

VIII. HERBARIA, GARDENS, ORGANIZATIONS
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The Herbarium Jutlandicum (AAU), one of the key herbaria for the Flora of Thailand, will in 1987 be moved to a new building on the University campus. At present there are ca. 500,000 specimens. The new building will be constructed to accommodate 3 times as many. The staff members at L are green with envy!

The Canberra Botanical Gardens (CBG) have been renamed to the Australian National Botanical Gardens. Now that the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra, is about to get a measure of 'home rule' (a kind of city council with limited executive powers) the Gardens will be transferred to another federal department, that of Arts, Heritage and Environment. The Bureau of Flora and Fauna, which publishes the Flora of Australia, falls under this, too. At present it does not seem likely that the two bodies will merge.

The Queensland Herbarium (BRI) after a period of more than 15 years has been successful in computerizing all the label data in their collections. Now that more sophisticated soft- and hardware are available for such work, most of the

other government herbaria in Australia are considering to do the same. At CANB most of the necessary preparations have been made and a data-basing program has been launched in early 1986. It will start in a small way and preference will be given to groups that are presently being studied. A software system developed in Australia will be used and it is anticipated that the database will be largely compatible with those of other Australian herbaria. It is probable that a detailed account will be published once a certain amount of experience has been gained from this project.

The personal fern herbarium of Dr. B.S. PARRIS (K), ca. 10,000 specimens, has been donated to K in January 1986. It was collected by her in Borneo, New Guinea, the Philippines, and in Africa, Australia, Europe, New Zealand, and North America. For many species, particularly those from New Guinea this material is better than that previously held at K and it will therefore be a valuable addition to the fern section. The move was primarily made to make the collections more easily accessible to other pteridologists.

The Forest Research Institute, Kepong (KEP) has become a statutory body per 1 October 1985. The Institute has been renamed to Forest Research Institute, Malaysia or FRIM. Its head, or Director General is Dr. Salleh Mohd NOR. (Note: The abbreviation FRIM is not recommended for replacement of KEP or KEP-FRI in scientific publications. Ed.).

The Rijksherbarium, Leiden (L). By the time this issue has arrived on your desk the move to the renovated old University Library building will be in full progress or may even have been finished. The general departments of the Institute (Director's office, secretariat, financial administration, etc.), the main part of the library, the Phanerogam collections, and the research groups 'Tropical Phanerogams' (which includes the Flora Malesiana) and 'Dutch and European flora' will be transferred to Rapenburg 70. The other part of the Institute ('Cryptogams' and 'Comparative morphology') will stay behind till about 1989 when they will move to the Old Herbarium in the Nonnensteeg.

At the Rijksherbarium people are unhappy about the transfer. The spreading of the Institute over two addresses (close together, that is true, and near the Botanical Garden) is thought to be unfavourable, to put it mildly, and generally it is a pity that there were no funds available for an entirely new Herbarium building designed and built for this purpose. Now we are, after 22 years in an adapted textile factory facing at least another 16 years in an adapted Library. It has been calculated that round the year 2002 the collection rooms will be full again and there is at the site no place for adding new space. The next move will have to be imminent soon! Those of you who got lost in the warren of the Schelpenkade will experience an even worse maze at the new address!

The Lembaga Biologi Nasional (LBN) which has become such a familiar name has by Presidential Decree no. 1/1986 ceased to exist. It will become part of a new organization of LIPI, the Pusat Penelitian dan Pengembangan Biologi (Biological Research and Development Centre), which will also contain the Zoological Museum and the Kebun Raya. Its Director will be Dr. S. KADARSAN, formerly of the Museum. The Head of the Herbarium will remain Dr. M. RIFAI. The Treub Laboratory will

become part of the Pusat Penelitian Bioteknologi with Ms. Dr. S. SASTRAPRADJA as its Director. An new era in biological development in Indonesia has started.

The Herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, U.S.A. (PH) has started to incorporate the backlog of palaeotropical specimens. These include isotypes and other important or new specimens of the Pandanaceae from the herbarium of Dr. B.C. STONE. Associated with the new specimen acquisitions are numerous photographs, both slides and prints. These constitute certainly one of the few, and perhaps the largest set of documented photographs of the Pandanaceae. The institute is interested to prepare duplicates of these and welcomes requests (supported by suggestions whereby costs are covered).

