BOOK REVIEW

Nayar, T. S., Beegam, A. R. and Sibi, M. (2014) *Flowering plants of the Western Ghats India*, Volume 1 Dicots. i-ix + 1-934 pages. Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, India. ISBN: 978-81-920098-2-7.

Nayar, T. S., Sibi, M. and Beegam, A. R. (2014) *Flowering plants of the Western Ghats India*, Volume 2 Monocots. I-vi + 935-1683 pages. Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, India. ISBN: 978-81-920098-3-4.

The 'Flowering plants of the Western Ghats, India, published in two volumes, records 7,402 species, 117 subspecies and 476 varieties of flowering plants from the Western Ghats of India. The two volumes cover a total of 8080 taxa, including 66 species, 5 subspecies and 14 doubtful varieties. Each taxon is provided with the accepted name, synonyms, local names in six Indian languages, details of the habit, references to species descriptions and illustrations, details of geographical distribution, IUCN threat category, economic importance, phenology across the Western Ghats, and other important information that can be easily used by botanists as well as non-botanists. It appears that the authors with their extensive experience and expertise, reported all these information needed in ecological studies and in plant conservation efforts.

Volume I covers 175 dicot families starting from Acanthaceae to Zygphyllaceae. This volume includes a user's key enabling the reader easily grasp the information related to each taxon. Volume II covers 35 monocot families starting from Agavaceae to Zingiberaceae. This volume also contains separate indices for scientific names and local names. Both volumes provide up-to date family names with genera within each family organized according to the alphabetical order for easy reference.

This, being an internationally acclaimed two volumes of the book adapted for the Western Ghats of India, is a valuable companion for students, teachers, researchers and others having a deeper interest in conservation biology of the region. In my opinion, the data provided in these volumes comprehensively covers the flowering plants of the Western Ghats in such a way that botanists as well as non-botanists can easily access information on taxonomy, ecology and geography of the plant species.

As these two volumes list the flora of diverse local communities in the Western Ghats, India, these could be prescribed to all the herbaria where tropical flora are being researched.

S. C. K. Rubasinghe
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