

VI. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
(contd from p.639)

(a) Research:

History of Indian Botany. It is with great pleasure that Mr I.H.B u r k i l l wrote us that the third and final instalment of his History of Indian Botany was ready for fair copying, Xmas 1959. The Bombay Natural History Society contemplates reprinting the three chapters in one booklet.

Pacific Plant Areas (see p.645). The text and maps of the first instalment are finished now.

Mrs M.J.v a n S t e e n i s - K r u s e m a n has been very actively engaged in tracing published maps of Malaysian and Pacific Plants and she has already about 2000 records.

It is extremely disappointing that not one of our colleagues has reacted on our request. I remind that hers is a disinterested effort for common future profit. Also mere hints towards certain uncommon serials which should be extracted are welcome.

Miss Brenda Bishop of the Secretariate of the Pacific Council has to be warmly thanked for her intermediary to secure some \$45.- covering the cost of printing the blank basic map, the filing cards, and 20 copies of the National Geographic map of the Pacific.

Plant-geography of the Pacific. Mr M.M.J.van Baal - g o o y, Leyden, has finished a floristic analysis of the flora of the Pacific islands, based on the distribution of the c. 1500 phanerogam genera recorded from these islands. According to this analysis the border between the Old and New World floras is situated near the eastern border of the Pacific basin. The concise result will be published in *Blumea* in 1960.

Flora of the Bismarcks. The late Father G.P e e k e l left a typed, illustrated MS flora of the Bismarck Archipelago. Through the diligence of Dr Sleumer this has been on loan to the Rijksherbarium and microcards have been made of it.

Flora of China. Recent news is that the Flora will be completed in 80 volumes. The Librarian, Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, Peking, revealed that it was hoped to bring out 5 volumes in 1959 or early in 1960, obviously all devoted to Pteridophytes, which are revised by Prof. Ren-chang Ching and estimated to comprise about 2400 species. We received vol.2 in December (publ. Oct.); the binding, letterpress, etc. are very similar to the Flora U.R.S.S. The official title is "Flora Republicae Popularis Sinicae", under redaction of Chien Sung-shu & Chun Woon-young. The volume deals with the Pteridophyta from Ophioglossaceae to Oleandraceae, covering xvi + 406 pp., 80, 29 pl., clothbound. The text is, except for the Latin names and references, in Chinese; the 17 newly described species have Latin descriptions in a separate section at the end of the book, which closes with an index. It is a pity that the keys are not also given in Latin characters. Prof. Ching has of course worked on Chinese ferns for a very long period, facilitating a speedy production of these volumes.

Galapagos Islands Research Station. The creation of this international biological research station, announced in January 1959, will be established on the Galapagos Islands with the collaboration of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Unesco, and the Government

of Ecuador. Charles Darwin's name will be given to the station, which, it is hoped, will be inaugurated within a few months. Plans also call for the creation of reserves in the archipelago which would make them an ideal site for biologists from all over the world. Unesco, which in the past has joined with IUCN in sending Dr Eibl-Eibesfeldt and Dr Jean Dorst to survey the situation in the Galapagos Islands, has agreed to provide a third expert and to place two research fellowships at the disposal of the station.

It has been agreed that the laboratory will be located on Santa Cruz Island and its site will be donated by the Ecuadorian Government.

A forthcoming Unesco publication, expected to come out in June of this year, is Survey on the Galapagos Islands, by Dr Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, with a foreword by Sir Julian Huxley.

New Botanic Garden in South Africa. A new Botanical Garden has been opened near Pretoria which will be called Pretoria National Botanical Garden. "Now we look forward to the building of a new Herbarium on a site within the new botanic garden; it is sorely needed", wrote Dr R.A.Dyer; cf. *Bothalia* 7 (1960) 401.

