

BOOK REVIEWS

Flora of Turkey vol. 7. With publication of this seventh volume* of Professor Davis's *Flora of Turkey* a milestone has been reached: the account of the dicots is here completed. The volume covers approximately the same ground as Vol. 4 part 2 of Boissier's *Flora Orientalis*, deviating in only minor particulars. Taking up the Corolliflorae at Orobanchaceae it proceeds through Verbenaceae, Labiatae, Plumbaginaceae and kindred smaller families to Euphorbiaceae and the erstwhile Amentiferae, skips the monochlamydeous Centrospermae already described alongside the Caryophyllidae in volume 2, and concludes with Rubiaceae postponed from volume 4. In these families one hundred and seventeen genera and nearly eleven hundred species, one third of them endemic to the region, are accounted for in the compendious style formulated in volume 1 (1965) and faithfully maintained throughout the series. Those accustomed to systems of angiosperm classification more modern than that followed in *Flora Orientalis* may be puzzled to find the Hamamelidae shoulder-to-shoulder with the spurge; but this arrangement is imposed by the master-plan, designed to follow with only minor deviations the footsteps of Boissier. The useful cumulative index to families of dicots that terminates the present volume will orient the non-Oriental reader.

A slight difference in format has been imposed on volume 7 by a more economic method of electronic typesetting. The distribution maps are placed together following the text rather than close to the species mapped; and names of collectors are no longer italicized. Otherwise there are no changes in type-face and legibility is unimpaired. The pages illustrating critically diagnostic features such as leaf-outline of oaks or the calyx of *Phlomis* are interpolated as before in proximity to the genus concerned. The high quality of the illustrations continues to enhance the appearance and utility of the *Flora*.

The largest family treated in volume 7 is the Labiatae, which everywhere in Turkey, but especially in the phrygana, steppe and cliff formations, scent the air and contribute threads of colour to the tapestry of vegetation. Of mints 45 genera and 519 species are recognized as native or naturalized in Turkey, *Salvia* (86 spp.) and *Stachys* (72 spp.) transcending the rest in numbers and complexity, but *Phlomis*, *Sideritis*, *Nepeta*, *Thymus* and the controversially defined calaminthoid genera not far behind. The largest genera in the volume are not labiate, but *Galium* (101 spp., contributed by Ehrendorfer and Schönbeck-Temesy) and *Euphorbia* (92 spp., by Radcliffe-Smith). In his treatment of *Salvia* I. C. Hedge points out the need for a worldwide system of classification for this biologically and aesthetically fascinating genus, a need that is acutely felt likewise in the Neotropics. R. M. Harley's discussion of hybridization and gynodioecism in *Mentha* is only one among many allusions to research and reflection that are essential precursors of any floristic work of the first order.

Fieldwork in connection with the *Flora* has gained momentum as the writing progressed, witness the generally denser dotting of the distribution maps. But accumulation of collections seems hardly to affect the proportion of narrow endemism, of both relict and ostensibly recent character, which distinguishes the floras of the Mediterranean basin, Anatolia, and the Iranian Plateau. Comparing the seventh with earlier volumes the reader will notice a progressively broader basis of authorship. The early volumes of the *Flora* were written largely by Professor Davis and his associates at Edinburgh, whereas the seventh incorporates contributions from European, Asian and native Turkish botanists too many to mention by name in a short review. Fifty years ago there was virtually no native botany in Turkey, fatherland of Dioscorides. The school of botany that has since arisen there and that contributed materially to the volume under review must owe much of its present and future vigour to the existence of a splendid national *Flora*.

Originally planned to appear in eight volumes, the *Flora* is now anticipated to require ten. The eighth will accommodate the lilies and orchids, the ninth the rushes, sedges and grasses, and a supplementary tenth will record data that have accumulated, through taxonomic revision and field-work, during years subsequent to publication of earlier volumes.

* *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands*, volume 7. Edited by P. H. Davis, assisted by J. R. Edmondson, R. R. Mill and Kit Tan. xx + 947 pp., 27 figs, 116 distribution maps; indices to vol. 7 and to families of dicots through vols. 1-7 incl. 1982. Edinburgh University Press. ISBN 0 85224 396 0. Price £65.