A Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Taiwan

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During the ten years that the five volumes of the Flora of Taiwan, Second Edition, were being published, it was inevitable that a revived interest in the flora would lead to new discoveries. An increase in taxonomic activity and reexamination of some taxonomically difficult groups has also revealed a number of taxa that had been previously overlooked. To account for the new discoveries that were reported too late to be included in the published volumes, and to provide a convenient account of all the plants of Taiwan, we have prepared this checklist.

The checklist takes into account, as far as we know, all documented additions reported in the literature and all taxonomic treatments that have either added to the flora through critical reexamination of older specimens or have provided new taxonomic interpretations of previously reported groups. Without doubt, we have overlooked a number of publications that have reported new additions, but we hope this checklist will provide additional stimulus for further study of the rich and highly diverse flora of Taiwan.

The checklist also serves as the basis for the statistics on the flora of Taiwan. It is from this list of accepted taxa, indicated in bold, that the statistics have been prepared.

The Checklist is arranged according to the sequence of families as treated in the Flora of Taiwan, Second Edition. It includes all taxa in volumes 1 through 5, plus previously omitted species. Additions to the Flora and new combinations are indicated with reference to their place of publication. Endemic taxa and their rankings are indicated as ♦, ‡, ♣, ◇ and ☉ for each such entry, as mentioned in Table 1.

A summation of the vascular plants in Taiwan, including native and naturalized taxa, as given in the checklist, is presented in Table 2. The number of endemic taxa are in parentheses.


The IUCN Red List Categories of 1994 and 1997 have been followed internationally for many years. Those categories are very useful to the conservation community for protecting rare plant species. Taiwan, however, is a small area with high species diversity and the need to revise the IUCN Red List Categories for local purposes was inevitable. Because of Taiwan's rich flora, the Red List Categories must be defined critically so that our definitions for threatened species are confined to endemic species. In that way the classification of Taiwan's plants will be more practical for environmental impact assessment in Taiwan. We therefore propose and define the categories and their accompanying symbols in Table 1.