(b) Publications:

Supplement Bibliography of Eastern Asiatic Botany. A Supplement to the Merrill-Walker "Bibliography of Eastern Asiatic Botany" (1938) is being prepared in Washington by the second author of the original work. A committee of botanists in Tokyo and two prominent Russian botanists in Leningrad, with bibliographic experience, are combing their respective literatures. Titles in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean will be given in oriental characters as well as in translation, and Russian titles will be Romanized and translated. The same area, namely Japan, Taiwan, Korea, China, Tibet and eastern Siberia, will be covered. The well recognized high standard of the original work for thorough coverage, cross referencing and indexing will be maintained. Supplemental aids for oriental and western users will be provided. Completion in 1960 is contemplated. Thus this standard reference work, considered by some as the most important contribution to eastern Asiatic Botany ever made, will be brought up to date after 22 years. This is made possible by a National Science Foundation grant to the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The author has retired from the Smithsonian Institution in order to carry on this work.

Wentia. This is a new serial of the Royal Netherlands Botanical Society, of which the separate numbers (volumes) will each contain one botanical study which is too voluminous to be incorporated in the Acta Botanica Neerlandica. The first number appeared in 1959 and comprised C.den Hartog, "The epilithic algal communities occurring along the coast of the Netherlands", pp.241, 27 fig.

Reprinting standard works on Indian Botany. Dr H.S. Pant communicated that several Floras are now being reprinted (with only pagination changed) by the Botanical Survey of India, such as Cooke's Flora of the Presidency of Bombay, Gamble's Flora of Madras. They will be available at very low prices, Rp.17.80 and Rp.14.75 respectively. Obviously they have been heavily subsidized by the Government of India. The reprints are in the same size as Hooker's Flora of British India.

International Series of Monographs on Pure and Applied Botany. Division of Botany. Edited by Dr R.C. Rollins and Dr G. Taylor. In this new series which just started volume one will contain the "Monograph of Grasses of India, Burma, and Ceylon", by Dr N.L. Bor. The second volume was the work edited by Dr W.B. Turrill, "Vistas in Botany", in honour of the Bicentenary of Kew, 1959. 547 pp. The third volume will contain the monograph by Schultes, "Orchids of Trinidad and Tobago".

Radiocarbon dates significant for Pacific anthropology. Compiled by K.P. Emory. Pac.Sc.Assoc.Suppl.to Inform.Bull. 11, no 3.--Charcoal from Sarawak 20,000-40,000 yrs, S.Australia 3000-9000 yrs, Saipan 3500 yrs, New Caledonia 3000 yrs, the others all much younger.

Humid Tropics Newsletter. The Science Cooperation Office for Southeast Asia has published a newsletter number 1, July 1959. This contains a summary of the Bogor Vegetation Symposium. The Office has a certain number of copies of the Vegetation Map of Malaysia together with the explanatory pamphlet available for free distribution. Address: Djalan Diponegoro 76, P.O.Box 2313, Djakarta, Indonesia.

Directory of Scientific Institutions in Indonesia. Council for the Sciences, Bull. 1 (1959) pp.80.--This gives an account in which for each institute has been stated in English: Address, Task, Director, Publications, Library, Date of establishment. A table of contents and an index serve for orientation.

(c) Societies and Congresses, Institutes, and Universities:

International Society of Tropical Ecology. The inaugural meeting of the Society was held at Bombay along with the Indian Science Congress, Jan.4, 1960. President of the Executive Committee is Dr J.C.Sen Gupta, Head of the Botanical Survey of India. Secretary is Dr G.S.Puri, who is also Editor-in-chief of the journal which it is envisaged to edit. National Committees have been formed in U.S.A., Brazil, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, France, Pakistan, and India.

Pan Indian Ocean Science Association. On the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, the Fourth Congress of the Pan Indian Ocean Science Association will meet in Karachi during the second week of November 1960. Member countries of the P.I.O.S.A. are now Australia, Burma, Ceylon, France, French Antarctica, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, Malaya, Singapore, Thailand.

