Hydnaceae is rather a small family for which about 300 species are known from various parts of the world. A good number of Hydnaceae are lignicolous and cause considerable damage to the woody substrata. However, this family has remained poorly known from this country and only 23 species truly belonging to this group were reported before the start of this work which was undertaken to augment the hydnoid flora of India. I have made about 280 collections during the 5 mycological forays (1965-66) in the various localities in the North Western Himalayas. These collections belong to 17 genera and 64 different species which have been described and illustrated fully. The descriptions have also been supplemented in most of the cases with anatomical drawings to elucidate the internal structure of a species. Keys have been given for all the genera and species reported from India.

Four genera are new records for India. These are: Echinodontium, Dentipellis, Gloiodon and Sarcodonta. Out of the 64 species described in this work, 38 are new records for India and these are: Caldesiella ferruginosa, Sarcodon murrillii, S. rimosum, S. acabrosus, S. amarascens, Hydnellum spongiosipes, H. coniferum, H. caeruleum, H. scleronodium, Echinodontium japonicum, Hericium ramosum, Gloiodon strigosus, Phellodon confluens, P. melaleucus,
Phellodon drunneo-olivaceus, Odontia sudans, O. fusco-stra, O. archeri, O. hydnoides, O. sueletii, O. fimbriata, O. ciliolata, O. crustosa, O. pruni, O. crustula, O. laxa, O. setigera, O. cristulata, O. stipata, O. lactea, Grandinia mutabilis, G. stimulispore, Sarcodontia stenodon, S. dentigulata, S. subochracea, S. licentii, Steccherinum resupinatum and S. laeticolor. Ten species could not be named from the available literature. Some of these may be new but no new name has been proposed as yet. These belong to the genera, Denticellis, Sarcodontia, Odontia, Hydnellum, Phellodon and Sarcodon. The three new combinations proposed, pertain to the genera, Sarcodon, Sarcodontia and Kavinia.

The field data on all collections regarding substratum, forest type, date of collection and locality have been given for each species. The distribution of genera and species in the world (as far as it could be ascertained from the available literature) has also been given under each genus and species. The distribution of all the species of the various genera in the North Western Himalayas has been shown in the maps for ready reference.

The materials of all the collections is deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India, and a sizable part of each collection is also deposited in the National Fungus Collections, Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.