

example, from genera starting with 'A' there are 19 missed names, from 'B' 8, from 'C' 24, etc. The data under each entry are, in the main, sound, and apart from the odd computer-generated hiccup it is generally accurate (for specific errors see Burt's review in *Kew Bull.* 49(3): 592, 1994). There is a substantial amount of missing data (e.g. for *Bolax*, a common South American genus, the type is recorded as 'not indicated'), and I find that treating orthographic variants as full entries with the qualification 'Type: not indicated' is rather misleading. The authors have identified a real need for a work bringing together the huge amount of taxonomic information on the Umbelliferae in a concise form. This book is a brave attempt to fulfil that need, and, although very useful to Umbel researchers and others as it stands, I would hope that it forms the basis for a much more rigorous second edition.

In the Introduction to this work, the authors discuss in detail the GNOM database, and the philosophy behind storing this kind of taxonomic information in a flexible electronic medium, allowing constant updating. There is no doubt that storing taxonomic (and floristic) information in this form is an excellent way of handling such complex datasets. Furthermore it opens up exciting possibilities for data exchange and information-sharing on an international scale.

REFERENCE

- BURTT, B. L. (1991). Umbelliferae of Southern Africa: an introduction and annotated check-list. *Edinb. J. Bot.* 48: 133–282.

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An Illustrated Flora of North Cyprus. D.E. Viney. Koenigstein, Germany: Koeltz Scientific Books. 1994. xxix + 697pp, 339 black and white illustrations. ISBN 3 87429 364 5. Price DM 58.00 (paperback).

Cyprus has a wild flora of some 2000 species of higher plants, including more than 350 naturalized adventives. This assemblage of plants comprises one of the most important island floras of the Mediterranean region, with 88 endemic species, and several subspecies and varieties. The great majority of the endemics are centred on the Troodos Mountains in the west, but a substantial endemic element occurs in northern Cyprus. Dr Deryck Viney has lived there for some years and has set up a North Cyprus herbarium, now curated by the Forestry Department of Turkish Cyprus.

Geographically, Cyprus is an extension of the great Taurus range of Anatolia. This book therefore complements the two superb recent regional Floras – Desmond Meikle's *Flora of Cyprus* and the monumental *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Region* edited by the late Peter Davis. The north-eastern part of the island has been occupied by Turkey since the invasion of the island by Turkish forces in 1974. Two

particularly useful features of the present work are the inclusion of Turkish vernacular plant names and a gazetteer of Greek vs. Turkish place names. Fortuitously, the regrettable political partition of Cyprus coincides to a great extent with natural geographical and ecological boundaries. North Cyprus is dominated by the Kyrenia Mountains, a limestone range extending 80km along the northern coast, which have a rich endemic flora.

Any illustrated book on Mediterranean plants is as welcome for its wider relevance as for local use. This Flora has descriptions and keys, and the author's own accurate line drawings illustrate the text, opposite species descriptions wherever possible. It is good to see several rarely illustrated plants, not least members of confusing genera such as *Crepis*, *Ranunculus* and *Silene*, and important Cypriot endemics such as the white-flowered cabbage *Brassica hilarionis* of cliffs in the Kyrenia Mountains; *B. hilarionis* is closely related to *B. cretica* of the southern Aegean and perhaps to the cultivated cauliflowers. I should like to have had even more information than is provided on the ecology, conservation status and uses of plants, especially where blank spaces lurk at the end of family accounts. The book's omission of ferns, grasses and sedges is apparently to be rectified in a supplementary volume being prepared by the author.

This Flora is expensive for one so dowdy, and having just had a manuscript elegantly typeset into Times Roman in a West Cork living room, I am surprised that any publisher still lays out text in typescript when software for more sophisticated typography is widely available. That said, here is a solid addition to the regional floristic literature that ought to be much appreciated and used by Cypriot botanists, agronomists and foresters, as well as by the numerous visitors from Britain on spring flower tours.

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