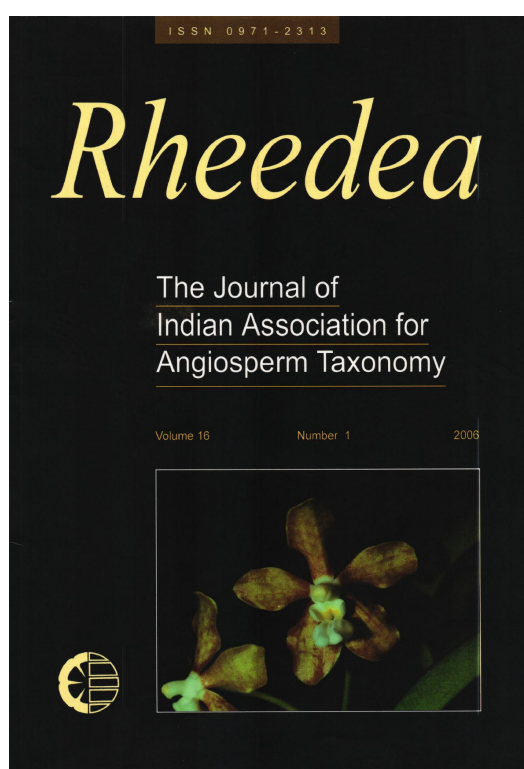




Book Review: Flora of Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh

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Book Review

B. Suryanarayana and A. Sreenivasa Rao 2003.

Flora of Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh

Gurudev Prakashan, Shrirampur, Maharashtra. 694 pp. Price Rs. 850.00. No ISBN

Nellore district presents a topography ranging from coastal plains to hilly terrain through undulating upland area with vegetation types like dry deciduous forests, scrub jungles and mangroves. The district has bird sanctuaries like Pulicote (60,000 sq. km.), Nelapattu (0.83 sq. km) and Manjira (2000 sq. km.). Authors state two reasons for attempting the book: the Veligonda Hills are little explored on the east in Nellore district compared to the Veligonda Hills on the west in Cuddapah district and this work may, hence, provide an aggregate floristic account of these hill ranges. Secondly, the vegetation of this district is being fast depleted by cyclones, forest fires, illicit felling and encroachment of alien weeds.

The work covers the systematic treatment of 926 species under 525 genera and 142 families. There are thirty illustrations dealing with plants of restricted distribution. Critical notes pertaining to nomenclature, morphological variations and phytogeographical importance are furnished. A list of twenty nine species which were collected earlier from Nellore District and could not be relocated have been included. Indices to both botanical and local names make easy access to locate any species. The Flora also analyses endemic and threatened elements. All voucher specimens cited in the book are deposited at VGCH.

Keys are based on obvious morphological features and are simple. They enable one to comfortably arrive at correct identities. Descriptions are short but striking with key features. The reviewer himself tried the book in ascertaining identities of his collections from Nellore and found it functional. He has gone through the families of his interest such as Acanthaceae and Euphorbiaceae and found that there was little to add in updating the nomenclature.

Photographs are of poor quality and there are a few typographical errors in the book. The volume should have been better titled *The Flora of Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh*. These aside, the book will be received well by all botanists, college teachers and foresters. Foresters, particularly those working in Cuddapah, Chittoor, Ananthapur and Nellore, would consider this as a good field guide.

The senior author's long experience in taxonomy and botanical explorations in Nellore and Cuddapah districts enabled him to produce this quality work. The authors carried out this study in great constraints with meager facilities in Visvodaya Government College, Venkatagiri and are to be congratulated.

The book is being sold at an affordable price.

P. Venu (Coimbatore)