

THE FLOWERING PLANTS OF MADRAS CITY AND ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD

BY

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One of the great needs of modern botany in India and of those who are interested in Indian field botany is the publication of small portable local floras dealing with limited areas which may enable one to easily determine the correct names of the plants growing in that locality. Few such books are available at present and all, especially the residents of Madras, would be thankful to Mr. Mayuranathan for writing out and the Superintendent of the Madras Government Museum for issuing this flora of Madras City and its immediate neighbourhood.

The book has been prepared with the object of helping even the non-specialist to identify the Flowering Plants growing in the neighbourhood of Madras city. Grasses have been omitted on account of the minute size of their flowers and the great difficulty that they present to the non-specialist. In the beginning of the book there is an artificial dichotomous key for families and some of the aberrant genera like *Euphorbia*. This is followed by the description of families, genera, and species with the various subsidiary keys on the dichotomous plan. The descriptions are brief and clear. No hard technical terms are used and for the few technical terms used there is a glossary. Flowering periods of most of the species are given and English, Tamil and Telugu names are another important feature of the book. Besides a general index to families, genera and species, there are separate indices to English, Tamil and Telugu names. In all about 1,200 species are described and about one-sixth of these are well illustrated.

The book is rather bulky and it would probably have been more useful and certainly more handy and convenient to carry about if it had been of a smaller size and of less weight. This could have been achieved by using thin paper of a smaller size. All the same we congratulate the writer on the preparation of this excellent volume and wish there were more of that sort for other parts of the country.

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