

FOREWORD

The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Philippines, in particular the Biological Sciences Division, takes pride in its involvement in the production of the final manuscripts in camera-ready form of Part 2 of the five-part treatise on the vascular flora of Mount Makiling and vicinity. The entire floristic work was a life-long preoccupation of the Late Professor Juan V. Pancho, but a few deterrent factors then became apparent when efforts to publish parts or the entire work were being undertaken, specifically during the latter part of Prof. Pancho's tenure in the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

A few years prior to the demise of Prof. Pancho (in May 20, 2000), NAST had provided him a substantial research grant to expedite the production of an electronic version of the manually-typed manuscripts of the remaining four volumes of his work. Unfortunately, this particular undertaking fell short of its expected outputs.

In November 2003, NAST appointed Dr. William Sm. Gruèzo to undertake the revision of Part 2 of the "Vascular Flora of Mount Makiling and vicinity" – a task involving largely nomenclatural updating, enhancement of taxonomic literature, modification of identification keys to genera and species for a number of families and taxonomic revision of a few taxa. However, this particular task could be done only after an entirely new electronic version of the old, badly xeroxed copy of the manuscripts was completed in a very tedious manner.

The present improved form and substance of the "Vascular Flora of Mount Makiling and Vicinity, Part 2" owe much to the unparalleled perseverance and taxonomic expertise, as well as acute technical editing of Dr. Gruèzo. This sequel of the "Vascular flora of Mount Makiling and vicinity" would certainly be an indispensable primary reference book not only in Plant Systematics/Taxonomy, Agriculture, Botany, Forestry, Environmental Science, but also in Plant Breeding, Landscape Architecture, Veterinary Botany, Conservation Biology, Wildlife Studies, among others.

As Chair of the NAST Biological Sciences Division, I am extremely happy to see that the much-awaited Part 2 of the "Vascular Flora of Mount Makiling and Vicinity" has finally been published. With the constantly high commitment of NAST to assist in the publication of works with high scholarly value, it can be expected that the three other parts of this particular 'Vascular Flora' would also be published soon.

I, therefore, enjoin every one to expand the horizon of knowledge in tropical plants by exploring with enthusiasm every page of this particular book.

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