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# REVIEW

**J. HUTCHINSON, The genera of Flowering Plants II.** — Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1967, pp. 659 £ 9.10.—.

This bulky volume treats not less than *c.* 100 families, among which large families as the *Araliaceae*, *Saxifragaceae* (split in several families), *Flacourtiaceae*, *Urticaceae*, *Moraceae*, *Proteaceae*, *Cucurbitaceae*, and the *Malvales* families. This is a very large achievement, as it covers *c.* 2000 genera. Naturally, Hutchinson keeps to his narrow family concept and has here even extended this. Also several genera have been split, and a small revolution has occurred with *Schefflera* and *Capparis*; also sometimes old generic names long sunk in others have been reinstated, e.g. *Osmoxylum* against *Boerlagiodendron*.

In the introduction the author states that the *Cleomoideae* will be segregated from the *Capparaceae* and be inserted next to the *Cruciferae* as a separate family, as they belong to the '*Herbacae*'; most of us regard the *Cruciferae* as a derived, specialized, largely temperate offshoot of the *Capparaceae*.

As some *Malvales* families are difficult to separate there is a joint key to the tribes of the *Tiliaceae* and the *Sterculiaceae*. One wonders why the *Malvaceae* are treated as a separate order *Malvales* next to *Tiliales* (comprising the *Sterculiaceae*, the *Tiliaceae*, and the *Bombacaceae*), as *Malvaceae* can hardly be discriminated from *Bombacaceae*.

It is of course expected that new literature cannot always be validated, as the printing of such a volume takes about two years; the author states that Sept. 1965 was the 'closing date'. But in several instances a rough scanning of certain names with which I am familiar showed that not all older literature has been considered, unless the author deviates wilfully from findings of others; e.g. *Tetradia* was reduced to *Pterygota* by Kostermans; the Malesian *Polythyrsis* was reduced to *Itoa*; *Euplassa papuana* does not belong to *Kermadecia* but to *Gevuina*; *Dovyalis* does not occur in Malesia (the species described is a *Suregada*). *Afrostyrax* is still maintained in the *Styracaceae* although it has stipules and Shaw and I have shown it to be allied to or congeneric with *Hua* of the *Sterculiaceae*. In the *Polygalaceae* the genus *Epirixanthes* is sunk in *Salomonia*; although a matter of taxonomic opinion it does not seem to me to have strong support; anyway *Epirixanthes* is not 'parasitic' on roots: it is a saprophyte! In the *Myricaceae* no mention is made of the New Caledonian *Canacomyrica*; this is surely a distinct genus in the family. Instead of *Symingtonia* the name *Exbucklandia* is taken up, notwithstanding the fact that it was invalidly published. A lapsus is the reduction of *Perissandra* taken up under the *Violaceae*, but which is a *Vatica*; according to the index it would occur among the errata on p. 626 but is not cited there. *Poikilospermum* is still reckoned to the *Moraceae*, though if there is discrimination between *Moraceae* and *Urticaceae* by the position of the ovule it must come to the *Urticaceae*.

In the geographical distribution there are of course several minor lapses: *Urtica* occurs also in the tropics, *Droguetia* also in Malesia, *Chamabainia* in Java, *Aristotelia* has not 15 but only 5 species. In the designation of the geography of Indo-Malesia there is unfortunately little conformity; 'Malaya' is often used for the 'Malay Peninsula', but also for the whole of 'Malesia'. But for example for *Cypholophus* is given: Mal. Archip., Philip. Is., New Guinea, though Malesia is synonymous with the 'Mal. Archip.'. *Malaisia*, *Hullettia*, *Prainea*, *Sloetia*, etc. are cited to occur in Malaya, but extend far beyond Malaya = Malay Peninsula. For purposes of distribution statistics in this area of SE. Asia the author's data can therefore not be used. It would be desirable if some uniformity would be considered for future volumes: 'Indo-Malesia' for ranges from continental Asia eastwards through the Archipelago, 'Malaya' for the Malay Peninsula, 'Malesia' for ranges within the Archipelago.

Notwithstanding the incidental deficiencies the volume is an immense source of extremely welcome information.

G. G. G. J. VAN STEENIS