

the glory of Moroccan science. Most of the credit goes, as must be emphasised, to the botanists of the Institut Scientifique in Rabat, who not only supervised the editing but wrote most of the family and genus treatments. Contributions from outside include the *Fagaceae* by Zine El Abidine (Salé), the already mentioned *Cistaceae* by Raynaud (ex Montpellier), and a number of co-authorships by Salvo Tierra (Malaga: *Pteridophyta*), Mathez (Montpellier: *Gymnospermae*, *Aizoaceae*, *Potentilla*, *Loeflingia*) and Fatima El Alaoui Faris (Science Faculty, Rabat: *Crassulaceae*). Most appropriately, Maire's spiritual heir and nestor of North-Africa-based French botanists, Pierre Quézel, wrote the preface.

Many are those who await impatiently the two volumes yet to come!

W.G.

10. (Santiago CASTROVIEJO (gen. ed.), S. TALLAVERA, C. AEDO, S. CASTROVIEJO, C. ROMERO ZARCO, L. SÁEZ, F. J. SALGUEIRO & M. VELAZCO (vol. ed.) — *Flora iberica*. Plantas vasculares de la Península Ibérica e Islas Baleares. Vol. VII (I), *Leguminosae* (partim). — Real Jardín Botánico, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, 1999 (ISBN 84-00-07821-7). XLV + 578 pages, map and drawings, cloth with dust-cover.

When I last wrote on *Flora iberica* in this column (in OPTIMA Newsletter 34: (2)-(3). 1999), I noted that "volume 7 on the legume family ... may now be expected any time". The considerable size of that family has prevented my prediction to become fully true. It is now the second half of the legume treatment that "may be expected any time".

As I wrote a very full review of volume 6, the present one can be somewhat more concise. First as to contents. Full treatment is given to 36 genera and 275 species, representing the sub-family *Mimosoideae* and *Caesalpinioideae* (neither of which has native representatives in Spain, with the arguable exception of *Ceratonia siliqua*) and the first half of the *Papilionoideae*. The latter make up the bulk of the volume, especially their three large tribes *Cytiseae* (16 genera, 116 species), *Astragaleae* (6 genera, 57 species), and *Fabeae* (4 genera, 78 species). I was pleasantly surprised to find that, perhaps for the first time in

a major publication on the subject, the tribe that includes the type of the family name is designated by its correct name, *Fabeae*, rather than by the widely but incorrectly used *Vicieae*. For two other tribes, *Cytiseae* (usually known as *Genisteae*) and *Astragaleae* (more often, *Galegeae*), the adopted nomenclature is, I believe, still subject to caution.

The *Cytiseae* pose particularly arduous problems of generic delimitation, which each author tends to answer in a different, individual way. This tribe has its main centre of diversity on the Iberian peninsula, so that the *Flora iberica* treatment will probably have signal function for many. It adopts a narrow generic concept in the *Genista* group, where *Chamaespartium*, *Pterospartum* and *Teline* are accepted as distinct – the latter becoming even less natural than usual, in the reviewer's mind, through inclusion of a section with two species normally assigned to *Cytisus*. On the reverse, *Chamaecytisus* (a largely non-Iberian group) is included in *Cytisus*. Even when severed of some of its components, *Genista* remains by far the largest genus, with 39 species, followed by *Ulex* (15), *Cytisus* (14), and *Adenocarpus* (10). The major genus in *Astragaleae* is of course *Astragalus* itself, with 41 species, of which one (*A. gines-lopezii*) – same as *Galega cirujanoi* – has been published just ahead of the *Flora* treatment. The major genus in the *Fabeae*, *Vicia*, happens to have the same species number as *Astragalus* (41), mainly due to its author's very narrow species concept in, e.g. the *Vicia sativa* and *Vicia villosa* complexes. The second largest genus of the last-named tribe is *Lathyrus*, with 32 species.

At the risk of repeating myself (an obvious danger when a multi-volume work is concerned), let me state that this is perhaps the most complete, most thoroughly edited and best standardised flora that has ever been produced, at least in Europe. One gets the impression that every detail has been checked and rechecked. To mention just one ancillary point, the Appendix giving the etymology of the many plant epithets appearing in the text has been very thoroughly researched and is full to the brim of interesting and obviously reliable information. Santiago Castroviejo and his team are, once more, to be heartily congratulated on their achievement.

W.G.