

## PREFACE

The current volume is the second of an intended 5-series floristic work entitled, "Vascular flora of Mount Makiling and vicinity (Luzon: Philippines)." The series when finally completed will serve as the *Magnum Opus* in the long-standing professional career of Professor Juan V. Pancho as a plant taxonomist of national and international acclaim and as an indefatigable mentor to only but a select group of Filipino and foreign plant taxonomists, many of which have similarly attained some respectable degree of prominence.

My direct involvement in this floristic work began some 32 years ago when as a newly hired Instructor in Agricultural Botany of the then Department of Agricultural Botany (College of Agriculture, UP Los Baños), I was assigned the task of proofreading the first set of manually typed manuscripts of this "Flora" during vacant hours. As a new apprentice to the discipline of Systematic Botany, I found the work not only intellectually challenging but also physically demanding as more often I had to do the proofreading from 7 am to 12 noon and 1 to 5 pm of each free day from teaching for almost one year. It was also in this sort of probationary period that I discovered one defining character of a true-blue systematist – that of being original, particularly when it comes to making taxonomic decision. In short, originality is a truly hallmark character of a practicing systematist.

After having gone through the long gauntlet, so to speak, I find myself facing one of the most exciting challenges in my professional life – that of having to polish to a near-perfect condition the remaining series of the "Vascular flora of Mount Makiling and vicinity" – a gargantuan task *vis-à-vis* a not only dwindling public financial resource for this kind of work, but rather a seemingly nonexistent one! Despite such a prognosis, I am still hopeful that sufficient financial support towards the publication of the entire "Flora" series will come right on time.

This Part 2 of the 'Flora' covers 553 species, 9 subspecies, 10 varieties and 3 forms, distributed in 269 genera and 57 families (*i.e.* Family numbers 68- Papilionaceae to 124- Cornaceae of the original Flora plan). One new combination is being proposed in this work, *i.e.* *Hibiscus glabrescens* (Warb. ex Perk.) Gruézo, *comb. nov.* (Basionym: *Bombycidendron glabrescens* Warb. ex Perk., *Fragm. Fl. Philip.* 16, 1883), an endemic species belonging to the Family Malvaceae, and locally known as *Vidal's lanutan* (Tag.).

With the demise of Professor Pancho (last May 20, 2000) and the apparent unavailability of the original copy of the 'Flora Part 2' manuscripts during the final preparation stage of this book, I assume full responsibility for any shortcomings, technical or otherwise, that may become apparent in the present work. Any constructive comments that would lead to further improve the present version would therefore be appreciated.

WILLIAM SM. GRUÉZO, Ph.D.  
Professor & Curator of Botany  
UP Los Baños