

### FAMILY NEWS

#### *Pteridophytes and allies*

Pteridaceae — Mr. H. Schneider (formerly of Z, now L) will revise the family under a grant from the Training and Mobility of Researches Program of the European Union.

### *Angiosperms*

Agavaceae — Papers presented at the First International Agavaceae Symposium were published in *Bol. Soc. Bot. Méx.* 56 (1995).

Apocynaceae — Dr. D.J. Middleton (formerly of TCD, now L) will prepare a revision of *Alyxia* under a grant from the Training and Mobility of Researches Program of the European Union.

Araceae — Dr. R.W.J.M. van der Ham (L) has studied the pollen of nearly 150 of the c. 170 *Amorphophallus* species. The ornamentation of the pollen wall proved to be highly diverse. The results will be integrated in W.L.A. Hettterscheid's revision of the genus.

Burmanniaceae — Mr. D. Zhang (University of Hong Kong) has begun a Ph.D. studying the taxonomy and reproductive biology of *Burmannia* in Asia. Dr. R.M.K. Saunders (id.) has recently completed an account of the family for the Angiosperm Flora of Hong Kong.

Caryophyllaceae — Dr. K. Larsen (AAU) hopes to finish the revision for the Flora Malesiana by the of end 1996.

Euphorbiaceae — Dr. S. Dressler (L) has provisionally completed the revision of the Philippine spp. of the genus *Cleistanthus*. *Cleistanthus ericybifolius* and *C. pyrrhocarpus* are new records.

Mr. J.W.F. Slik (L) will study the biodiversity of *Mallotus* sections *Hancea* and *Stylanthus* and their role as structural species in the later stages of succession of secondary forests in SE Asia. He is a Ph.D. student in the research program Biodiversity of disturbed ecosystems, a systematic and ecological research priority program financed by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research. He participates in the Flora Malesiana Project under the supervision of Dr. P.C. van Welzen.

Gramineae — Ms. T. Jannink (L) has nearly finished her treatment of the Chionachninae (*Chionachne*, *Polytoxa*, *Sclerachne*, *Trilobachne*).

Dr. J.F. Veldkamp (L) is trying to find differences between *Chrysopogon* and *Vetiveria*.

Illiciaceae — Mr. G. Hao (University of Hong Kong) is to begin a Ph.D. on the molecular phylogeny and systematics of *Illicium*. Dr. R.M.K. Saunders (id.) recently completed an account for the Flora Malesiana.

Myrsinaceae — Mr. T. Utteridge (University of Hong Kong) is undertaking a Ph.D. on the systematics and reproductive biology of *Maesa* with particular reference to the Philippines, in collaboration with the Philippine Plant Inventory Project. Dr. J.J. Pipoly III (BRIT) has finished a revision of the family for the Philippines.

Orchidaceae — Ms. B. Gravendeel (L) is studying *Coelogyne* sect. *Speciosae*. The number of taxa (species and varieties) is about 25. The species occur all over Malesia. Presently she is checking the variation in morphological characters and the distribution patterns of the species. The variation of the keels on the lip seems to provide much phylogenetic information. In 1997 a start will be made with the collection of molecular data. For this part of her research, everybody is kindly requested to collect material of *Coelogyne* species, not only as herbarium specimen, but on silica gel as well! — Dr. H.AE. Pedersen (AAU) has finished his revision of *Dendrochilum* for the Philippines.

Palmae — Four projects focusing on palms are currently conducted in Thailand by Dr. A.S. Barfod and co-workers (AAU). Field campaigns in 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1995 have resulted in comprehensive collections of palms that constitute a valuable addition in the existing base of knowledge. A revision for the Flora of Thailand is planned in collaboration with Dr. J. Dransfield (K). Barfod is working on a revision of *Licuala* that with c. 180 spp is widely distributed in SE Asia. Dr. D.A. Madulid (PNH) is making a systematic study of Philippine species.

Rubiaceae — There is an electronic Rubiaceae listserv and Newsletter available. Subscribe by sending 'subscribe rubiaceae-L yourname' (yourname, e.g. John Doe) to 'listserv@anbg.gov.au'. The newsletter can be consulted by <http://www.anbg.gov.au/projects/rubiaceae>.

Dr. A.P. Davis (K) is working at L for 12 months during 1995/1996 on a revision of *Amaracarpus* and the generic delimitation against *Psychotria* and allies. This investigation is being funded by the Royal Society within the European Science Exchange Programme. Mr. C. Tange (AAU) is continuing his work on Malesian *Rondeletieae* for his Ph.D. thesis. Dr. D. Tirvengadam (P) is pursuing his research in *Gardenieae* and he hopes that at least a synopsis will be ready by mid 1996.

Sapotaceae — Dr. W. Vink (L) is studying species delimitation in *Pouteria* of New Guinea.

Schisandraceae — Dr. R.M.K. Saunders (University of Hong Kong) is undertaking a revision in collaboration with several Asian Flora Projects including the Flora Malesiana.

Zingiberaceae — The 2nd Zingiberaceae Symposium was held in Guangzhou, PR China. The treatment of the family for the Flora Malesiana was discussed.

Dr. K. Larsen (AAU) is working on a check list for the Malesian region as a base for the revision of the family and is revising *Boesenbergia*. Ms. R.J. Searle (AAU) is revising *Kaempferia* and *Scaphoclamys*. Ms. I. Theilade (AAU) is continuing her work on *Zingiber* for the Flora Malesiana.