

V. HERBARIA, GARDENS, ORGANIZATIONS

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An alphabetical list of plant species cultivated in the **Cibodas Botanical Garden** (2000) shows the richness of this garden in the wet highland and montane climate at 1425 m alt. of W Java: 180 families, 579 genera, 1120 species represented by 6001 specimens

Darwin Initiative Papuan Plant Diversity Project — It is now eleven months since the project's inception and the UK coordinator, Mr. D. Hicks, has recently returned to Kew from his first visit to Manokwari, Papua (formerly Irian Jaya). The project aims to assist in the renovation of Herbarium Manokwariense.

The Herbarium is part of the Biodiversity Studies Centre (PSKH), headed by Mr. J. Wanggai, in the Faculty of Agriculture of Universitas Negeri Papua (UNIPA), Amban, Manokwari.

Disinfecting and renovating the basic structure of the herbarium rooms, to secure the status of the present specimens, has been the priority. Pests were posing a major threat and some high-powered termites had even eaten into the metal boxes and corrugated dividers. Some of the specimens from the original BW-series had suffered considerable damage, and later collections have also been affected. The immediate aim of Herbarium Manokwariense is to disinfect and secure these important specimens. To date we have arranged for the herbarium floors to be tiled and Mr. M. Jitmau has supervised the sealing of window and door gaps.

Mr. R. Maturbongs has greatly assisted from Jakarta by shopping and shipping the requested items back to Manokwari. Now PSKH has extra books, hand lenses, collecting equipment, slide film, a freezer, two extra computers and air-conditioning units. A good source of acid-free paper is being sought, and a suitable model for shelving (racks with specimens in zip-lock plastic bags?) is being planned. Books are always in demand in PSKH and basic resources are much needed at UNIPA Manokwari. This project does not have the capacity for basic infrastructural development of the campus, but an interested sponsor might find this to be a worthy investment.

Technicians Ms. Maria Sagisolo and Ms. I. Inggesi had already produced a ledger of BW-collections and had started to remove the worst of the damaged specimens, and have also designed herbarium signs. They calculated figures of 521 specimen boxes containing 19,571 specimens from 161 families (this figure does not include recently collected palm specimens and the backlog of uncurated material). Mr. Mathias Sagisolo provides experience and leadership, with Mr. H. Hosio, Mr. A. Hosio, and Ms. P. Dedaida sterilising the metal boxes containing wood-specimens and cleaning out herbarium and processing rooms. Mr. M. Iwanggin has made regular shopping trips to town and Mr. F. Mambor has contributed much in spite of official duties with living collections. Mr. J. Rahawarin in PSKH has given important assistance in the visa application process.

The UK Project Leader, Dr. J. Dransfield, visited Manokwari for a week in mid June. A project-dissemination meeting with interested individuals in UNIPA and Manokwari was held during this visit.

Ms. N. Sinaga and Mr. C. Heatubun are collating specimens collected on field trips to Misool Island and Tami River, which were sponsored by the Palms Of New Guinea Project.

The project has provision for Manokwari staff visits to Kew, a powerful feature in capacity-building. Wanggai and Maturbongs are currently spending one month in Kew and perhaps more trips can be arranged if funds allow.

Hicks will be returning to Manokwari in November, to install an MSAccess database and train staff on its use, arrange a herbarium techniques course in late January, put a pest-control regime in place, and plan fieldwork. There are plans for regular formalised workshops - one type in Indonesian on botanical terminology, herbarium techniques and family-identification, and a second type in English on report-writing, descriptions etc. Work has already begun with Dr. J. Ridder and Dr. C. Ridsdale on a Kew–Leiden collaboration to produce an interactive field guide to the seed plants of Malesia: It is envisaged that additional work on refining the data-matrix, translating to Bahasa Indonesia and collecting images can be done in Papua.

