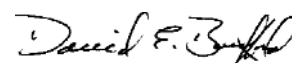


Foreword

China has the richest and most diverse flora of any country in the northern hemisphere, with more than 30,500 species of vascular plants documented from throughout its vast territory. Despite the completion of two national floras, *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae* (FRPS, 1959-2004) in Chinese, and the *Flora of China* (1994-2013) in English, more than 100 new taxa of Chinese plants are still being published each year. Based on a comprehensive survey of taxonomic works published on the plants of China, more than 400 plant names, including new combinations, new synonyms and grade changes are being proposed annually. Although international databases such as the *International Plant Names Index* (IPNI) collects data on plant names published worldwide, some publications regarding Chinese plants have not been included because of various limitations, especially because some journals and books published locally or with limited press runs inside China are not readily available outside the country. At the same time, data regarding Chinese plants is not always readily available in a timely manner to many Chinese scholars. To supplement international databases of plant names, regional databases will certainly be needed. *Chinese Plant Names Index* (CPNI) is a database of names of Chinese vascular plants that attempts to remedy the situation by providing an index of new names and name changes that have been proposed in Chinese publications. The importance of the index to the botanical academy is obvious.

The first two volumes of the *Chinese Plant Names Index* cover the years 2000 through 2009, with entries 1 through 5,516, and 2010 through 2017, with entries 5,517 through 10,795. A unique entry is generated for the specific name of each taxon in a specific publication. Taxonomic treatments cover all novelties at the rank of family, genus, species, subspecies, variety, form and named hybrid taxa, new name changes (new combinations and new names), new records, new synonyms and new typifications for vascular plants reported or recorded from China. Detailed information on the place of publication, including author, publication name, year of publication, volume, issue, and page number, are given in detail. Type specimens and collection information for the taxa and their distribution in China, as well as worldwide, are also provided. The books and journals scanned are listed in several appendices.

Since the bibliographies by Merrill and Walker (1938, 1961), such works covering more recent Chinese literature have not been available. I hope that the publication of this work will prove to be an authoritative reference not only for Chinese taxonomic studies, but will also facilitate the work of scholars worldwide.



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September 15, 2018

