

V. EXPEDITIONS AND OTHER EXPLORATION
(continued from p. 1893)

T h a i l a n d .

In mid-1971 Dr. K. I w a t s u k i made a four-weeks' collecting trip in Thailand, 10 Sept. - 10 Oct.

From Oct. 1971 till mid-January 1972 a joint Leyden exploring expedition was made by Mr. C.F. v a n B e u s e - k o m and Mr. R. G e e s i n k to various parts of Thailand.

S u m a t r a

From 4 Aug. to 20 Sept. 1971 Prof. M. H i r a n o (algologist), Dr. K. I w a t s u k i (bryologist) and Mr. G. M u r a t a went to North Sumatra: 11-12 Aug. Sibolangit and Toba Lake, 13-15 Aug. Sikundur Nature Reserve near Tandjungpura, 18-29 Aug. in the Gajolands, climbing amongst others Mt Kemiri. Early Sept. they went to the Takengon area. Dr. J. D r a n s f i e l d from Bogor joined this exploration, hunting for palms.

Dr. W.J.J.O. d e W i l d e, Leyden, and his wife started May 1972 on a 4-5-months' botanical exploration of the Gajolands in North Sumatra, to report also on aspects of Nature Conservation in the Mt Losir Nature Reserve.

In 1972 Mr. E. d e V o g e l and Dr. J. D r a n s - f i e l d made a short exploration in the Lampong Districts, South Sumatra, which proved to be unsatisfactory as practi-

cally no primitive forest is left there. They proceeded to South Bencoolen which gave better results.

J a v a

Mr. A. H o o g e r w e r f, formerly Head of the Division Nature Preservation at the Botanic Gardens, Bogor, made in Sept.-Oct. a reconnaissance for Wild Life Management and National Parks in East Java, in Purwo, Baluran, Jang, and the Meru Betiri Reserve, SE. of Djember, the latter a very rugged, low mountain complex which was botanically never explored. It seems still to harbour primary rain-forest. As he was there in the dry season with little botanical facilities his collection was not too good, but he found amongst others a tree species not yet known from Java, either *Aquilaria* or *Gyrinops*, which could not be identified due to the sterile state of the specimen.

Also Prof. Dr. R. v a n d e r V e e n visited the Meru Betiri Reserve and found *Rafflesia zollingeriana* in primary forest not far behind the beach. A most promising terrain which deserves to be searched intensively.

A BIOTROP training course in forest ecology was held in May-June 1972 consisting of introductions at Bogor and field work in Udjon Kulon and Peutjang I. (Prinsen Eiland). Leaders of the group of some 30 students in the field were Dr. K u s w a t a, Dr. J. D r a n s f i e l d, and Mr. E. d e V o g e l.

B o r n e o

In Sept.-Oct. 1971 Dr. J.A.R. A n d e r s o n made an exploration of the limestone mountains of G. Mulu area in Sarawak for the purpose of reconnaissance for the establishment of a National Park.

In 1972 Mr. E. d e V o g e l and Dr. J. D r a n s f i e l d made a short expedition to SE. Kalimantan mainly for collecting seed of forest trees and palms.

P h i l i p p i n e s

From the Annual Report 1969/70 of the National Museum Philippines we learned that the Botany Division participated in a multidivisional project 'Ecology of Southern Samar' made possible by a grant from the U.S. Army Research & Development Group, during which several collecting trips were made. The Division participated in a collaborative venture with the Osaka Museum in exploring Mt Apo, Mindanao. Furthermore, collecting continued on Mt Makiling, Laguna, Luzon.

New Guinea (sens. lat.)

In Jan.-Febr. 1970 H.F. Winters and J.J. Higgins of the U.S. Department of Agriculture collected some 432 numbers of native plants for purpose of assembling 'germ-plasma' of potentially ornamental plants.

After the ANZAAS Congress in 1970 at Pt. Moresby Dr. A. Kanis and Dr. R. Schodde collected during four weeks in the Astrolabe Range and near Efogi on the Kokoda Trail, mainly smaller plants, because of lack of facilities for tree cutting.

In 1971 an Australian expedition went to research on Mt Carstensz for purposes of glaciology, meteorology, glacial geomorphology, and attached to it a plan for botanical and palynological work, to be carried out by Mr. G.S. Hope, of the Department of Biogeography & Geomorphology, Australian National University, Canberra.

Exploration of the alpine parts of Mt Carstensz is now greatly facilitated because of a huge copper-mining operation at 3700 m altitude. Roads are made at high speed and helicopter service provides hitherto unknown possibility of access.

The Botany Division, Lae, commenced, Aug. 1971, a forest survey at Kiunga, on the upper parts of the Fly River, Papua.

Mr. J.F. Veldkamp, Leyden, set out (end May 1972) on an exploring expedition of Mt Suckling, in the eastern tip of Papua, jointly with the Botany Division at Lae; Mr. P.F. Stevens is the leader; Mr. R. Pullen will work at low altitude. The Rev. Canon Crutwell is also participating. Mr. Veldkamp, who is anticipating a 5-months' trip, got grants from several foundations to cover expenses.

North Australia

Dr. M.M.J. van Balgooy, Leyden, stayed with Mr. N.B. Byrnes in the Darwin area for two weeks in the second half of July 1971, proceeding to North Queensland (Atherton Table Lands, Bellenden Ker and Mt Spurgeon) in the first half of August 1971, with the help of Dr. J.M. Hopkinson, Mr. G. Stocker and Mr. B.M. Hyland.

Pacific

New Hebrides Royal Society/Percy Sladen Expedition, 1971. The expedition lasted from 21 June to Oct. 21 in Efate I. (25/6-17/7), Aneityum I. (18-24/7), Tanna I. (26/7-3/8), Erromanga I. (4-14/8), Esperito Santo I. (22/8-18/9) and

Malekula I. (27/7-16/10). Full-time botanical members were Mr. R.M. Bennett, Forest Botanist, New Hebrides, and Dr. Chew Wee Lek, Botanist from Sydney. Part-time botanical members were: Mr. A.E. Beveridge, Ecologist from New Zealand, Mr. A. Gillison, Ecologist from Bulolo, Dr. P.S. Green, Botanist from Kew, Dr. N. Hallé, Botanist from Paris, Dr. H.S. McKee, Botanist from Nouméa, Dr. J. Raynal, Botanist from Paris, Dr. M. Schmid and Mr. M. Veillon, Botanists from Nouméa.

The botanical collections will be sorted out at Kew and distributed from there. Zoological collections will be distributed by participants.

Dr. M.M.J. van Balgooy, Leyden, made a botanical exploration in Tahiti and Bora Bora, Sept. 7 - Oct. 9, 1971, where he enjoyed much help from M. Jaij and his son.