed to clarify the underlying principles of plant systematics with special reference to the current trends in the subject that furnishes comprehensive and up-to-date knowledge on the discipline. The book has been carefully prepared to cater the needs of undergraduate, postgraduate and research students of botany in general and plant taxonomy in special. The author is confident that the book shall be helpful to the teachers in their deliberations and presenting novel ideas in the subject.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of the academic bodies especially IAPT (for Vienna Code-2006), authors and publishers of esteemed literature from which the materials for this book have been extracted. They deserve respect and obligation as they have always been a guiding source throughout the work.

I am grateful to Prof. B. K. Verma, Ex. Head, Prof. D. K. Chauhan, Prof. Anupam Dikshit, Dr. G. Kumar, Dr. S. P. Tiwari and Dr. Satya Narain, University of Allahabad for their constructive suggestions. I also express my deep sense of gratitude to My friends Dr. S. K. Chauhan, General Secretary, Blue Planet Society, Allahabad; Dr. P. R. Singh, Dr. Irfan A. Khan, Dr. Madhusudan Singh, Dr. Vivek K. Dwivedi University of Allahabad; Mr. Naseem Khan, Mr. Ravi M. Jauhari, and Dr. Prateek Srivastava, Allahabad for their everlasting support during the entire work.

Hari P. Pandey

Department of Botany
ISD College, University of Allahabad
Allahabad 211004 – India
Email: hp.pandey.bps@gmail.com

