

The Angiosperm Flora of Singapore Project

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The Angiosperm Flora of Singapore Project is long-term and was initiated on 1st November, 1988. A piecemeal, family by family approach is to be adopted. The approximately 200 families containing an estimated 2,400 native and naturalized species are to be studied by either experts willing to contribute to the project or the researchers of the project. Family treatments will be published in the Gardens' Bulletin, Singapore as and when ready. It is hoped that the project will be completed within ten years from the publication of the first family treatment. Ultimately, when all family treatments are completed, a monograph compiling all the updated family treatments will be published.

The main objective of this National University of Singapore funded project is to produce an Angiosperm Flora of the Republic of Singapore. So far, only annotated species lists have been written (Ridley, 1900, 1901; Sinclair, 1953, 1956; Keng, 1973, 1974a, 1974b, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990). During World War II, staff members of the Singapore Botanic Gardens Herbarium compiled the Flora of Syonan but this consisted only of a species list and is extant only in typescript (Keng, 1990). Recently, Keng (1990) published the Concise Flora of Singapore but this included only about 1,200 species, about 44 per cent of the estimated total flora, and excluded the monocotyledons. A checklist of all vascular plants recorded to occur in Singapore has recently been compiled (Turner, Chua and Tan, 1990).

The target audience for this Flora are scientists and informed laymen who require precise information for the identification of angiosperm specimens from Singapore. Thus, this flora will be of a traditional format using concise and precise language.

Collections of plants from all accessible parts of the main island and islands of the Republic of Singapore are being carried out. All plants extant and previously found in Singapore will be catalogued, described and distinguished by keys. Illustration of representative taxa by line drawings and photographs will also be included. Expert systems for the identification of the taxa are planned. A database is currently being developed.

The advisors of this project are Drs Hsuan Keng and Tan Wee Kiat (Executive Director, National Parks Board). The researchers include Drs Hugh Tan Tiang Wah (editor), Ian Mark Turner and Mr Chua Keng Soon.

Authors for family treatments are welcome and advised to contact the editor to discuss choice of families and to obtain the format for the Flora. Please address correspondence to:

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