

REVIEWS

R. A. DAVIES & K. M. LLOYD (comps.): *Index Kewensis. Supplement 19. Names of Seed-bearing plants at the rank of Family and below published between January 1986 and the end of 1990 with some omissions from earlier years.* Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1991. 354 pp. Cloth. Price £ 95.00. ISBN 0-19-854676-9.

Important as it may be, for the 19th Supplement to the *Index Kewensis* a mere announcement might suffice. One knows what can be expected; as far as I can see nothing has been changed as compared with the 18th Supplement. Worth mentioning is that whereas the 18th Supplement came out about one and a half year after the closing date – at that time already exceptional – with the present one this has been brought back to less than one year: the official date of publication is 15 November 1991. Important news can be found in the Foreword: “The printed annual *Kew Index* has been discontinued, but there are plans for a CD-ROM version of the complete *Index Kewensis* ... This electronic version is due to appear in 1992.” Whether additions will come out annually or every five years is not made clear. We hope that it will be annually, spoiled as we are by the *Kew Index*!

P. W. LEENHOUTS

K. M. MATTHEW: *An excursion flora of Central Tamilnadu, India.* New Delhi, 1991. 647 pp., 5 plates, 2 maps. Price RS. 40.00. ISBN 81-204-0628-1.

“A condensed version of the author’s four-volume *Flora of the Tamilnadu Carnatic* (1981–88), and aims at providing a first introduction to the flowering plants of the region.” Condensed, not so much as the number of species is concerned, but mainly by leaving out the literature references, most of the synonyms, by reducing the description to about one third; habitat and distribution are shortly mentioned. This book, nicely printed on a good quality of paper and at this price exceptionally cheap, will by many be used as a full-fledged flora and will fully meet their needs. The illustration is restricted to five plates with leaf shapes.

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