A survey has been made on the taxonomic history of the family Anacardiaceae and various opinions on its position in the Systems of Angiosperm. A survey of morphological characters has been made towards an attempt to show a phylogenetic trend among different members of the family in India. Present study shows that about thirty percent of total taxa under this family is endemic to India. In the taxonomic part 60 species and 8 varieties have been described under 22 genera of which 1 species is cultivated in India. During the course of the study 1 species and 4 varieties are described as new. In addition, a new combination, a new status and some new records of distribution have also been done. The key to facilitate identification of genera, species and varieties have been prepared mostly on macroscopic characters, microscopic characters are unavoidable where a large number of species are included under a single genus. Full references and descriptions of the taxa are given with critical notes whenever necessary. Types are cited after valid names and synonyms of different taxa. Local names are given next to typification. Description is followed by distribution, ecology, specimens examined, flowering and fruiting times, economic uses and notes respectively. Maps on distribution of the entire family as well as of different tribes and genera are given separately.
Illustrations and also photographs of different taxa are followed by text part.

An account has been given on chromosome counting (the basic chromosome number ranges from \( n = 12-20 \); some of them are polyploid in nature).

Research has been carried out on palynology. In the family Anacardiaceae, the pollen grains are mostly uniform showing homogeneity in pollen morphology with a few exceptions. It is usually 3-colporate but in Pterocarya St, it is 4-colporate one. In Pistacia L., the pollen grains are periporate with 3-5 irregular shaped pores.

Characteristic features on wood-anatomy and leaf-anatomy are also quoted from available literatures, being followed by economic importance of the family as a whole.