Proceedings IXth Pacific Science Congress, Bangkok, 1957. Three volumes have been published, to wit: 6."Coconut Problems", 11."Forest Resources", 20."Climate, Vegetation and Rational Land Utilization in the Humid Tropics" (Unesco-assisted symposium). Orders or enquiries for these or other volumes, or for the complete set of the Proceedings, should be sent to: Secretary-General, Ninth Pacific Science Congress, Department of Science, Ministry of Industry, Rama VI Road, Bangkok, Thailand.

10th Pacific Science Congress, Honolulu, 1961. The 10th Pacific Science Congress of the Pacific Science Association will meet on the campus of the University of Hawaii in Honolulu from 21 August through 2 September 1961. In accordance with the custom of the Pacific Science Congresses, the formal sessions will be followed by a field trip. It is planned to go to the island of Hawaii, the largest island in the Hawaiian Chain and, with two active volcanoes, an island of unusual scientific interest. The field trip would be through 6 September 1961. The official dates of the Congress are therefore 21 August through 6 September 1961. The Congress is sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences--National Research Council and Bishop Museum, with the cooperation of the University of Hawaii.

Section Organizers. The program of the 10th Pacific Science Congress of the Pacific Science Association is being organized by Sections, under which will be Divisions. Organization by Sections is now complete, but organization by Divisions is still proceeding.

Dr Laurence H. Snyder, president of the 10th Congress, has appointed as Organizer of the section Biological Sciences Dr Robert L. Usinger, Dept. Entom., University of California, Berkeley.

The Division of Botany of it will be organized by Dr A.C. Smith, Director Museum Nat. Hist., Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Nat. Museum, Washington.

Correspondence concerning the Congress should be addressed to: Secretary-General, 10th Pacific Science Congress, Bishop Museum, Honolulu 17, Hawaii. The Museum is the clearing house for Congress correspondence.

Goroka Symposium on the "Impact of Primitive Man on Vegetation". As had been suggested at the Bogor Symposium (Dec. 1958), this would be followed by another symposium under the scheme of the Unesco sponsored Humid Tropics Research and this is the title. It will be held at Goroka, Papua, in Sept. 1960. Mr John S. Womersley is the representative of the Organizing Committee.

It is certainly well to organize such symposia in remote places of the tropics which will prove refreshing to both residents who feel naturally isolated in these remote stations with so few visitors and to the visitors which will be confronted with scenes and vegetation not encountered in their vicinity. We wish the Symposium happy and fruitful proceedings. Suggested subjects are:

- 1) Official opening, prehistoric man and his relation with vegetation.
- 2) The physical processes involved in shifting agriculture and the necessity therefore.
- 3) Grazing and the introduction of ungulate animals.
- 4) Use and effects of fire in shifting agriculture and its relation to the social life of the indigenes.
- 5) Effects of extraction of Forest Produce; deliberate and chance introduction of plants.
- 6) Selection of wild species for foodstuffs and their subsequent cultivation (Barrau).
- 7) Nature of natural vegetation communities resulting from processes induced by man (Hoogland or Robbins).
- 8) Detection of effects of activities of early man by vegetation studies.
- 9) Detection of the effects of early man by archeological and ethnobotanical means.
- 10) Final report of Rapporteur General. Official closure of the Symposium.

Division of Botany, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

At Kuala Lumpur a new Division of the University of Malaya has been established, and starts its second teaching year at the end of May. This Division includes a new Department of Botany, with Dr M.E.D.P o o r e as Professor (he is an ecologist), with Mr John Carrick (Plant Physiologist, transferred from Singapore), and Dr Francis Merton (taxonomy & ecology). There is also a new Department of Agriculture, under Prof. M a x w e l l D a v i e s, of New Zealand. New buildings for these Departments, on an entirely new campus near Kuala Lumpur, are only just being completed. The address is: University of Malaya, Pantai Valley, Kuala Lumpur, Federation of Malaya.

Centenary of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. A most attractive volume of the Gardens' Bulletin, Singapore, has been issued to mark its centenary, viz vol.17 part 2, filled with a great variety of contributions by friends of these Gardens, in Malaya and overseas. May the Gardens and their important function prosper in future is our ardent wish.