

HANDBOOK OF THE IRIDEÆ

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Handbook of the Irideæ by J. G. Baker

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J. G. BAKER

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THE IRIDEÆ**

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HANDBOOK
OF
THE IRIDEÆ

BY
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KEEPER OF THE HERBARIUM OF THE ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
KEY TO THE GENERA	ix
IRIS—ANTHOLYZA	1-282
INDEX	283

PREFACE.

THIS is the last of a series of botanical handbooks on which I have been working for a long time. When I first came to Kew, in January, 1866, I found the groups of plants that enter largely into horticulture that most wanted working at were the Vascular Cryptogams and Petaloid Monocotyledons. To those, consequently, during my connection with Kew, I have paid special attention. First, as was agreed upon with Sir Joseph Hooker when I was engaged as first-assistant in the herbarium, I finished the 'Synopsis Filicum' which Sir William Hooker had planned out and commenced. This was published in 1868, and a second edition, with a Supplement, in 1874. In 1891 I contributed to the fifth volume of the 'Annals of Botany' a classified index of the new species discovered up to that date. This has now been issued separately. In the Handbooks of the Fern Allies, Amaryllidæ, Bromeliacæ, and the present work, I have followed the same concise general plan as in the Fern Synopsis. The *Liliacæ* are dealt with in greater detail in the 'Journal of the Linnean Society.' The papers extend from the eleventh to the eighteenth volume, and cover the whole order, with the exception of the two large genera, *Smilax* and *Allium*, which have been monographed recently by M. Alphonse DeCandolle and Dr. Von Regel. Those who wish for full bibliographical details about the species of *Iridæ* will find them in a paper

entitled "Systema Iridacearum" in the sixteenth volume of the 'Journal of the Linnean Society,' but this contains only descriptions of the genera, not of the species. In the nomenclature and circumscription of the genera I have in the present handbook followed Bentham and Hooker's 'Genera Plantarum,' with very slight exception. The number of known species of Vascular Cryptogamia now amounts to 3500, and of these orders of Petaloid Monocotyledons to little short of 5000.

J. G. BAKER.

HERBARIUM OF THE ROYAL GARDENS, KEW,

August 17th, 1892.