

Families and Genera of Spermatophytes Recognized by the Agricultural Research Service

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Correct scientific names and authors for families and genera of spermatophytes of the world are required by U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel and other agricultural scientists. It is relatively easy to determine the names and parameters of most spermatophyte families. On the other hand it has been extremely difficult to determine the generic composition of many families. This bulletin is designed to provide (1) a list of recognized family names with an enumeration of their genera, (2) a standard reference on current supraspecific scientific names for scientists and technicians using the computerized Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) and printed copy for those lacking access to the GRIN, and (3) the taxonomic structure for our study of fruit-seed morphology at the family level.

GRIN is the germplasm data base of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS). NPGS is responsible for coordinating national efforts to collect and preserve germplasm of economically important plants. The taxonomic portion of GRIN currently contains information on approximately 45,000 scientific names, both correct names and synonyms.

The Systematic Botany and Mycology Laboratory, USDA/ARS, is responsible for making nomenclatural and taxonomic decisions and entering and maintaining all taxonomic information in GRIN. In addition to the nomenclature of correct names and synonyms, the data base contains information on distribution, common names, literature references, place of original publication, and other items of nomenclature. Updating of this information—the result of an exhaustive survey of current literature—is an ongoing process, and this bulletin is one element in this process.

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