

## BOOK REVIEW

**Flora Malesiana. Series I - Spermatophyta. Volume 11, part 2 (pp. 227–418).** Foundation Flora Malesiana, Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden (Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus). ISBN 90-71236-19-6. Dfl. 75.

The latest part of Flora Malesiana covers the families Rosaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Alliaceae, Coriariaceae, Pentastemonaceae and Stemonaceae. On the families Rosaceae (by C. Kalkman), Coriariaceae, Pentastemonaceae and Stemonaceae (by B. E. E. Duyfjes) I am not competent to comment; however, they appear to be thoroughly treated in the accustomed Flora Malesiana style.

The account of Amaryllidaceae by D. J. L. Geerinck is, however, a different matter. I sympathize to some extent with the need to expedite the rate of production of Flora Malesiana as recommended by the workshop on the future of the project held in Leiden in 1989: to be more pragmatic, to use a more concise format and to abandon the 'semi-monographic' approach. However, this should not lead to the degree of sloppiness evident in the present account of Amaryllidaceae. Even if one does not accept all the monocot families recognized by Dahlgren, Clifford & Yeo (1985), which, despite many necessary refinements, is becoming more and more generally supported and accepted, it does seem wilfully old-fashioned to include the well-defined Hypoxidaceae under Amaryllidaceae.

The treatment of Hypoxids is especially unsatisfactory. Hilliard & Burt (Notes Roy. Bot. Garden Edinburgh 36: 43–76 (1978)) convincingly argued for maintaining *Molineria* and *Curculigo* as distinct genera, but Geerinck includes *Molineria* within *Curculigo*. A quick glance in the herbarium suggests that there is a certain amount of the old type of Flora Malesiana lumping in the treatment of those species which should be placed in *Molineria*. The caption of Figure 5 is a complete mess and should read as follows:

- a. *Curculigo orchioides*
- b. *C. racemosa*
- c. *C. erecta*
- d. *C. latifolia*
- e. *C. capitulata*

The inclusion of a large number of cultivated (useful and ornamental) taxa is to be commended but among these one error stands out: although *Zephyranthes carinata* and *Z. grandiflora* are listed separately, with different descriptions, the former is given as a synonym of the latter. The two species are synonymous and *Z. carinata* the correct name; *Z. grandiflora*, though earlier, is illegitimate. Descriptions in this family and in Alliaceae follow the recommended new concise format.

The treatment of Alliaceae by J. R. M. Buijsen appears to be far more satisfactory, although the wrong name is used for the widespread weedy species of *Nothoscordum*. Despite several recent name changes it appears that this should be known as *N. borbonicum* Kunth (see Ravenna, *Taxon* 40: 485 (1991)).

It is to be hoped that future parts of this important work will allow a more satisfactory compromise between accuracy and speed of production.

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