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Progress in the Flora of Upland Kenya — Final report

A. D. Q. AGNEW

By the time of the AETFAT meeting in September 1974 this Flora should have been issued. By their financial support, firms and societies in Kenya have encouraged the Oxford University Press to go ahead with production.

The donors are Barclays Bank International Ltd., Brook-Bond Equatorial Ltd., The East Africa Natural History Society, Hoechst E. A. Ltd., Kenya Breweries Ltd., The Kenya Horticultural Society, Mrs. E. D. Polhill, Dr. R. R. Scott, Shell Chemical Co. of E. A. Ltd., Steel Supplies of Kenya Ltd. and Twiga Chemical Industries Ltd. Much of this generosity was elicited by Mr. L. A. S. Grumley of the Kenya Horticultural Society who has always been a firm friend of the project.

The book has about 830 pages and keys out 3021 species, 940 of which are figured (UK price £7.75). Its title "Upland Kenya wild flowers", is meant to appeal to the general public, gardeners and tourists but in fact the work is an orthodox flora as described in previous AETFAT Proceedings (Agnew, 1968, 1971). There are important new accounts of the ferns and *Commelinaceae* by R. B. Faden, orchids by J. Stewart, *Liliaceae* by M. A. Hanid and *Oxalidaceae* by C. H. S. Kabuye, while many authors of contemporary monographs have kindly written shorter accounts for this work: J. B. Gillett, F. N. Hepper, H. D. Ihlenfeldt, J. O. Kokwaro, K. Lye, B. Peterson, R. Polhill, B. Verdcourt, and W. J. J. O. de Wilde.

In other families the Flora is an honest attempt at diagnosis written mainly in East Africa with field conditions in mind rather than a definitive work on the nomenclature of the herbs of Upland Kenya. Species for which names appear not to be available or taxa doubtfully of specific rank have been designated "Species A", "Species B", etc., and while the need has arisen to make new combinations in *Notonia* (2), *Haumaniastrum* (1), *Plectranthus* (7), *Solenostemon* (1) and *Iso-dictyophorus* (1), no new taxa are described.

Keys are strictly dichotomous and artificial. Every species has only a brief description attached to it with a statement on its habitat and distribution and authoritative specimens are cited for reference by future workers.

LITERATURE CITED

- Agnew, A. D. Q. (1968). The Herbaceous Flora of Upland Kenya. *Acta Phytogeogr. Suec.* 54: 291-292.
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