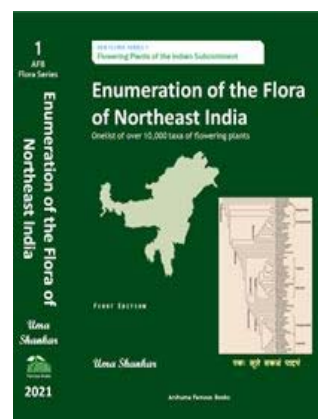


BOOK REVIEW

Uma Shankar. 2021. Enumeration of the Flora of Northeast India – Onelist of over 10,000 taxa of flowering plants. AFB Flora Series on Flowering Plants of the Indian Subcontinent, Volume 1, First Edition. Arshuma Famous Books, Agra, India. X+486 Pages. ISBN: 978-93-5445-467-7.

Biodiversity of Northeast India is very rich and is still under exploration. Although the novelties of many taxa were published in different forms by many authors, the information remains scattered throughout the region. Floras of many states have been published by different authors, but still the exact figure of plant diversity in Northeast India is not known by the scientific community. This book brings out a first-hand answer to the most simple query, such as How many and what species of plants (angiosperms) are there in Northeast India?, and for which we teachers and scientists are turning our faces from the students for decades. This book is a compilation of 11,245 native and many non native plant taxa recorded from Northeast India, which encompasses two global hotspots of biodiversity, viz., 'The Himalaya' and 'Indo-Burma'. The taxa are arranged according to the Angiospermic Phylogeny, *i.e.*, APG IV (2016) Classification, which is globally accepted and an important divergence from the natural system of classification of Bentham and Hooker (1862-1883) followed everywhere in academia and herbaria till date. The nomenclature of taxa included in this book follows the Shenzhen Code (2018) of ICN, which has rendered more than one-third of the plant names published in all regional floras archaic. The accepted generic names, epithets and authorities are matched with the Kew resources and synonyms have been removed.

The author is a well known field ecologist of India and he has been closely associated with the floral explorations from different parts of Northeast India. Prof. Uma Shankar is having more than 30 years of research experience on biodiversity exploration work of different climatic zones of the region. He has guided a number of doctoral and master students, executed several research projects related to floral diversity and bioresource of Northeast India. This is the first volume of his book series with six chapters distributed over a 486 pages. After introduction, the first three chapters deal with plant orders and families, plant genera and plant taxa present in Northeast India. Lastly, he has compiled the list of plant



taxa in Northeast India in an alphabetical order. Any book on a technical topic needs a reference section and this book is also no exception. The author is at his best referring all needed floras, report, research articles and thesis of this region for compilation of this book.

As per my view, the book is brief and well structured. The plant identities are arranged alphabetically under the family with a description of its current status in a language and technique accessible to non-taxonomic readers. The final list of species helps to search the list of the plants under each family. Undoubtedly his effort makes to understand the flora of Northeast India in a broader perspective and in an easily understandable manner. A general reader would find this list quite useful to learn more about the species in a systematic way. I am sure that the book would be a very useful baseline for everyone and especially for any taxonomic teaching and research.

The author has done a commendable job compiling the floral diversity of Northeast India which was required by all for decades. The book contains a substantial amount of scientific and technical information. Being a researcher in this field, I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the book. I have also learnt about many species which were not known to me. I strongly recommend reading and possession of this book in every institution dealing with botany, taxonomy, forestry, agriculture, horticulture and environmental sciences. It would undoubtedly be a worthy addition to the floral diversity of Northeast India. The work in the book justifies its price. I think it is a must-keep in every institution of learning as it is a valuable resource of information for teaching and research.

SOURABH DEB

Department of Forestry and Biodiversity
Tripura University, Suryamaninagar,
Agartala, Tripura
Email: sdeb@tripurauniv.ac.in