

V. FLORA MALESIANA, SERIES III: BRYOPHYTA

by

Prof. Dr R. van der Wijk, Editor.

Botanisch Laboratorium, Groningen, Netherlands.

(1) Series III of "Flora Malesiana" will contain taxonomic revisions of the Musci and Hepaticae of Malaysia (Latin: Malesia). Malaysia is a plant-geographic unit and covers Indonesia, the Malay Peninsula (to the Kra Isthmus), the Philippines, the whole of Borneo and Timor, and the whole of New Guinea. Revisors of taxa for Series III will, in general, also consider (continental) tropical Asia, "Océanie", and Australia, because the majority of the taxa in Malaysian Bryophytes cannot be fully understood unless correlated with their allies further abroad. Of course, the regions bordering on Malaysia will receive no more than cursory attention and only insofar as is necessary in connection with the problems involved with the study of each group.

(2) Series III is planned in 5 volumes; volumes 1-4 are to contain taxonomic revisions of Bryophytes made in a similar manner as is found in Series I (Phanerogams). Volume 5 is to be a Cyclopaedia, comparable to volume 1, Series I. The contents of volume 5 are (tentatively): a plant-geography of Malaysian mosses, a list of collectors, their travels, collections and their destination, and a bibliography to be made complete as far as will appear to be possible.

Data for this volume will be assembled from herbarium labels and acquired by means of circulars sent to various institutes. All data, personal or from knowledge, sent to the Editor, will be appreciated.

(3) Though Mosses are easier collected and preserved than Phanerogams, the knowledge of Malaysian Musci and Hepaticae is considerably less thorough and extensive. In particular many of the older collections lack ecological and sociological data, which detracts materially from their value.

Twentieth century Flora's for Malaysian Bryophytes are few. First of all is M. F. Leischer's "Musci der Flora von Buitenzorg" (1904-1922). This Flora was planned for an

area roughly between Batavia (Djakarta) and Tjibodas but turned out to cover the whole of West Java and, more summarily, the remainder of Java and the Sunda Archipelago. The descriptions and drawings are very satisfactory but the keys need to be recommended.

E.B. Bartram's "Mosses of the Philippines" is a more recent, richly illustrated, and most valuable contribution to the knowledge of the Mosses of northern Malaysia. There is also V.F. Brotherus' s elaboration of Musci in the 2nd Edition of "Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien" (1924-1925). H.N. Dixon wrote on the moss flora of Sumatra and made lists of the mosses of the Malay Peninsula and of Borneo.

Hepaticae received even less attention. V. Schiffner wrote in the fourth volume of the "Flore de Buitenzorg" a revision up to Epigonanthaceae under the title "Les Hépatiques" (1900); this embodies about 1/3 of the whole. A complete Flora for the Hepaticae, even for a part of Malaysia, is not in existence; Carl Buch and F. Verdoorn monographed a few genera and families (Plagiochila, Schistochila and Frullaniaceae). The result is that many families, genera and species are practically unknown. Stephani described hundreds of new species which were never critically compared. Herzog distinguished in P.W.Richard's Borneo collections 150 spp. of which 35 new!

In the absence of adequate comparative studies, it is hardly possible when naming specimens, to decide whether a specimen belongs to an undescribed species or not. Verdoorn wrote: (transl.) "critical revisions, which treat and elucidate all available data and materials, are urgently required for nearly all groups".

Critical and comprehensive revisions are indispensable for a sound knowledge of the fast growing groups of described Malaysian Bryophytes. Among many, the genus Ectropothecium is a good example: in Malaysia it contains now $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as many species as are found in Brotherus's monograph (2nd Ed. Nat. Pfl.fam.).

(4) It is essential to know where collections of Bryophytes originating from Malaysia are kept. Available are these data in relation to Bogor (Buitenzorg), Groningen, Helsinki, Leyden, London (British Museum), Kew, Manila (new collection), and Singapore. Known is also where some of the larger collections are, such as Stephani's, Fleischner's and Schiffner's. Numerous smaller Malaysian collections either in institutes or in private collections, exist which contain valuable materials for the future revisions and which by being examined and named by specialists in connection with other herbaria, are to become much more valuable to their owners than before.

The Editor requests to be informed about all herbaria of Malaysian Bryophytes (except the above-mentioned). Co-operation through a willingness to send specimens on loan (under

responsibility of the Editor) or otherwise will be highly appreciated. The Directors of the Herbaria at Bogor, Helsinki, Leyden, Manila, and Singapore already promised their full support.

(5) Since 1949, a new start was made to assemble extensive collections. This "new collection" is now already composed of 80 different collections (the largest more than 3000 numbers!).

Mosses are easily collected and preserved. The efforts made by the collectors on behalf of the Flora Malesiana Foundation are very gratefully remembered here.

It is our policy to divide all specimen-numbers in at least 3 parts in order to compose equal, duplicate collections at Bogor, Groningen, Leyden etc. For this purpose collectors will do well to gather, if possible, a generous amount of each number.

Institutes forwarding specimens are offered duplicates of other collections on a free exchange basis.

All collectors or persons in possession of herbaria - new or old - of Malaysian Bryophytes, willing to present or make available their collections, are requested to write to the Editor.

(6) All collections, donated or otherwise made available, will be named as far as is possible. In addition to our regular workers, the following bryologists have consented to collaborate: Dr P. A r e n s (Hilversum), G.B. S t a a l (Wageningen), E.A. A g s t e r i b b e (Amsterdam), and Drs W.M. e y e r (Amsterdam). The three first-mentioned work on Musci (Mr Staal made a collection in Sumatra during his service in the Army) and Mr Meyer works on Hepaticae. Bryologists, either in the Netherlands or abroad, who are willing to co-operate are welcomed.

(7) It is thought desirable to have first of all critical revisions of genera of Bryophyta. These revisions are to be published as preliminary papers towards a revision of a family. Family revisions, eventually, will be published in the Flora Malesiana. The publication of the preliminary papers is to be arranged by the author himself and not under the Editor's responsibility.

It is desirable that studies shall not be duplicated. For this reason it is urged that all bryologists joining in the preparation of Series III write to the Editor concerning their plans and views. In this manner co-ordination takes place and studies in progress can be announced in further communications in this Bulletin.

Each family of Bryophytes shall be revised separately for the Flora Malesiana by a bryologist who will be invited. As a matter of course, the revisor of the most important or majority of genera belonging to each family will be expected to undertake a revision of the family as a whole.

Summary

Scope, organization, and purpose of Series III, Flora Malesiana (Musci and Hepaticae) are explained.

Collaboration is asked on the following points:

- (a) To collect Mosses and Hepaticae in Malaysia and to add extensive and detailed data to the specimens (directions available on application to the Editor).
- (b) To send on loan or donate existing collections.
- (c) To forward data concerning collectors, travels, and collections made.
- (d) To name (if necessary provisionnally) all unnamed specimens.
- (e) To collect data from literature (and to forward reprints).
- (f) To join the team of bryologists revising groups of Malaysian Bryophyta and to write the Editor about planned research.