



BOOK REVIEW

Review: The Outline of Taxonomic Literature of Eastern Asian Higher Plants

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(Manuscript received 30 January 2012; accepted 30 August 2012)

INTRODUCTION

Plant taxonomy is the essential basis of all relevant disciplines of botany and horticulture. The very beginning for a taxonomical work is to locate the relevant taxonomical literature. For the young students and newcomers, it is a pretty headache where to start from volumes and volumes of books and journals from Linnaeus dated back almost 260 years ago. Although there are two important references available (Bretschneider, 1898; Merrill and Walker, 1938; Walker, 1960), they are pretty old. This book, *The outline of taxonomic literature of Eastern Asian higher plants*, is the most updated comprehensive guide dealing with the taxonomical literature of higher plants (covering bryophytes, pteridophytes, and seed plants) in eastern Asia.

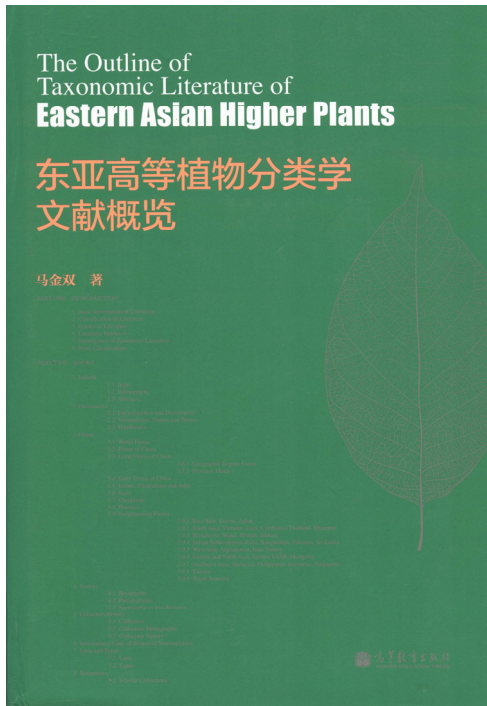
The whole book is written in Chinese except the Contents are in Chinese and English. It is divided into four parts. The first part introduces the basic information of literature, including classification of literature, grades of literature, literature retrieval, specialty of taxonomic literature, and book classification. The second part introduces different kinds of taxonomic books, including index, bibliography, abstracts, dictionaries, Florae, classification systems, collection history, International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, and Latin and types. The third part deals with journals, including Chinese (divided into two subsets: before and after 1949) and foreign ones (arranged by different countries, totally 22 countries). The fourth part is appendices which include major herbaria of the world and China, volume indices of Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae (FRPS), FRPS family index in Chinese and Latin, Families and volumes of FRPS and FOC (Flora of China), Regnum Vegetabile, Systematic Botany monographs, Roman numbers in plant taxonomic literatures, websites for plant taxonomy, Chinese Pinyin, Postal Map Romanization and Wade-Giles of Chinese Provinces, Administrative Division of Korean Peninsula,

Administrative Division of Japan, Japanese Era, Imperial Era and AD Calendar, Japanese authors in Japanese characters and Roman letters, Japanese authors in Roman letters and Japanese characters, family index for volumes of Flora of North America. For the books and journals occurred in the second and the third part, each has a concise description about the history, coverage and present situation. Some of them have short comments.

One of the major advantages deserved to mention that the book has six indices which are proven to be pre convenient. One may locate specific literature easily searching either authors in English, authors in Chinese scientific plant names, Chinese plant names, journals & books, or journals and books in Chinese.

Since the author is a taxonomist of flowering plants, it is not surprise that there were several omissions relevant to bryology. They are Manual of Bryology (a milestone book summarizing the research on bryology prior to 1930s, ed. by Verdoorn, 1932), Hedwigia (an important journal focusing on cryptogamae, the predecessor of Nova Hedwigia), Yushania (A biological journal published by the Biological Society of Tunghai University from 1984–1994, totally 11 volumes were published), and Acta Bryolichenologica Asiatica (This journal was set up by Dr. Ming-Jou Lai in 1989. Totally, 3 volumes were published till 2010). In addition, as a bryologist, like me, it is a little bit time-consuming to find the literature relevant to bryology which they scatter across the whole book. So does pteridology. Therefore, I'd like to suggest the author to rearrange the categories according to different groups of plants in the revised version. It could be divided into at least three parts, ie. bryophytes, pteridophytes and seed plants. I believe such arrangement will be more convenient for the users.

As indicated by the title of this book, it focuses preliminarily on the taxonomic literature of eastern Asia. In fact, it covers most part of Asia. The only weaker parts are of Middle East and southwestern Asia. In conclusion, although some minor errors and



Jinshuang Ma. August 2011. *The outline of taxonomic literature of Eastern Asian higher plants*. Higher Education Press, Beijing (www.hep.edu.cn/). 505 pp, 178 X 260 mm, color plates of topographic and country map of Asia on the front and back interleaving papers. ISBN: 978-7-04-032948-3 HB, RMB \$ 89.00 (ca US \$14). – With explanation 2-p, acknowledgements 3-p, forwards by X.-Y. Chen 1-p, D.-Y. Hong 1-p, and W.-T. Wang 2-p, pref. 2-p., 4 parts (intro, books, journals, and appendices), indices (of authors, authors in Chinese, scientific plant names, Chinese plant names, journal and books, journals and books in Chinese), postscript 1-p, about the author 1-p.

書評：東亞高等植物分類學文獻概覽

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(收稿日期：2012 年 1 月 30 日；接受日期：2012 年 8 月 30 日)

omissions occurred, this book is definitely a very useful tool for anyone whose major is plant taxonomy. I strongly recommend that every taxonomic student and scholar in Asia should have one copy on his/her bookshelf.

Additional two reviews in Chinese by Q.-R. Liu and X.-C. Zhang, and W.-L. Ma could be found in *Plant Diversity and Resources*, 33(6):690–692, 2011 (free access at <http://journal.kib.ac.cn/>).

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