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Nigeria — a progress report

J. LOWE

The Flora of Nigeria

Progress has not met the expectations of the late D. P. Stanfield (1971) in the last report (*Mitt. Bot. Staatssamml. München* 10: 38-39). Since the publication of the *Gramineae* (Grasses) in 1970, the section on *Cyperaceae* (Sedges) has been completed by D. P. Stanfield and J. Lowe, and is now published (1974).

Work is continuing on the *Orchidaceae* and on Climbing Plants, but is delayed by lack of funds. The section on Trees and Shrubs has progressed very little. For descriptions of the Trees, the book *Nigerian Trees* (R. W. J. Keay, C. F. A. Onochie & D. P. Stanfield, 1960, 1964) will be used, suitably modified and with measurements changed to metric. This task, and compilation of descriptions of the Shrubs, has been completed only for the *Annonaceae*. With the departure of the botanist concerned to another country, work has ceased on this section.

If Trees, Grasses and Sedges are added together, about 25% of the Flora has been completed.

Expected date of completion recedes to approximately 2005.

Botanical exploration of Nigeria

Plant collections have been made in recent years in the following areas:

Benue Valley, by W. J. Howard;

Borgu Game Reserve, by C. Geerling;

Mambila Plateau, by B. O. Daramola, J. B. Hall, J. K. Jackson, S. O. Magaji and P. Tuley;

Obudu Plateau (called Ogoja Plateau on the map of 1965 from *Webbia* 19), by J. B. Hall,

J. Lowe and J. Medler;

Upper Ogun Game Reserve, by C. Geerling;

Yankari Game Reserve, by C. Geerling.

In addition, an Atlas of the Savanna Shrubs and Trees of Northern Nigeria has been compiled by J. A. D. Jackson.

