

VII. BOOK REVIEWS

(cntd from p. 236)

T a y l o r, W.R. Plants of Bikini and other Northern Marshall Islands.
University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor 1950.
218 pp. index 79 pl. col. frontispiece \$5.50.

Survey of the flora of Bikini and other atolls before the atomic-bomb tests were made. The phytoplankton is excluded from the present carefully written and extensive analysis, which is most instructive to every student of tropical coral island floras. A general introduction furnishes an excellent view on Phanerogamic vegetation and land flora, the physical conditions of the islands, and the part played by different elements in coral building. The major part of the book is occupied by descriptions of the plants collected; marine Algae, of course, predominate. Several new spp. have been described e.g. in Halimeda, Rhipilia, Caulerpa, Pocockiella, Acrochaetium, Porolithion, Botryodiplodia and Fungi, etc.

Latin diagnoses of new forms and species and a bibliography are given at the end. The book is exemplary illustrated and well-executed.

C.G.G.J.van Steenis.

Heyne, K.: De Nuttige Planten van Indonesië.
Literatim new edition of the K. Heyne, "De Nut-
tige Planten van Nederlandsch Indië", 3rd edi-
tion 1927; in 2 volumes, 1660 + cexli pp. Is-
sued by N.V. Uitgeverij W. van Hoeve, The Hague.
Clothbound, Dutch Guilders 55.50.

Already before the war the stock of Heyne's standard work was exhausted and it was highly desirable to have a new edition. It is to be regretted that no "revised" edition could be produced. Tropical botany has made, in the past twenty years, considerable progress, and botanical nomenclature has been subject to changes certainly not to be neglected.

The present literatim edition is a very successful one from the point of view of printing, binding and handiness, and more satisfactory than the 1927 edition. Except change in the title and the omission of references to the Bogor Museum collection in the text - which references have no value any longer since the Museum collections have been partly disintegrated - and minor points in wording not affecting the contents, nothing has been changed in this work which still remains a mine of original, critical information on the useful plants of Malaysia and which will retain its value for decades to come.

C.G.G.J. van Steenis.

Den Berger, L.G. Determinatie-tabel voor houtsoor-
ten van Malesië tot op familie of
geslacht naar voor de loep (10x en
20x) zichtbare kenmerken.
Wageningen, Veenman & Zn. 1949, 82
pp.

When Dr den Berger entered the service of the Forest Research Station at Buitenzorg (Bogor) in 1917 as a wood-anatomist he laid with Beekman, later Professor at Wageningen, a foundation for wood identification of Malaysian timbers as far as genus or family with small power magnification. When he retired in 1931 his key had been profusely used at Bogor, but he himself was not yet satisfied and intended to reconsider the MS at leisure. Unfortunately he died, 1945, before his plan had been carried out. He had entrusted the MS to the care of Mrs C.E. Reinders-Gouwentak, who tested and finished it. She added also data with regard to literature. Den Berger used a special code of terminology which is elucidated. In the Forest Research Station Den Berger's key was regarded as indispensable; Mrs Reinders-Gouwentak is congratulated to have been able to give it publicity in print.

C.G.G.J. van Steenis.

V. T ä c k h o l m & M. D r a r Flora of Egypt, vol. II.
Bulletin of the Faculty of
Science, Cairo No 28, 1950.
537 pp.

This second volume contains part of the Monocotyledons, viz Cyperaceae to Juncaceae. As a Flora this wide-planned work is certainly unusual as the taxonomical part is only small and more or less concealed among a mass of facts, bibliographies and discussions on the value of the plants - native, introduced and cultivated - for horticultural, technical, economic, medicinal, ethnobotanic and other purposes.

It is customary to treat these latter subjects in works on applied or economic botany. To include them in a Flora has certain advantages but it detracts from a direct survey of the Flora as a whole and hampers a speedy identification of a specimen and this, after all, is the main purpose and use of a Flora. Nevertheless, this compilation is useful as a work of reference and, no doubt, the authors are adding materially to the resources of Egyptian botany.

The authors and the Egyptian Government are to be congratulated with the edition of this important work of science.

C.G.G.J.van Steenis.

W. R o b i j n s (ed.) Flore du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-
Urundi. Vol. I.
1948. 446 pp. Illustrated, 8°. 40
pl. 12 photos.

Under direction of Prof. Dr W. Robijns, a large, modern, illustrated flora of the Belgian Congo, organized and sponsored by I.N.E.A.C. will be compiled.

It is planned to comprise about 10.000 spp. and has adopted the Englerian sequence of families. The first volume contains the Gymnospermae and the Angiospermae from Casuarinaceae to Polygonaceae. There are full descriptions of families and genera, and species are treated with citation of type and representative specimens. Many characters derived from field notes (e. g. on bark and wood of trees) are added. Attention is paid to infraspecific taxa and much care is given to the nomenclature of species and varieties. Bibliographic references are selective. Many data are included on the use of the species and their vernacular names. Of large genera the present volume contains a treatment of Ficus, Dorstenia, and Loranthus sens. lat. The work is estimated to cover 20 volumes and will represent the largest African Flora since those of Tropical Africa and the Cape.

Professor Robijns and the Executive Committee are to be congratulated with the start of this ambitious undertaking.

C.G.G.J.van Steenis.