

APPENDIX FOUR

SANSKRIT NAMES OF PLANTS
AND THEIR BOTANICAL EQUIVALENTS*Introduction*

Except in a rather restricted number of cases the botanical identification of plants mentioned in Sanskrit texts has always presented many problems. The number of disagreeing identifications, and above all the number of botanical names met with in the literature, has shown a steady increase in the course of time. This situation makes it expedient to collect the data scattered in the more important books on the subject and to arrange them systematically. The collection of references in this glossary, dealing with all the plants mentioned in the translation, notes and Appendices may be useful to others, the more so because many books on the subject have no adequate index; moreover, a great number of printing errors, inaccurate transcriptions of Sanskrit terms, etc., are frequent obstacles, diminishing the reliability of no small number of works. The omission of author's names after scientific names of plants is a very common occurrence and this unhappy practice, adopted in the Sanskrit-English dictionary of Monier-Williams, often leads to confusion, as will appear from the glossary.

The botanical names in this glossary have been checked, without any exception, by help of the *Index Kewensis*, the only work containing all the names of phanerogamous plants, and the nomenclature and synonymy have been set up in agreement with it. The name given by the *Index Kewensis* as the valid one has been put first, followed by the synonyms. There are, however, some exceptions to this general scheme. Deviations from the *Index Kewensis* occur whenever prescribed by the International Code (ed. 1972) in its list of *nomina conservanda*; names of species found in that list have been adopted. These changes are indicated by a reference to the International Code.

Names put between square brackets are not found in the *Index*; in the majority of cases this means that they are invalid or erroneous, but there are exceptions. Invalid names are usually those between square brackets when followed by a single author's name after the Latin name. When two author's names occur, the first one being put