

## FAMILY NEWS

### Pteridophytes

Dr. T. Carrick Chambers (NSW) has finished a treatment of *Blechnum*.

Dr. P.H. Hovenkamp (L) has started revising *Nephrolepis*, a genus of widespread occurrence in Malesia, frequently found on roadsides, forest clearings, earth banks etc. Many of these occurrences may actually be garden escapes, and any help in obtaining live specimens from obviously (or probably) native occurrences is greatly appreciated. They will be cultivated in the Leiden Botanical Garden, and contributions will, of course, be duly acknowledged. Contact P. Hovenkamp (hovenkamp@rhbcml.leidenuniv.nl) for more information.

Dr. H.P. Nootboom (L) has revised *Ceratopteris* and *Monachosorus*.

Dr. H. Schneider (F) has finished a revision of *Taenitideae*.

### Gymnosperms

*Cycadaceae* — Dr. D.J. de Laubenfels (Syracuse Univ.) has finished a first draft of the revision for Malesia.

The World List of Cycads now has a website:

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.gov.au/PlantNet/cycad/index.html>

It is maintained by Ken Hill, National Herbarium of NSW, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia; e-mail: ken@rbgsyd.gov.au

### Angiosperms

*Annonaceae* — Ms. T. Handayani (Kebun Raya Bogor) has started on a revision of *Dasydaschalon*.

Mr. A.A. Leonardia (L, PUH) is studying the *Mezzettiopsis* complex, at present with 2 described species, but more expected. The generic delimitation needs to be solved.

Mr. J. Mols (L) finished his manuscript on *Phaeanthus* and carried out molecular work at the Jodrell Laboratory at Kew.

*Araceae* — Mr. P.C. Boyce (K) is studying *Rhaphidophora*.

See H. Li et al., Acta Bot. Yunn., Suppl. 10 (1998) 1–120, for the Proceedings of the VI International Aroid Conference, Kunming, 1995.

*Araliaceae* — The **Araliales Resource Centre** offers data on the *Umbelliferae* (*Apiaceae*) and *Araliaceae*.

<http://www.rbge.org.uk/data/urc/arc.htm>

It has been developed by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, in collaboration with: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (*Apiaceae*: Molecular Research); University of Reading (*Apiaceae*: Publications and News); Virginia Commonwealth University (whole of the *Araliaceae* side); and Horticultural Research International (*Apiaceae*: Crop Genetic Resources). — M. Watson, Edinburgh.

Dr. D.G. Frodin (K) is studying *Schefflera* of the Vogelkop area, Irian Jaya.

*Burmanniaceae* — Mr. D.-X. Zhang (South China Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, Guangzhou, and the University of Hong Kong) is studying *Burmattia* for his PhD. After that he will revise the family for the Flora of Thailand.

*Cucurbitaceae* — Ms. T. Rugayah (BO), Dr. W.J.J.O. de Wilde, and Dr. B.E.E. de Wilde-Duyfjes (L) are studying *Trichosanthes* for Malesia. At present 39 species are recognized, of which 18 new.

Ms. C. Simmons (BRG now GNH, L) has started an investigation of the *Zehneria* complex.

The De Wildes discovered a new genus, *Bayabusua* from Peninsular Malaysia, unique in the family for having red corollas.

*Cunoniaceae* — Dr. H.C.F. Hopkins (Carnforth, UK) hopes to have finished the Flora Malesiana manuscript by mid 1999.

*Dipterocarpaceae* — Funding has been granted for a CD-ROM edition of the Manuals of Dipterocarps for Foresters. This will be a compilation of the published material with the addition of Peninsular Malaysian species to give an on-line identification system to all the commercial dipterocarps of the FM region. Identifications will be possible through the medium of English or Indonesian.

*Ericaceae* — Dr. G. Argent (E) has found 2 new species of *Rhododendron* (1 from the heath forest and 1 from the high altitude area) and 1 new species of *Dimorphanthera* among the recent Kew Irian Jaya collections.

A *Rhododendron* specimen from Maureen Warwick's expedition to G. Mulu in 1990 has flowered in Edinburgh. This one is *R. verticillatum*, the known range of the species being now much increased.

*Euphorbiaceae* — See Mal. Euph. Newsl. 9 (1998): Key to Philippine *Euphorbia* (M.J.M. Christenhusz); revision for the Flora of Thailand; progress for Malesia.

