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Autor: Herrnstadt, Ilana / Heyn, Chaia C.
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Preface

The study of this difficult genus was begun in 1967 as a Ph. D. thesis of one of us (I. H.). It took a considerable number of years to be accomplished and some more to be prepared for publication.

The encouragement, received during this time from friends and colleagues at the Hebrew University and other institutions in Israel and abroad, is hereby acknowledged.

The authors are indebted to the directors and the staff of the following herbaria for either sending material or photographs of specimens, or enabling us to work at their institutions: B, BM, BR, CGE, E, G, GB, JE, K, L, LE, M, UPS, W (abbreviations are according to Holmgren & Keuken 1974). We are also grateful to Dr. Huber-Morath (Basel) for lending material from his own herbarium and to Dr. R. Alava (Turku), Dr. H. Peşmen (Izmir), Prof. D. Phitos (Patras), the Botanical Gardens of Moscow and of Erevan for sending us seeds of *Prangos*.

The staff of our department were of great help during our studies and in the preparation of the manuscript: Dr. Irene Gruenberg-Fertig gave us important nomenclatural advice and wrote the Latin diagnoses; Mrs. Stefania Grizi typed the manuscripts and checked literature with unending patience; Mr. J. Gamburg prepared the photographs; Mr. R. Van der Molen helped us in preparation of anatomical slides. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Esther Huber who has succeeded to combine artistic skill with scientific accuracy in her drawings of *Prangos*, prepared from the usually most unsatisfactory herbarium specimens.