

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

In Memoriam Dr. Ru Hoogland

Dr. Ruurd (“Ru”) Dirk Hoogland, born 24 July 1924 in Leeuwarden (The Netherlands), died still rather unexpectedly on 18 November 1994 in a hospital in the neighbourhood of Paris, just 8 days after an operation. The later years of his life were overshadowed by a serious illness. Ru did not accept this, even not those last weeks when he could hardly chew. Everyday he went to the Laboratoire de Phanérogamie and worked, and in March and April 1994 he even made a collection trip to Tahiti followed by a herbarium trip to Australia.

Ru studied at the universities of Groningen and Leiden. He got his Ph.D. in Leiden in 1950 on the thesis “A Revision of the Genus *Dillenia*”. His promotor was Prof. Dr. H.J. Lam. He started his career as a botanist in the service of the Flora Malesiana Foundation (1949—1952). Being a field man rather than a herbarium taxonomist he went to Australia where he finally became a Principal Research Scientist to CSIRO, Division of Land Research and Regional Survey at Canberra and head of the Herbarium, in 1968 Senior Research Fellow in the Research School of Biological Sciences, also at Canberra. In 1976 he stepped over to the Australian National University. He retired late 1979, but as a matter of fact he went on with his work. In 1981 he moved to Leiden with the intention to work for the Flora Malesiana. Due to a difference of opinion with the Dutch tax office, in 1984 he moved to La Varenne St. Hilaire, not far from Paris, where at the Laboratoire de Phanérogamie he got the opportunity to continue his work.

Ru was an active collector; first in Papua New Guinea, later in several places between Sri Lanka and Tahiti, making short collection trips to New Caledonia, Lord Howe I., the Norfolk Is., etc. The high quality of his collections bear witness to the perfectionist he was in all his work.

His scientific work concentrated mainly on the Actinidiaceae, the Cunoniaceae, and the Saxifragaceae. In the later years he spend most of his time on the nomenclature and typification of Family names, mainly on behalf of the “Family Names in Current Use”.

Ru with his broad knowledge, his systematic and nomenclatural expertise, his critical knowledge of languages will be missed by his colleagues with whom he shared it so generously. He was lonely much of his life, but notwithstanding that he was a man who enjoyed good company – and was it himself — P.W. Leenhouts

In memoriam Dr. Karl Kramer

Dr. Karl Ulrich Kramer, born 17-10-1928 in Berlin-Charlottenburg (Germany), died on July 11, 1994, in Uerikon (Switzerland), after one year of suffering from a brain tumor. His untimely death is a grave loss to Flora Malesiana and many other Flora projects, as well as to pteridology.

Born in Germany Karl had to emigrate to the Netherlands in 1938 where his family settled in Bilthoven near Utrecht. He graduated from the Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht in 1953 and, following a research fellowship at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis (working with Rolla and Alice Tryon), got his Ph.D. in Utrecht on a thesis dealing with the systematics of the genus *Lindsaea* in the New World. After he came on the staff of the Institute of Systematic Botany in Utrecht, in a series of papers he revised *Lindsaea* world-wide, including his treatment of the *Lindsaea*-group for *Flora Malesiana* (ser. II, vol. 1,3) in 1971.

In 1974 Karl was appointed by the University of Zürich (Switzerland) as extraordinary professor of systematic botany and curator of the herbarium. Beside teaching duties and supervision of under- and post-graduate students, he took up the challenge of editing major pteridological reference books, such as Vol. I/1. (3rd ed.) of the "Illustrierte Flora von Mitteleuropa", and Vol. I. of "The Families and Genera of Vascular Plants". Furthermore, he reviewed the pteridological literature in "Progress in Botany" for many years. He unfortunately did not live to see in publication his last important contribution to pteridology, a German textbook "Farne und Farnverwandte".

In Zürich Karl gradually focused his research on *Pteris* which he also intended to revise world-wide. He worked on this taxon for more than 10 years and it is a great pity that the treatment for *Flora Malesiana* as well as a new infrageneric classification of the whole genus have remained unfinished. Hopefully it will be possible for his close collaborators to raise funds to finish this work in which he invested such an enormous amount of energy and knowledge, as is documented by the innumerable notes he left.

