

STUDY ON THE MONOCOT FLORA OF MEGHALAYA

(ABSTRACT)

BY

SPENLIWELL MYRTHONG

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES

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DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Dr. R. R. RAO

READER

SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES
SHILLONG - 793003

I certify that the thesis entitled 'STUDY ON THE MONOCOT FLORA OF MEGHALAYA' submitted by Spenliwell Myrthong for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY of the North-Eastern Hill University embodies the record of the original investigation carried out by him under my supervision. He has been duly registered, and the thesis presented is worthy of being considered for the award of the Ph. D. Degree. This work has not been submitted for any degree of any other University.

Dated 20th Nov. 1980.
Shillong.

R. Raghavendra Rao

(R.R. RAO)

Department of Botany,
School of Life Sciences,
North-Eastern Hill University,
Shillong, Meghalaya

Supervisor of Research.

A B S T R A C T

The state of Meghalaya (which earlier formed part of Assam) is one of the richest and interesting Botanical regions in India; but still floristically incompletely known. Many classical Botanists (Buchanan-Hamilton, 1820-24; Griffith, 1839; Booker, 1872-97; Burkill, 1925; Fischer, 1925) have, from time to time, studied the flora of this interesting region. But the only regional flora to cover this state is that of Kanjilal et al. (1934-1940), which is more a forest flora. But Monocotyledons (except Poaceae) have been excluded in this work. With the establishment of a regional circle of Botanical Survey of India at Shillong, though this region along with the entire North Eastern region has received considerable attention towards floristic studies, monocot flora of Meghalaya, however remains to be worked out; and is therefore attempted in this study.

The state of Meghalaya (which earlier formed part of Assam) The thesis is presented under the heads (a) Introduction (b) Geographical features (c) Geology and Soil (d) Climate (e) Historical background of the region (f) Review of literature (g) General account of the forest types (h) Present approach (i) Results and conclusions and (j) Taxonomic treatment. But the

only regional flora to cover this state is that of Kanjilal et al. (1934-1940), which is more a forest flora. But Monocotyledons to genera and species under each family (3) Correct nomenclature (except Poaceae) have been excluded in this work. With the of taxa, (4) Local names where available (5) Detailed description establishment of a regional circle of Botanical Survey of India at Shillong, though this region along with the entire North Eastern region has received considerable attention towards floristic studies, monocot flora of Meghalaya, however remains to be worked out; and is therefore attempted in this study.

of species (6) Flowering and fruiting times (7) Notes on habitat, distribution, abundance, etc. and (8) Specimens examined.

736 monocotyledonous species belonging to 298 genera and 35 families are treated in this flora based on extensive collections made during 1976-1980. Collections have been made from as many places as possible and from all seasons regularly to gather a complete (as far as possible) set of collections from the state. The localities or places of collection are shown in a map of Meghalaya. Cronquist's (1968) system is followed in arrangement of the families.

As this is the first complete monocot flora of the state, detailed descriptions for each species on the same lines as that of Kanjilal et al. (1934-1940) is provided, and this is based on a number of collections, from different localities in the state.

Illustrations of representative taxa, based on voucher specimens are also given to facilitate easy identifications.

Under specimens examined only author's collections are mentioned avoiding all other previous collections from the area just to avoid further bulk of the thesis.

All the specimens have been deposited in the Herbarium of the North-Eastern Hill University Shillong (NEHU), except otherwise specified.

The taxonomic treatment is followed by an extensive bibliography and an index to all botanical names.

Finally it is hoped that the present work 'MONOCOT FLORA OF MEGHALAYA' will serve the growing needs of students, teachers, and researchers, not only in this region but outside as well.

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