Mr. R.M.A.P. Haegens (L) finished his monographic studies in *Baccaurea* and is now doing its phylogenetics.

Ms. P. Hoffmann (K, L) finished the revision of Malesian and Thai *Antidesma*.

Ms. S. Sevilla (L) continued with *Agrostistachys* and *Chondrostylis*. During field work in Borneo she studied *Macaranga* and *Mallotus*.

Dr. W.H. Stuppy and Dr. P.C. van Welzen (L) performed a phylogenetic analysis of the *Aleuritideae* (3 genera, 6 spp.), and are finishing that of the much larger *Acalyphaeae*.

Dr. P.C. van Welzen (L) finished the revision and phylogenetic analysis of the *Chrozophoreae* and *Strophoblachia* (1 sp.). He is now revising *Glochidion* (c. 150 spp.) for the Flora Malesiana and Flora of Thailand.

*Gesneriaceae* — Beitr. Biol. Pfl. 70 (1998, '1997') 149–470 was dedicated to SE Asian members of the family.

*Gramineae* — Ms. A.G. Buitenhuis (L) handed in a first draft of her world revision of *Eremochloa*.

Ms. T. Jannink (L) finished a revision of *Chionachninae*.

Ms. A. Nahid (L) is finalizing *Mnesithea* s.l.

Ms. E. Vandenberg (GENT) started a revision of *Hemarthria* under the guidance of Dr. P. Goetghebeur (GENT) and Dr. J.F. Veldkamp (L).

Dr. J.F. Veldkamp (L) finished the monotypic *Coelachne*, *Secale*, *Sphaerocaryum*, *Xerochloa*, and made a first draft on *Themeda* (10 spp).

*Lauraceae* — The Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak 2nd *Lauraceae* Workshop was held at KEP, 23–28 November 1998, and coordinated by Ruth Kiew with K.M. Kochummen and E. Soepadmo, with 6 other participants.

After the first workshop in Kuching, which focused on the coming to grips with the generic delimitations of the Sabah and Sarawak taxa, the second concentrated on firstly delimiting the taxa and then preparing descriptions of them. This was interspersed with discussion groups to tackle consistency in the use of terms, problems encountered, and benefiting from Kochummen's invaluable experience of the characters he used to recognize the genera and species. It was therefore with great sadness that we heard of his recent passing. He will be greatly missed for his generous sharing of his knowledge, his enthusiasm in identifying plants, and his cheerful help always freely given.

Tackling a large and difficult family like the *Lauraceae* by holding a series of workshops is proving a successful way of maintaining momentum (it is amazing how much can be achieved in a week away from home base), dealing with taxonomic problems as they arise and becoming familiar with the TESS format.

The proof of the pudding will, however, be in the next workshop when we arrive with the manuscripts of our respective genera for the final discussion to settle problems of typification and nomenclature.

*Leguminosae* — Dr. F.A.C.B. Adema (L) has (finally) finished *Millettia* (14 spp. in Malesia). For the Flora Malesiana Symposium a cladistic analysis was prepared that included selected African species. A draft version of a key to the *Papilionoideae* has been completed.

Dr. Ding Hou (L) continued with *Vigna* and finished the *Caesalpinioideae* for the Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak.

*Myristicaceae* — Dr. W.J.J.O de Wilde (L) started editing the final draft of the treatment for the Flora Malesiana. That for the Flora of Thailand is completed.

*Myrsinaceae* — Dr. C.M. Hu (Guangzhou, PR China; Research Fellow in L) started a revision of *Ardisia* for the Flora Malesiana.

*Myrtaceae* — Mr. S. Teo (SAR) is working on a revision of W Malesian *Tristaniopsis* for a PhD at the University of Malaya, supervised by Dr. K.M. Wong. This work will include, at a later stage, a comparison with the hitherto monotypic *Whiteodendron*, a genus endemic to Borneo and which appears to share many (at least superficial) characters.

*Nepenthaceae* — Dr. M. Cheek (K) hopes to have finished the family for the Flora Malesiana in 1999.

*Orchidaceae* — Mr. J. Comber (Southampton, U.K.) has completed his Orchids of Sumatra manuscript. It will be a joint publication with Natural History Books, Sabah, and Kew. Approximately half of the c. 1300 orchid species will be illustrated with colour photographs.