Without Karl's advice his students and colleagues will have a hard job to fulfil the high demands he strived after in resolving the numerous problems he had pointed out. He will be missed by his many friends all over the world and commemorated as an eminent scientist and a marvellous person. A full obituary with portrait, biography, bibliography, taxa published by him, and eponymy will be published in *Taxon* in 1995. — M. J. Zink

Singapore Botanical Gardens

The National Parks Board, Singapore, is in the midst of developing a major visitor attraction of both horticultural and botanical interest at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Due for completion in 1995 at a cost of approximately S\$4 million, the National Orchid Garden promises a stunning, year-round panorama of colour and beauty. This 'exhibition of orchids in a garden setting' will be the most extensive and comprehensive permanent exposition of orchid culture in Asia and will take a place of honour among the world's specialty gardens. It will draw on SING's long-standing, pioneer tradition of orchid conservation and breeding.

SING's recognized importance as an orchid centre, both for public enjoyment and scientific research, has led to an urgent need for expansion and development. Poised on the western slope of the Gardens overlooking the Palm Valley and crowned by the restored 1866 Director's bungalow, the Garden will offer three terraced ha of orchid blooms. The

existing Orchid Enclosure is less than 1 ha. The additional space will relieve the congested conditions at the Enclosure, now receiving over 3,000 visitors on weekdays and over 1.5 million per year.

Orchid display and cultivation have been important components of SING over the last century. All of these accumulated botanical and horticultural resources are being brought to bear on the design and development of the new Orchid Garden and will receive the prominent recognition they deserve as a result of this undertaking.

The garden design and landscaping will give prominence to the wide variety and colours of the rare and indigenous species, as well as the products of the Botanic Gardens' Orchid Breeding Programme ongoing since 1928. Its products have been winning friends and admirers from around the globe for quite some time now. The new garden will display not only orchids developed for Singapore's orchid industry, but also the Botanic Gardens' 'VIP' species named after the world's distinguished statesmen and women.

The display concept will utilize innovative planting patterns, special techniques, and unusual creations showing the versatility of the orchid. The design will also attend to the needs of visitors to rest, to find gathering spots and refreshment, and to take photographs along the way. The network of footpaths gently slopes and is accessible to both senior citizens and toddlers. The rest areas will overlook the magnificent green and floral vistas that characterize the National Orchid Garden: cascading fountains, terraces, vine-covered arcades and gazebos, incorporating thousands of orchid blooms of every hue.

An 'orchidarium' will have special interest for the scientific community. Gardening enthusiasts will be interested in the landscape design capitalizing on the unique site. Horticulturists will be pleased to view the wide range of varieties used to enhance the orchid display. Finally there will be informative displays on orchid biology and culture for students and those who want to know more about the habits of growth of the tropical members of this most populous of plant families.

Personal news

Kumin Muroh. It is not realized that a lot of work in the forests of Sabah was partly based on the great abilities of the treeclimbers. These were often very poor inhabitants of the forest along the Upper Kinabatangan River, where children had to learn to climb fruit trees to survive. Most of the time people had only rice for half of the year and their food had to come from 'Ubi kaju' (Manihot), planted bananas, fruit trees, rattan fruits and shoots, wild fern (*Diplazium esculentum*), fish caught with the help of *Barringtonia* bark, snails and fishes speared in the river, hunting wild pigs and 'Pelanduk'. Kumin was recruited by me in the early sixties and was one of our best and most devoted treeclimbers. He was probably in his early fifties when he died, not old enough yet to retire at the age of 55. People like him never earned more than Mal\$ 20 a month tree climber allowance. — W. Meijer.

Dr. P.S. Ashton in 1994 continued his international research through his work with the forest economists at the Harvard Institute for International Development and the Center for

Tropical Forest Science of the Smithsonian Institution. Through extensive collaboration with governmental and private organizations he has established a series of research sites throughout tropical Asia that will generate fundamental socioeconomic and biological information capable of guiding resource conservation. In 1994 he visited Malaysia, Singapore, Jakarta, Kalimantan, Brunei, and Sarawak.

Dr. A. Latiff (UKMB) has been appointed Associate Director (Biological Diversity) in the Institute for Environment and Development, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, beginning November 1994.

Dr. K. Mat-Salleh (UKMS) on 1 December 1994 moved to the main Herbarium (UKMB).

Dr. K.A. Monk has left Indonesia in October 1994 and now resides at Couquet, Courbiac, F-47370 Tournon d'Agenais, France, tel./fax +(33) 53 40 76 49, and 60 Sandalwood Road, Loughborough LE11 3PS, U.K., tel. +(44) 1509 214996. Her book, *The ecology of Nusa Tenggara and Maluku*, one volume within the *Ecology of Indonesia* series produced by EMDI should be published in July 1995 by Periplus (Singapore) Pte Ltd., POB 115, Singapore 9128, in both English and Indonesian editions.

Dr. L.G. Saw (KEP) has completed his Ph.D. program on the taxonomy and ecology of *Licuala* (Palmae) in Peninsular Malaysia at the University of Reading.