

Common names

Two recently published booklets provide a much-needed bridge between the world of common names and that of scientific nomenclature. One indexes common plant names against their scientific equivalent (and vice versa); the other does the same for insects.

'A Checklist of Economic Plants in Australia' provides a list of pasture and forage plants, crop plants, fodder trees and shrubs, plants poisonous to livestock, weeds (of pasture, cultivation, and irrigation), and forest trees. Ornamental and garden plants are not generally included, except insofar as they fall within one of these categories. In the main, the plants listed

are native to Australia, or are naturalized or cultivated here.

Although principally of use to farmers, the list should also find favour with amateur botanists and ecologists.

'Scientific and Common Names of Insects and Allied Forms Occurring in Australia' lists thousands of creatures notable for their abundance, striking appearance, or economic importance. The list should promote a uniformity of understanding between all those who ever have the need to put a name to an insect or spider.

Both publications are available from CSIRO, P.O. Box 89, East Melbourne, Vic. 3002. The first costs \$5.00, the second, \$4.00. (Postage is included.)