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Flora Hellenica vol.1 (1997)

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Flora Hellenica vol.1 (1997)

Flora Hellenica Edited by Arne Strid and Kit Tan. University of Copenhagen. Volume one, 1997, 30x22 cm, XXXVI + 547 pages including 722 distribution maps. Published by Koeltz Scientific Books, D-61453, P.O.Box 1360, Germany. Price 280 DM.

Flora Hellenica has just been published. It is edited by Arne Strid and Kit Tan. A. Strid is professor of botany at the University of Copenhagen. He is well known for his research on the Greek flora and his books on the Mountain Flora of Greece and Wild Flowers of Mount Olympus. K.Tan is a research associate at the same University and also at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. She is well known for her many contributions to P.H.Davis' Flora of Turkey (volumes 7-10) and her current work on the Greek flora which includes research on the Mountain Flora of Greece (volume 2) and the Endemic Flora of the Peloponnese.

The book is well presented, with paper and binding of high quality. The size format approximates that of the Flora Europaea volumes. Families, genera and species are presented in the same sequence as adopted in Flora Europaea. Categories below subspecific rank have not been recognised. The present volume deals with the Gymnospermae and those families in the Angiospermae from Salicaceae to Caryophyllaceae. The Pteridophytes are omitted from this volume.

The Introduction is comprehensive, giving information on the geography, geology, climate, vegetation, phytogeography (including endemism) of the country and also summarizes botanical explorations in Greece since classical times. The descriptions are concise with the main diagnostic characters presented in italics. Habitat, flowering (and or fruiting) time and chromosome numbers are provided. Greece has been divided into 13 floristic regions and internal distribution is represented by these regions and not by specimen citations. However, 722 distribution maps with habitat and distribution summarizations in a neat and visual caption, are present at the end of the volume.

With the publication of Flora Hellenica volume 1, all students and researchers in the Greek flora are fortunate to have available the beginning of a long-awaited basic flora. It will surely also be extremely useful to the botanists of adjacent countries and all who work on Mediterranean flora.

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