

Book Review: R. Govaerts, D.G. Frodin and T.D. Pennington 2002. **World Checklist and Bibliography of Sapotaceae.** xi + 361 pages. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K. ISBN 1 900347 94 6. Softback. Price: GBP 57.50.

The fifth in the series, this volume covers the Sapotaceae, an important tropical family particularly in the Malesian region. This volume includes 54 genera and 1,250 species as well as 3,689 synonyms below generic rank. The layout, as with previous volumes, is clear and well organized making it quick and easy to retrieve information. Unlike other checklists, the bibliography gives a brief summary of the important conclusions for the major references and the species lists aim to be taxonomically validated based mainly on an assessment of the literature but where necessary consulting specialists and the herbarium. Where there is doubt about identity, this is indicated.

The volume is essential reference for botanists working away from major libraries and will save a great deal of time for individual taxonomists to draw up species lists from scattered literature. In this connection, providing the distribution of species is particularly useful.

I 'tested' its usefulness in comparing the names of the Bornean Sapotaceae in the latest volume of *Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak* (April, 2002). The Kew Sapotaceae had captured all names but had 'misspelt' *Madhuca sarawahensis* (as 'sarawakensis'). On the other hand, they were correct in the spelling of *Palaquium cochleariifolium*, which was misspelt in the Tree Flora. The notable omission was the five new species and four other name changes made by Yii and Chai (2001). This is a serious limitation of printed work in that it can very soon be out of date.

References

- Yii, P.C. and P.P.K. Chai. 2001. New combinations, new names and new species of *Madhuca* (Sapotaceae) from Sabah and Sarawak, Borneo. *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore*. 53: 343—356.
- Chai, P.P.K. and P.C. Yii. 2002. Sapotaceae. *Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak*. 4: 203—345.

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