

Zeitschrift: Boissiera : mémoires de botanique systématique
Herausgeber: Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève
Band: 24 (1975-1976)
Heft: 2

Artikel: Nigeria : a progress report
Autor: Lowe, J.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-895560>

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Nigeria – a progress report

J. LOWE

The Flora of Nigeria

Progress has not met the expectations of the late D. P. Stanfield (1971) in the last report (*Mitt. Bot. Staatsamml. München* 10: 38-39). Since the publication of the *Gramineae* (Grasses) in 1970, the section on *Cyperaceae* (Sedges) has been completed by D. P. Stanfield and J. Lowe, and is now published (1974).

Work is continuing on the *Orchidaceae* and on Climbing Plants, but is delayed by lack of funds. The section on Trees and Shrubs has progressed very little. For descriptions of the Trees, the book *Nigerian Trees* (R. W. J. Keay, C. F. A. Onochie & D. P. Stanfield, 1960, 1964) will be used, suitably modified and with measurements changed to metric. This task, and compilation of descriptions of the Shrubs, has been completed only for the *Annonaceae*. With the departure of the botanist concerned to another country, work has ceased on this section.

If Trees, Grasses and Sedges are added together, about 25% of the Flora has been completed.

Expected date of completion recedes to approximately 2005.

Botanical exploration of Nigeria

Plant collections have been made in recent years in the following areas:

Benue Valley, by W. J. Howard;
Borgu Game Reserve, by C. Geerling;
Mambila Plateau, by B. O. Daramola, J. B. Hall, J. K. Jackson, S. O. Magaji and P. Tuley;
Obudu Plateau (called Ogoja Plateau on the map of 1965 from *Webbia* 19), by J. B. Hall,
J. Lowe and J. Medler;
Upper Ogun Game Reserve, by C. Geerling;
Yankari Game Reserve, by C. Geerling.

In addition, an Atlas of the Savanna Shrubs and Trees of Northern Nigeria has been compiled by J. A. D. Jackson.