The President of Indonesia, HE Megawati Soekarnoputri paid a visit to Kew on 19 June 2002 when she met, among others the Keeper of the Herbarium, Dr. S. Owens, Dr. P. Cribb, and Dr. S. Dransfield. Earlier, on 17 April, the Minister of Forests HE Mohamad Prakosa paid a brief visit to the Herbarium when he talked with J. Dransfield and Dr. W. Baker. — W. Baker, J. Dransfield, D. Hicks, R. Maturbongs, J. Wanggai

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Herbarium Celebense (CEB) — A new herbarium has been founded at the Faculty of Agriculture, Kampus Bumi Kadulako, Tadulako University, Tondo, Palu 94118, Indonesia. Director is Mr. Ramadhanil, e-mail pitopang_64@yahoo.com.

By mid 2002 there were c. 3000 specimens with an emphasis on the Wallacea region.

Indonesian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IBSAP) — Scheduled for completion at the beginning of 2003, and financed by the GEF, the IBSAP has the principal project objective to assist with activities for implementing Articles 6 (General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use) and 8 (In-situ Conservation) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The first IBSAP was prepared in 1991 and was adopted as part of the Government of Indonesia (GoI) 25-year Development Strategy for (1991–2015). Many of the actions identified as priorities have been successfully implemented, including financing of priority biodiversity conservation sites through GoI, GEF and other donor financing. This and the many recent developments require the updating of priorities and strategies. The purpose of the proposed exercise is to:

- undertake a stocktaking of the priority needs and actions identified under the first IBSAP to determine what has been achieved, what is still outstanding, and to offer reasons as to why required funding and/or motivation have not been realised;
- identify new priority needs and actions and restructure an action plan in accordance with the potential changes in the environmental policy of the new government;
- determine what are the current opportunities and constraints for effective conservation and sustainable use of the country's rich biological diversity, including gaps in existing knowledge and realistic goals and actions for closing these gaps;
- propose a new, clear Strategy with a detailed Action Plan.

The project is based in the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) and the Lead Writer is Ms. H. Jhamtani, a well-known and respected environmental activist. The activity is entirely Indonesian. The Steering and Technical Committees have NGO, scientific (LIPI) and government representation. The process of producing the IBSAP is perhaps as important as the eventual product because it entails regional activities and workshops, thematic working groups, and even a few local (Kabupaten) BSAPs. — A. Whitten.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Course: *Plant Families of Southeast Asia*

Between May 6 and 23, 2003, the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Universiteit Leiden branch, Leiden, The Netherlands, is organising its two-yearly course *Plant Families of Southeast Asia*. This course is meant for everybody interested in the plants from this region. The main aim is to treat about 25 of the most economically and ecologically important plant families and some of their representative genera/species in such a way that the participants will get a good basis for plant recognition. An introduction to botanical terms will be given to assist non-taxonomically schooled participants. If non-Dutch speaking attendants are present, the course will be in English. Additionally lectures will be given on how to collect plants in the field (both for herbarium as well as molecular purposes), evolution of the plant families, anatomy of wood, seed and pollen, tropical vegetations in general, plant morphology, the use of interactive keys, etc.

There will also be two excursions to the greenhouses of the Hortus Botanicus in Leiden, which harbours living plants of most of the species treated. The course ends with an exam: those that pass will receive a certificate of the Dutch Research School of Biodiversity.

Participation fee for this course is EUR 500 (c. USD 500). Participants have to pay for accommodation, travel papers, and expenses themselves. Please react quickly since there are only 20 seats!!

For more information contact Dr. J.W.F. Slik (slik@nhn.leidenuniv.nl).

Indonesia Forests and Media Project (INFORM) — The GEF has approved a ‘medium-sized’ project to generate concern and to encourage action to enhance the long-term social and political foundations for forest conservation in western Indonesia. It is intended to be complementary to other activities designed to address the overall Indonesian forestry crisis (e.g. policy dialogue, programs, and projects), and to address local-ity-specific interventions. The INFORM campaign will work to create a local and regional enabling environment in which these other activities are more likely to succeed.

It will thus serve to reduce further forest loss and to promote conservation at the local, provincial and national levels.

