



A Fragile Eden

Portraits of the Endemic
Flowering Plants of the
Granitic Seychelles
Rosemary Wise

This is an extraordinary book, filled with beautiful full-color illustrations of some of the world's most unusual plants. The Seychelles have been geologically isolated for more than seventy million years. In their long isolation, the native flora of 32 granitic islands remained untouched until the late eighteenth century. Since then, however, inroads have been made in their natural environment and many plants are now endangered.

In 1985 the Oxford University Biological Expedition to the Seychelles studied the vegetation on several of the islands. Rosemary Wise, the department's artist, became alarmed that the rapidly disappearing species might go unrecorded and made it her mission for the next ten years to paint all of the endemic flora in their natural habitat. She has written an accompanying text (with a contribution by Malcolm Coe) to describe this unique flora.

The large format, superb printing, and informative descriptions of *A Fragile Eden* allow the reader to appreciate the author's obvious passion for these plants.

79 color plates. 3 line drawings.

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CONTENTS

Genetic variation in <i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i> cultivated in the British Isles, assessed using RAPDs. T. R. ALLNUTT, P. THOMAS, A. C. NEWTON & M. F. GARDNER	329
New species of <i>Corydalis</i> from Burma, Bhutan and India. M. LIDÉN	343
Three new tragacanthic species of the genus <i>Astragalus</i> (<i>Fabaceae</i>) from Turkey. S. ZARRE & H. DUMAN	351
Notes on <i>Aeschynanthus</i> (<i>Gesneriaceae</i>) from Seram. M. MENDUM	359
Notes relating to the flora of Bhutan: XXXVI. <i>Umbelliferae</i> , II. M. F. WATSON	367
Sectional names in the genus <i>Hieracium</i> (<i>Asteraceae</i>) sensu stricto. C. A. STACE	417
Studies on the flora and vegetation of the Golestan National Park, NE Iran. II. A new <i>Poa</i> and some new and noteworthy grass records for Iran. H. AKHANI & H. SCHOLZ	443
The woody flora of cerrado vegetation in the state of Piauí, northeastern Brazil. A. A. J. F. CASTRO, F. R. MARTINS & A. G. FERNANDES	455
<i>Hagenia abyssinica</i> and its fungal decayers in natural stands. T. NIEMELÄ, P. RENVALL & K. HJORTSTAM	473
<i>Short communications</i>	
Return to <i>Pseudogaltonia</i> (<i>Liliaceae</i>) B. L. BURTT	485
The disposal of two unnecessary names in <i>Aeschynanthus</i> (<i>Gesneriaceae</i>) B. L. BURTT	486
Book review	488
Referees	489
Index to Volume 55	491
Volume contents	

The cover illustration, drawn by Mary Bates, is of the diminutive alpine plant *Sibbaldia procumbens*, named in honour of one of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's founders Robert Sibbald. This plant is used, in a stylised form, as the Garden's official logo.

ACCREDITED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT TAXONOMY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTRATION OF ALL NEW PLANT NAMES

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