

Review of Publication

Vascular Plants of Afghanistan – an Augmented Checklist

Following to the Field Guide Afghanistan (BRECKLE & RAFIQPOOR 2010) the next important book for the Flora of Afghanistan is on the table now. The authors give a lot of information in the shortest possible but comprehensive way.

An extensive introduction gives natural geography including geology, climate, and other information, but also a short history of the exploration and botanical research.

The list shows important synonyms with their citations, the general distribution in Afghanistan (small maps with the impreciseness of the level of provinces), the general distribution, variation of altitude and links to the Field Guide). The list is based mainly on Flora Iranica, a checklist of D. Podlech, the floras of the surrounding countries, many more or less recent publications and the contributions of a long list of colleagues. Additionally the data of the herbarium of the University of Kabul as well as other information in Virtual Herbaria has been used. For each family selected important and recent literature is given including critical remarks. The authors tried to use the actual state of taxonomy (APG III) – or made a comment if not completely doing so (e.g. Scrophulariaceae).

The Checklist is an irreplaceable tool, when determining plants from Afghanistan and should be available in each library of institutions dealing with material from this area.

BRECKLE S.-W, HEDGE I.C. & RAFIQPOOR M.D., 2013: Vascular Plants of Afghanistan – an Augmented Checklist. 598 pp. – Bonn: Scientia Bonnensis.

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Virtual Herbaria: <http://herbarium.univie.ac.at/database/search.php>

Accessed 11.12.204: 25323 datasets for Afghanistan, of these 23282 from KUFS (University of Kabul) and 1400 type specimens.