

III. EXPEDITIONS AND OTHER FIELDWORK

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Sarawak — The Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC) Ordinance, 1997 and the Sarawak Biodiversity (Access, Collection and Research) Regulations, 1998, are two laws that have been enacted by the State to achieve the twin aims of protecting Sarawak's biodiversity and recognising its importance. Under the Regulations, anyone who wants to access, collect, do research on or use the biological resources of the State is required to apply to the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre Council for a permit. Penalties for accessing, collecting, or doing research on the biological resources of the State without a permit are a fine of up to RM 20,000 and/or a jail sentence of up to three years.

The Permit system is to ensure the proper regulation of access to and utilisation of the State's biodiversity. Furthermore, it will ensure that research on and utilisation of Sarawak's rich biodiversity will be conducted with mutual benefits to all concerned parties.

For more information on the Permit system visit SBC website: <http://www.sbc.org.my>
— S. Teo

Kalimantan — Mr. J.W.F. Slik (L) continued fieldwork in East Kalimantan between 1 August 1998 and 3 May 1999 on *Macaranga* and *Mallotus* species (Euphorbiaceae) in relation to forest disturbance. The results will be ready for publication soon.

A three-week expedition left in March 1999 from Herbarium Wanariset (WAN) to the Hinterland of East Kalimantan, c. 240 km northwest of Balikpapan (Sumber Barito and Long Iram subdistrict). 300 fertile specimens, usually collected in 7-fold, could be gathered from a special vegetation type called locally 'Prenget' which seemed to be a mixture of inland kerangas, peat-swamp forest and lowland mixed Dipterocarp forest. *Nepenthes* and *Coelogyne pandurata* were common as well as *Shorea peltata*, a western element of the Dipterocarpaceae, only known at L and BO from two collections from West Kalimantan. Participants were Dr. P.J.A. Keßler (L, WAN), Mr. Ambriansyah, Mr. Arbainsyah (both WAN), and about 10 local Dayaks.

New Guinea — Two trips by Kew researches to Irian Jaya have been approved for next year. The first is scheduled April–May 2000. During this time it is intended to complete an alpine checklist. The second trip is scheduled for October–November 2000. Both are fully booked.