Together with existing Indo-Pacific material, e.g. a fair number of WALLICH collections, ELMER material from the Philippines, ferns from the ROSENSTOCK collection, some VON MUELLER material and rich collections from Taiwan these help to provide a basis for more intensive studies in the Malesian flora in the broader sense.

The Pteridophytes have been reorganized in the Pichi Sermolli system.

Working space has been somewhat expanded and improved for visiting botanists. The Institute is looking for applicants for the Jessup-McHenry funds to support short term study periods at PH: graduate students and post-doctoral research workers may enquire for details from the Chairman of the Botany Dept. Any project in systematic botany utilizing collections at PH is appropriate. Studies of the type material and those of tropical, especially palaeotropical groups will be encouraged.

Forest Department, Kuching (SAR). The number of specimens in the herbarium has reached 100,000, well worth a congratulation!

Botanical Research Centre, Semengoh (SAR). The office has been renovated to accommodate a display room. A forest officer has been assigned to take charge of the Centre. Other infrastructural development includes the construction of a ten-door barrack for the staff members and the construction of additional seedling sheds which will be used for conditioning wild plants collected in the field before planting them out.

The Herbarium, Department of Botany, National University of Singapore, has obtained an official abbreviation: SINU (Taxon 34, 1985, 737).

The Herbarium Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kampus Sabah, has obtained an official abbreviation: UKMS (Taxon 34, 1985, 736).

Botanical Garden at Serpong. A new centre of industrial and technological research, Puspipstek, is being built in Serpong, Southwest of Jakarta. LBN has been invited to develop the Botanical Garden which is to form an integral part of the complex. This is certainly a welcome addition to the planting space of the existing gardens at Bogor, Cibodas, Purwodadi, and Bedugul (Bali) and a welcome challenge to the successor of LBN. Plants from all over Indonesia for which Serpong provides a suitable habitat are to be brought together, especially food-

medicinal- and ornamental plants. In the meantime we hope that the maintenance and rejuvenation of the existing gardens will not be forgotten.

Feasibility study for the realization of a body of coordinated initiatives for the world's arboreta and botanical gardens.

(Based on a circular by Ms. C. MARINUCCI, 28 Via C. Morin, 00195 Rome, Italy).

Over the last years there has been much discussion on the nature of arboreta and botanical gardens, and their social, scientific and cultural role.

In regard to environmental education and the field of conservation of plants in danger of extinction previous conferences in Kuala Lumpur (1974), Kew (1975, 1978), Nancy (1984) and Penang (1984) have urged the establishment of new botanical gardens in tropical regions with a higher level of interest on the part of international organizations (FAO, IUCN, Unesco, WWF, etc.) in the botanical sphere. They also established subjects of prime importance:

1. To develop educational activities with particular stress of conservation issues.
2. To encourage activity in propagation and re-introduction of rare and threatened plants into botanical gardens.
3. To promote exchanges of personnel.
4. To increase national and international collaboration to avoid duplication of collections, to complete existing ones, to foster the exchange of information about species presently under cultivation, and of ways of conservation and cultivation.

To reach these subjects extensive documentation is obviously of prime importance, but this has turned out to be decidedly poor for many areas.

It has therefore been proposed to set up an international body to gather the necessary information for an evaluation of the present situation. From this future planning can then be extrapolated within the strategies already put forward by the international organizations mentioned above. During the past two years a systematic survey has been made of the world's botanical gardens from which a fruitful collaboration between numerous gardens has already sprung.

It is intended to publish indices to the world's gardens and arboreta, at first giving addresses only, while in later editions technical data will be included. These would include data on the gardens themselves (size, number of taxa, climatological type, pertinent literature and documentation), their educational role, research potential, presence of specimens of taxa approaching extinction, of those that acclimatize poorly, of endemic ones, of taxa of medical, nutritional, silvi-, horti- and floricultural importance, etc., presence of seed-, pollen- and spore banks and what they include. For a better exchange of information and progress a perhaps bi-monthly periodical is envisaged.

Moreover, it is intended to set up a network system through which the data banks can be accessed but in which each participant will maintain a certain autonomy and will not be subjected to rigid hierarchical priorities.

It has also been proposed to develop a travelling exhibition on these issues and aims.