

A Fragile Eden

Portraits of the Endemic
Flowering Plants of the
Granitic Seychelles
Rosemary Wise

This is an extraordinary book, filled with beautiful full-color illustrations of some of the world's most unusual plants. The Seychelles have been geologically isolated for more than seventy million years. In their long isolation, the native flora of 32 granitic islands remained untouched until the late eighteenth century. Since then, however, inroads have been made in their natural environment and many plants are now endangered.

In 1985 the Oxford University Biological Expedition to the Seychelles studied the vegetation on several of the islands. Rosemary Wise, the department's artist, became alarmed that the rapidly disappearing species might go unrecorded and made it her mission for the next ten years to paint all of the endemic flora in their natural habitat. She has written an accompanying text (with a contribution by Malcolm Coe) to describe this unique flora.

The large format, superb printing, and informative descriptions of *A Fragile Eden* allow the reader to appreciate the author's obvious passion for these plants.

79 color plates. 3 line drawings.

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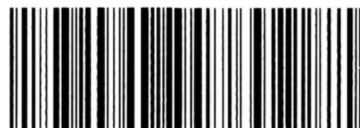
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The cover illustration, drawn by Mary Bates, is of the diminutive alpine plant *Sibbaldia procumbens*, named in honour of one of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's founders Robert Sibbald. This plant is used, in a stylised form, as the Garden's official logo.

ACCREDITED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT TAXONOMY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTRATION OF ALL NEW PLANT NAMES

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