

## REVIEWS

E. P. KLUCKING: Leaf venation patterns. Volume 5. Combretaceae. J. Cramer, Berlin, Stuttgart, 1991, 219 pp., 108 plates. Hardcover. Price DM 240.00. ISBN 3-443-50016-1.

This volume on leaf venation patterns is too modest in its title. Not only the Combretaceae are treated, but not less than eleven other families: Lecythidaceae, Barringtoniaceae, Foetidiaceae, Napoleonaceae, Rhizophoraceae, Anisophylleaceae, Lythraceae, Sonneratiaceae, Oliniaceae, Punicaceae, and Onagraceae. Thus, together with the earlier volumes on Myrtaceae and Melastomataceae plus Memecylaceae, the present book effectively completes the venation survey of the order Myrtales in its widest possible circumscription. Lecythidaceae and Rhizophoraceae and their satellites do not fit well into the order. Altogether the leaves of 479 species are described and pictured, resulting in a wealth of welcome descriptive information.

Criticisms voiced about the earlier volumes apply equally strongly to the present one: poor editing and very high numbers of printing errors (especially disturbing in a number of generic names), and more seriously lack of synthesis and discussion of what the diversity in venation patterns described actually means for the classification of the families and genera. For instance, questions like – does *Strephonema* stand apart in the Combretaceae? – is the much debated separation of the Anisophylleaceae from the Rhizophoraceae supported by divergent venation patterns? – etc., are hardly or not addressed. However, the grouping of species at the end of the book is most interesting. It shows wide ranges of variation in certain genera (e.g. *Terminalia*, which has species in 9 very different venation pattern groups) and very unexpected combinations of families within some of the venation groups. One consequently wonders about the systematic value of venation patterns and about the way venation patterns are classified by the author.

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E. P. KLUCKING: Leaf venation patterns. Volume 6. Flacourtiaceae. J. Cramer, Berlin, Stuttgart, 1992, 272 pp., 114 plates. Hardcover. Price unknown. ISBN 3-443-50017-X.

A better title for this volume would have been Violales and Passiflorales, because leaves of Flacourtiaceae, Stachyuraceae, Violaceae, Bixaceae, Cochlospermaceae, Passifloraceae and Turneraceae are described and pictured. Discussions in this volume are mainly focussed on variation within genera and within the Flacourtiaceae (but without systematic focus). Again, the opportunity to enter into the discussion of relationships and family classification on the basis of venation patterns is missed. The quality of the clearings and photographs is better than in some of the earlier volumes.

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