Ms. B. Gravendeel (L) continued her PhD research on the phylogeny of *Coelogyne* and allied genera. Several outgroup genera are firmly nested in *Coelogyne* whereby the genus is shown not to be monophyletic. From July till October, 1998, she made collecting trips to Peninsular Malaysia (Cameron Highlands) in close cooperation with KEP and SAR, and to the Lanjak Entimau Reserve together with KEP. A chloroplast RFLP dataset was collected for the phylogenetic framework of the genera within subtribe *Coelogyneinae* earlier in the year. She is now collecting ITS sequences for the phylogeny of the different sections and species within *Coelogyne*.

Mr. J. Kruizinga (L) is working on *Malleola*.

Ms. Y.P. Ng (Malaysia) with a Commonwealth-funded PhD scholarship under the supervision of Dr. A. Pridgeon and Dr. M. Ingrouille (Birbeck College) will study *Eria* at K and the Jodrell Laboratory.

Mr. A. Schuiteman and Dr. E.F. de Vogel (L) continued updating and refining the database ASORCH on all Asian orchids. The latter included type references: 'only' 1800 records out of c. 25,000 still need to be checked. Together with S. Thomas (K) they completed a checklist for Celebes and the Moluccas.

Schuiteman is preparing a CD-ROM summarizing the current state on knowledge of orchids of New Guinea, each species to be illustrated with a colour slide when possible. Manuscript drawings by J.J. Smit will be scanned in as well.

Ms. S. Sierra Daza (Colombia, temporarily in L) is analyzing the species complex *Coelogyne peltastes*.

*Palmae* — Mr. B. Baker and Dr. J. Dransfield (K) are taking the initiative to establish a project to produce an account of the palms of New Guinea. This is intended to be a multi-authored account, with collaborators in the USA, Australia, and Denmark. It is hoped that other new links will develop.

Mr. H.B.A. Loo (SINU) is studying the molecular systematics of *Licuala* under the supervision of Dr. H.T.W. Tan (SINU) and Dr. L.G. Saw (KEP).

*Proteaceae* — Austr. Syst. Bot. 11 (1998) 251–633 is dedicated to a survey of the family.

*Rubiaceae* — Mr. R. Azmi (WWF-Malaysia, SAN) is continuing his studies on *Ceriscoides* for a PhD at the University of Malaya, supervised by Dr. A.L. Lim and Dr. K.M. Wong. New field work in Borneo is turning up several apparently undescribed taxa, and the mainland Asiatic and other Malesian material is also being studied.

Ms. J. Pereira (SAN) is working for her MSc with the University of Malaya, on a revision of *Rothmannia* in Borneo, as a preliminary to examining generic delimitation, especially with regard to the type alliance of the genus in Africa, supervised by Dr. A.L. Lim and Dr. K.M. Wong

Dr. C.E. Ridsdale (L) revised the Malesian representatives of *Rothmannia* (17 spp.) and *Gardenia* outside Borneo. He also studied the generic delimitation of *Fagerlinda* and *Oxyceros* in Malesia.

Mr. Z.M. Said (University of Malaya) is initiating a revision of *Porterandia* in Malesia for an MSc at the University of Malaya, supervised by Dr. K.M. Wong.

*Sabiaceae* — Dr. D. Zhang (HK) is planning to monograph the family.

*Sapindaceae* — Ms. J.R. Buijsen (L) is studying the historical biogeography of the Malesian Archipelago by phylogenetic studies on *Harpullia* and *Nephelium*.

*Sterculiaceae* — Mr. P. Wilkie (E) has been awarded a George Forrest Traveling Fellowship to visit herbaria and forests of Malaysia in connection with his research on the family.

*Umbelliferae* — See *Araliaceae*.

*Urticaceae* — Mr. H. den Bakker (L) is revising *Maoutia* and studying its generic delimitation against *Gibbsia* and *Leucosyke*.

Mr. K.A.O. Eichhorn (L) continued with *Pipturus* and distinguished two sections: *Mamakea* and *Pipturus*. In *Mamakea* 6 Malesian species are present, but in *Pipturus* a single very polymorphic species seems to be present.

Mr. E. Liang (Academia Sinica, Beijing) made a SEM study of the indument showing the presence of many different types of hairs.

*Verbenaceae* — Ms. G. Oanes (Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Selangor) has visited Kew in April, 1999, for 1 month to work on her PhD on *Callicarpa* in Borneo.

*Zingiberaceae* — Dr. M. Newman (E) in 1998 began a revision of *Globba* for the Flora of Thailand. He is also setting up a website.