It is hoped that success will be seen in an increase in the number of substantive decisions taken by central, provincial and district governments to address forest protection issues, changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in ways that enable popular support for forest biodiversity conservation in western Indonesia. The project is being executed by Conservation International–Indonesia. — A. Whitten.

Liverpool Museum (LIV) rehouses its herbarium — The botanical collections of Liverpool Museum have recently been transferred to a new, purpose-built herbarium building, with the help of funds provided by the UK Heritage Lottery Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, and other donations. The collections are now fully compactorised in modern storage units, and share a single large room with the botanical library and study facilities.

As the collections are not perhaps well known to students of the Malesian Flora, I will mention here some highlights from the Indo-Pacific area. First of all we have the J.R. & G. Forster Herbarium, acquired in 1799 and constituting the foundation collection of the Liverpool Botanic Garden herbarium. This includes specimens from Vanuatu, New Caledonia and other Pacific islands, including many types. Then there is much historic material from SE Asia in the Roylean herbarium, donated by the widow of John Forbes Royle in 1859. Most notable for its Himalayan and South Indian material, it also includes specimens from ‘Indo-China’ (De Loureiro), Java (Thomas Horsfield, ex herb. Rottler) and the Pacific (Commerson). There are also some modern gatherings from New Caledonia.

The timber collections are particularly rich in material from the Indo-Pacific area. Noteworthy collections include those of Henry Ogg Forbes from New Guinea, Henry Nicholas Ridley from Malaysia (Johor province) and John Edgerley from New Zealand.

Enquiries can be sent to the Head of Botany, Dr. L. Wolstenholme.

Address: Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EN, United Kingdom; e-mail: leander.wolstenholme@nmgm.org. Loans are available to recognised institutions. — J. Edmondson

The Michigan Herbarium (MICH) has a redesigned website, which includes the Kinabalu checklist as searchable databases. All the groups so far published are represented (ferns, gymnosperms, orchids, the rest of the monocots, and dicot families A–L). See <http://herbarium.lsa.umich.edu>

The Kinabalu pages are under ‘Collections & Databases’, and listed on that page as the last entry ‘Vascular Plants of Mount Kinabalu’. The searches allow for listings of fami-

lies, genera, and species, types, references, and collections. The last allows searches by taxa, collectors, localities, or combinations of these options. A more direct access is by going to the 'Collections & Databases' page directly: <http://herbarium.lsa.umich.edu/website/databases.html> or even using the IP address to get directly to the Kinabalu pages: <http://141.211.176.197:591/kinabalu/index.html>

With some older browsers it will be better to start at the MICH URL instead of going direct.

The Herbarium itself has moved 'temporarily' (3–5 years) from the central campus and is now housed in part of a huge warehouse about 7 miles away and accessible only by car. The new facility was completely renovated and turned out to be much nicer than expected. Yet, it is a pity that it is so isolated from students and colleagues.

The 3rd International Zingiberaceae Symposium was held at University of Khon Kaen, Thailand, with over 100 participants world wide. During the concluding session it was decided to have the 4th Symposium in the Singapore Botanical Garden in 2006. Proceedings are expected in December 2002.

The move of the **Singapore Botanic Gardens Herbarium (SING)**, about 650,000 herbarium specimens, to temporary quarters in the gymnasium of the old National Institute of Education was postponed from February to September 2002 because the gymnasium required fire-proofing. Over the previous year or so, the herbarium specimens have been transferred to Leiden-type boxes, not only to enable incorporation of a backlog of about 50,000 specimens, but also to prevent damage while they are moved to temporary quarters and to be ready to fit the compactors when we move to the new Herbarium, on the same site as the old one, in 2005. The move also gives us the opportunity to reorder the families, which previously followed the Bentham and Hooker system, to that in Mabberley's Plant Book (ed. 3).

To visit the herbarium, take a taxi to the Singapore Management University, once on the campus ask the taxi to take you to the Food Haven, which is signposted within the campus. The Herbarium is to the left, diagonally opposite the Food Haven.

1–3 December 2002 the **Gunnar Seidenfaden Memorial Orchid Symposium** will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.