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Autor: Launert, E.
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Progress Report on Flora Zambesiaca

E. LAUNERT

Since the last report was given to the Plenary Meeting of AETFAT in Munich in September, 1970, the first part of the volume on *Gramineae* (Vol. X, part 1) has appeared in December 1971. It comprises the following tribes: *Bambuseae*, *Phareae*, *Olyreae*, *Oryzeae*, *Phyllorhachideae*, *Ehrharteae*, *Poeae*, *Bromeae*, *Brachypodieae*, *Triticeae*, *Meliceae*, *Aveneae*, *Phalarideae*, *Agrostideae*, *Arundineae*, *Aristideae*, *Centothecae* and *Pappophoreae*. Although it is editorial policy to publish the families for this project in a strict systematic sequence, the *Gramineae* were singled out on account of both their economic importance and their inherent taxonomic difficulties. The family will be published in four parts. Work on part 2, which will contain the tribes *Danthonieae*, *Eragrostideae*, *Chlorideae*, *Leptureae*, *Zoysieae*, *Arundinelleae* and *Isachneae*, is in progress, and it is hoped to send it to the press by about the middle of 1975. Moreover a number of genera ahead of part 2 have been studied. It is therefore very likely that part 3, if not the entire rest of the family, will be published by the time of the next AETFAT Plenary Meeting.

Volume III, comprising the *Leguminosae*, is edited by J. P. M. Brenan and will be published in four parts. Part 1 (subfamily *Mimosoideae*), written by J. P. M. Brenan, has been published in July 1970. Work on the *Caesalpinioideae*, which will occupy part 2, is in progress. This subfamily is being studied by R. K. Brummitt who has so far completed approximately a quarter of the work. Publication is scheduled for the beginning of 1976.

Beyond this, work on several genera of the *Papilionoideae* is in hand, but it would be premature to estimate a date for publication of parts 3 and 4.

Volume IV, which will be edited by E. Launert, is in an advanced state of preparation. It will contain the following families: *Rosaceae*, *Chrysobalanaceae*, *Brexiaceae*, *Vahliaceae*, *Montiniaceae*, *Crassulaceae*, *Droseraceae*, *Hamamelidaceae*, *Myrothamnaceae*, *Haloragaceae*, *Rhizophoraceae*, *Combretaceae*, *Myrtaceae*, *Melastomataceae*, *Heteropyxidaceae*, *Barringtoniaceae*, *Sonneratiaceae*, *Lythraceae*, *Onagraceae*, *Trapaceae*, *Turneraceae*, *Passifloraceae*, *Caricaceae*, *Cucurbitaceae*, *Begoniaceae*, *Cactaceae*, *Tetragoniaceae*, *Aizoaceae*, *Mesembryanthemaceae*, *Molluginaceae*, *Umbelliferae*, *Araliaceae*, *Alangiaceae*, *Cornaceae*, and *Oliniaceae*. The work on this volume is a fine example of international scientific co-operation; most of the family treatments are prepared by botanists in Portugal, but contributions are also made by workers in Kew, the British Museum (Natural History) and the Forestry Institute at Oxford. Naturally in a work on which so many scientists from different countries are engaged, serious editorial problems have to be overcome especially when individual workers, due to pressures beyond their control, fail to adhere to an agreed deadline. Nevertheless the editor has about 80% of the entire volume on his files and nearly all the illustrations have been executed. We are therefore confident to be able to publish this substantial volume in the course of 1976.

Volume V will comprise the *Rubiaceae*, but so far no work on this family has been commissioned.

This will be followed by Volume VI containing the *Compositae*. The volume can conveniently be published in two parts. The entire volume is the responsibility of H. Wild who, besides studying a major part of this family himself, will co-ordinate the work of various contributors and edit the volume.

In view of the fact that the preparation of this volume will take several years, H. Wild has decided to publish parts which are already finished as precursors in order to make them available to science. The situation at the time of this report is as follows:

1. *Heliantheae* by H. Wild, precursor published in *Kirkia* 6/1: 1-62 (1967);
2. *Inuleae* (small part only) by H. Wild, precursor published in *Kirkia* 7/1: 121-135 (1969);
3. *Mutisieae* by H. Wild, precursor published in *Kirkia* 8/2: 173-207 (1972);
4. *Astereae* by H. Wild & G. Pope (except for *Felicia* to be produced separately by H. J. Grau, and *Aster* to be produced separately by W. Lippert) completed and ready for press now, publication expected early 1975;
5. *Helenieae* by G. Pope (completed and ready for press, publication expected early 1975);
6. *Gorteriineae* by H. Roessler (completed and ready for press, publication expected early 1975);
7. *Vernonieae* by H. Wild & G. Pope (work in progress);
8. *Calenduleae* work shortly to begin by T. Norlindh, completion expected end of 1975;
9. *Inuleae* remainder, by J. Paiva, work in progress;
10. *Senecioneae* by A. Rocha da Torre (work in progress but position now not clear).

Although the Editorial Board has given thoughts to the planning of the volumes following the *Compositae* – as a matter of fact several families have already been assigned to authors – it would be unrealistic to project a schedule at the moment. The picture should be much clearer at the time of the next Plenary Meeting of AETFAT.

In common with most projects of this nature, *Flora Zambesiaca* is short of manpower. The Editorial Board would therefore greatly appreciate any help which it could receive from specialists working on relevant families. We would be grateful for information from any botanist working on African plants about possible contributions to *Flora Zambesiaca* or about intended monographic studies which could be utilised by workers who are actively engaged in the preparation of *Flora Zambesiaca*.