

Review of Chinese local and national Floras

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Floristic works in China in the past ten years have been developed rapidly, especially on floras. Three different kinds of works are summarized here.

First, Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae (FRPS, Chinese edition) represents the largest floristic project in the world. The final product, 80 volumes in 126 parts, represents work by four generations of Chinese plant taxonomists over 40 years (1959-2004). The general aspects about the history, research team, contents and some comments on outline, timing, authorship, editors / authors, quality, concept of species, new taxa, specimens, statistics, largest taxa and conclusion of this monumental work are summarized.

Second, Flora of China (FOC, English edition) started more than 10 years ago from the Missouri Botanical Garden, and cooperated world wide right now, has reached more than 40% at this time, and 10 volumes of 25 planned project have been published so far, plus 8 volumes of 25 Illustrations. The whole work will be done in less than 10 years as predicted. The general differences between the Chinese edition and English edition as well as their contents are summarized here for the first time, especially regarding the treatment of different taxa as well as their coverage.

Third, local floras of China also gained very good progress at this time, and almost every province has their own floras among 31 provinces (Municipalities and Autonomous Regions), and most of them have been done very well, some even revised already. The whole pictures showed the great differences among different provinces, including the treatment of taxa, used systems, as well as their history, and development.

References

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Flora of China Editorial Committee (website): <http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/china/>