

This volume, first of the series on '**Plant Genome: Biodiversity and Evolution**' includes 'Phanerogams' *sensu lato* covering both angiosperms and gymnosperms. The principal focus is on the status, phylogeny and evolution of different taxa of higher plants as deduced through modern tools of genomic analysis coupled with classical approaches. In this initial series on Phanerogams, a cross section of the plant groups is covered ranging from Cruciferae, Compositae, Rosaceae and Betulaceae on the one hand to Triticeae of the Grasses on the other. The trend of evolution from Bryophytes to Gymnosperms is covered in one article. In addition to dealing with different groups, the status of certain molecular tools including ITS sequences of transfer gene, and *in situ* hybridization techniques and their impact on study of genome and biodiversity analysis have been discussed. This is an initial volume on phanerogams to be followed by succession of volumes to cover the entire gamut of higher and lower plants. It will serve as a valuable reference for research workers and students of biodiversity, genomics and taxonomy.

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Their numerous contributions include authorship/editorship of several books—*Chromosome Techniques* (Butterworths, 1965, 1972, 1980); *Chromosomes in Evolution*, Pt. I & II (CRC Press, 1983, 1984), *Chromosome Technique—A Manual* (Harwood Academic, 1994), *Plant Chromosomes: analysis, manipulation and engineering* (Harwood Academic, 1999); and *Chromosome Painting* (Kluwer Academic, 2001).