Knowing the distribution of organisms is of basic importance in biological sciences. The study of ecology, evolution, biogeography, conservation, and many other disciplines are dependant upon knowing where organisms are distributed. For the scientist and naturalist, the publication, *Index to Distribution Maps of Pteridophytes in Asia* is a welcome addition to the resource literature. Because of the broad application of this publication and because it may be used by readers of English, I would like to draw it to the attention of Western botanists. This book contains the literature sources that show distribution maps of Asian pteridophytes.

The first few pages (pp. I–VII, in Japanese) point out the importance of distribution maps to biology and give the history of the index. The first edition (Nakaike, 1998) was privately published and commemorated the completion of the monumental 8-volume work entitled *Illustrations of Pteridophytes of Japan* (Kurata & Nakaike, eds., Vol. 1–8. Pp. 5333. University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, Japan, with the cooperation of the Japan Fernist Club [In Japanese with Latin names]). Among the information for each pteridophyte entry in these volumes is a map showing its distribution in Japan. In the 18 years it took to complete these volumes, much information needed to be added and updated. Updating the pteridophyte distribution on maps lead to the first edition of the *Index to Distribution Maps of Pteridophytes in Asia*. Further expansion and updating developed into this second edition (Nakaike, T. 1998. *Index to Distribution Maps of Pteridophytes in Asia*. Private press edition, Tokyo. 99 pp. [In Japanese and English, Latin names]).

The pages in the next section (pp. VII & VIII, in Japanese) explains how to use the index, and delineates the terms and symbols used. The symbols are self-explanatory in Japanese or English. All ranks of Asiatic taxa from families to cultivars and nothospecies having maps are listed in the index. Taxa that extend beyond the Asiatic area are also included in the index if they are mapped.

The following section (pp. 1–8, in English) is entitled *Literature Cited*. The 148 literature citations give the author, date of the publication, title of the paper, volume, number, page or publisher. The date of the latest literature citation is for 2001.

The body of the index follows immediately (pp. 9–124). The names of the genera and of the species used are based on those given in the first edition