

XIII. THE PRETORIA METHOD FOR LOCALIZING LOCALITIES

Localizing specimens and mapping localities has always been a tedious and time-consuming task for which much depends on the data mentioned on the labels. It has been found a blessing if collectors mention on labels the latitude and longitude. If this is given in an exact way it comprises degrees and minutes, e.g.  $6^{\circ} 45' S$ ,  $141^{\circ} 30' E$ . If no dot-map is provided this appears to be a slightly clumsy formula in print and the question arises whether such exact figures are really needed. In scanning a geographical map the minutes will hardly mean something unless one uses local small-scale maps, as one minute is only a little more than 2 km in the terrain.

In Pretoria only the degrees are given, joined into one figure, preceding the collector / after the locality. This simplification is, I think, practical and useful.

In our Malesian tropics exact latitude and longitude seems not necessary in many cases where smaller islands are concerned, but for the large ones, e.g. Borneo and New Guinea, co-ordinates may be useful, for example 6S141 for Telefomin. This simplification saves also time for the collector. For dotting localities on a blank map the minutes can be neglected as each dot on our large-scale maps covers at least one degree.

c/o Rijksherbarium, Leiden

C.G.G.J. van Steenis

## THE TROPICAL PLANT MUSEUM

G.L. Stebbins, Flowering Plants (1974) p. 14

We in the tropics dwell in a botanical Museum  
of living plants, a waste heap of former evolution;  
real evolution today, so Stebbins poses  
is in semi-deserts, so Stebbins discloses.  
We conclude that all of us  
miss the evolution bus.

v.St.