

Preface

Angiosperms or flowering plants are the dominant plants on earth at this time and have been for the last 100 million years. Traditionally they have been divided into two divisions (classes) called Monocotyledons (one seed-leaf) and Dicotyledons (2 seed leaves) based on the number of food stores contained in the seeds. Monocots also have parallel venation while the others have complex netted venation.

Apart from some other structural features of importance, the classification of Angiosperms rests mostly upon the structure of the flower, which is undoubtedly their most distinctive feature. This is mainly because it is the flower which shows such remarkable plasticity of form. This variability of the structure of the flower in turn reflects the intimate adaptive association of flowers with insects, whose evolution they have closely paralleled. Indeed, such a phenomenon is often given as an example of co-evolution because of the strength and longevity of the contact between the two groups, and the diverse ways they have mutually influenced each other in structure and in life-cycles.

The present book provides a comprehensive account of the general principles and modern trends in the taxonomy of angiosperms. It brings out the aims and principles of taxonomy, compares all current systems of classification, and explains intricate rules of plant nomenclature clearly. This well-illustrated and dependable text is designed for undergraduate and postgraduate students of botany

Author