

Preface

It is with great satisfaction that, with this volume, the major part of the families of the order Malpighiales is now published within this book series. Malpighiales are a relatively new ordinal concept because the member families have few evident common characters and, therefore, could be recognised as a monophyletic group only after the application of DNA sequence studies. Submission of manuscripts for the families belonging to this order extended over a very long time, and I regret the long delay in publication for those authors who complied early. Now, all but three families of the order (Achariaceae, Malpighiaceae and Salicaceae) are treated in this series and a concise overview of all families is given in the introduction to this volume, including those (the Clusiaceae Alliance and Passifloraceae Alliance) already published in Vol. IX of this series.

My deep thanks go to all authors of this volume for their interesting and scholarly contributions, and to all those who have freely shared additional information and/or have commented on earlier drafts. Dr. C.C. Davis is warmly thanked for permission to prepare a simplified version of his consensus tree of malpighialean families for the introduction of this volume. I am also most grateful to all copyright holders who so kindly gave permission to reproduce illustrations published under their responsibility, including the Director and Board of Trustees, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the editors of *Blumea* (Leiden, The Netherlands) and *Austrobaileya* (Brisbane, Queensland). The artist Bobby Angell, New York, deserves my continued appreciation for her generous authorization to use illustrations published under her authorship.

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Klaus Kubitzki



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