

## REPORT ON THE ADUMBRATIO FLORAE AETHIOPICAE

The series known as *Adumbratio Florae Aethiopiae* was initiated in 1953 by the late Director of the Tropical Herbarium of Florence, Prof. Alberto Chiarugi. Subsequently, direction of the series passed to Prof. R. E. G. Pichi Sermolli, who arranged its scientific programme and prepared an outline for each family.

The *Adumbratio* was conceived with the intention of producing a critical revision of each species

known for the Flora of N.E. Tropical Africa (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Socotra). In other words, a true flora was not envisaged and analytical keys and descriptions of species have not been intentionally incorporated.

A standard format has been adopted with the following information provided for each taxon:

*Family:* literature citation, type genus, tax-

onomy, nomenclature, general distribution and observations;

*Genus and infrageneric taxa:* literature citation, type species, synonyms, etymology, taxonomy, distribution and observations;

*Species and infraspecific taxa:* literature citation, basionym (if any), type, synonyms, taxonomy, nomenclature, etymology, illustrations (an original drawing of a herbarium specimen), localities (within the area concerned and including distribution map), ecology, vernacular names and possible utilization.

The taxonomy is elucidated through a study of herbarium specimens housed in the Tropical Herbarium of Florence (Erbario Tropicale di Firenze - FT) and numerous other herbaria, in particular

FI, K, P and the BM, but also ACD, B, BP, BR, C, COI, E, EA, ETH, FR, G, GH, L, LE, N, MEL, MO, N, NA and US, PAL, PRC, S, STR, STU, TO & TOM, UPS, W & WU, WAG and Z.

Revisions of 20 families of Pteridophytes (mainly by R. E. G. Pichi Sermolli) and 16 families of Angiosperms have been published to date. Scientific staff of several Italian botanical institutions (Firenze, Genova and Perugia) and foreign contributors have collaborated in the revision of these families. Other families are presently receiving attention.

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