

Bibliography of Flora and Ethnobiology in West Bengal by Sunit Mitra, Subhajit Bandyopadhyay and Sobhan Kr. Mukherjee, East Himalayan Society for Spermatophyte Taxonomy, Department of Botany, North Bengal University, Siliguri 734013, West Bengal, India, 2010, Paperbound, Price: Rs. 250.00, pp. 165.

A good compilation of published scientific literatures on systematic botany, plant taxonomy, flora, vegetation, economic botany, medicinal plants, ethnobotany, palynology, aerobiology, environmental botany, ecology, biodiversity and related disciplines from West Bengal, India covering a wide period of about 220 years from 1790 to 2010. Authors deserve special appreciation for undertaking and completion of such cumbersome and painstaking job. This is a good piece of document and ready reference of bibliographic information for teachers, students and researchers on plant taxonomy and allied fields from West Bengal and adjacent regions. The book contains major three chapters, printed as CHAPTER-I, CHAPTER-II and CHAPTER-III dealing with bibliographic entries. CHAPTER-I deals with Floristic study, Vegetation, Nomenclature, Taxonomy, Systematic and Morphological information, and contains 667 entries. CHAPTER-II contains 427 entries on Economic Botany, Medicinal Plants and Ethnobotany. CHAPTER III having 263 entries deals with Palynology, Aerobiology, Environmental Botany, Ecology, Biology and others. Each chapter also includes "Index to authors" to that Chapter. An Addendum with 33 entries is provided at the end of the book. A 22 page Introduction at the beginning provides in brief the geographical and vegetation profiles of West Bengal and historical review of the botany of West Bengal. Other than students of plant taxonomy and Ethnobotany, people from other fields will derive immense benefits from this Introduction. List of Journals after CHAPTER III gives an elaboration of the acronyms of journals used in this piece of work.

There remain some loopholes in every work. And this work also could not get rid of it. The book lacks a Table of Contents. Also the chapters from Introduction to Addendum could be numbered systematically. Many literature cited in Preface and Introduction have not been referred anywhere. Either a general Reference section in Introduction chapter or at the end of the book as General References would make the citations more meaningful. A little care in editing of Introduction chapter could make the readability flow much better.

Anyway, I firmly believe that researchers in concerned fields will be immensely benefited from this book, and wish a wide circulation of the book. I would also like to extend my warm felicitations to the authors for this valuable work through this Review.

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