

I. EDITORIAL

Flora Malesiana series i volume 8 instalment 3, pages (1)-(19) and 301-577 came from the press in October 1978. Price Dfl. 190. It contains the Title page, Contents, Dedication to F.A.W. Miquel by F.A. Stafleu (a very full account of Miquel's significance for Malesian botany), Abbreviations and signs, Revisions, Addenda (mainly in the Rhizophoraceae), and Index, by Mrs. M.J. van Steenis-Kruseman. The binding of volume 8 is also available.

The revisions of this instalment are two. H. Keng, Labiatae (p. 301-394, 32 fig.), deals with 88 wild and 25 cultivated species in 32 genera. Also mentioned are 11 cultivated species, in 9 other genera. Distribution is extensively discussed; J. Muller gave a palynological comment on the subdivision of the family. A long chapter on phytochemistry and chemotaxonomy, digesting many recent data, was contributed by R. Hegnauer. Ding Hou, Anacardiaceae (p. 395-548, 69 fig.), deals with 149 sp. in 22 genera. Seedlings are discussed by E.F. de Vogel, anatomy with many data by P. Baas, chemistry with many new compounds by R. Hegnauer.

Series ii volume 1 instalment 4, pages 255-330, 33 fig., came from the press on 29 December 1978. Price Dfl. 45. It contains the revision by R.E. Holttum of the Lomariopsis Group of ferns: 91 sp. in 6 genera (Bolbitis, 12 sp., by E. Hennipman), with full accounts of the complex vegetative morphology and taxonomic history.

For the first instalment of volume 9 manuscripts of Araliaceae-I (W.R. Philipson), Cyperaceae-II (H.P. Nooteboom & J.H. Kern), and Liliaceae-I (J.P. Jessop) have gone to the press.

Publication and delivery. Following reorganization of the publishing firm, the Flora Malesiana (and also the Flora of Java, which is still in stock) can now be obtained through Sijthoff & Noordhoff, Box 4, Alphen a/d Rijn, Netherlands. Orders can be placed or renewed at this office, which is quite near Leiden. Delivery is channelled through a number of agents in the various countries; this also facilitates payment.

Unfortunately, volumes 1, 4, and 6 of Flora Malesiana are out of print, and reprinting volumes seems too expensive. In the course of 1979, however, they will become available in microfiche form with IDC, Uiterste Gracht 45, Leiden, Netherlands.

Identification List of Malesian Specimens number 56 was published; it deals with the Ulmaceae, by E. Soepadmo. It can be obtained free of charge from the Rijksherbarium, Box 9514, Leiden.

Priorities in Plant Taxonomy is the title of the one-day symposium held at Leiden because of the 150th anniversary of the Rijksherbarium. The texts (in Dutch) are to be published in Vakblad Biologen May or June 1979. Our own priorities are almost too simple for whatever symposium. About 2/3 of the Malesian plant species, i.e. some 15,000, are still insufficiently known. If anything of size is to be accomplished, it is evident that it will be peremptory to skip everything beyond the bare essentials. Delving deep into phylogeny or into the minutiae of variation will

clearly lead the worker astray. In view of such astounding gaps in our knowledge, the only way to measure progress is in numbers of genera and species revised. Once more, we come to admire botanists like Drs. H.O. Sleumer and F. Markgraf, for their methodical productivity. Their work is noteworthy as much for what is found in it as for what is not found in it; it is the essential vs. the superfluous. Boerhaave's motto: *Simplex Very Sigillum* will survive all symposia, and if simplicity is hard to achieve, it is worth striving for.

This issue carries two heavy loads of abstracts: of the 8th World Forestry Congress at Jakarta (under Meetings), and of the UNESCO book on Tropical Forest Ecosystems (under Reviews).

The cover too, remembers the Forestry Congress. It is one photograph of a pair which together form a stereogram, of East Kalimantan, scale 1:50,000, taken June 1970. It shows several stages of shifting cultivation. In the valley (1), apart from abandoned rice field (white tone), some kind of permanent agriculture (rice?) is in development on 20 to 30 m wide strips apparently along a straight line drainage ditch. In the hilly area (2) recently cut field and secondary forest of different heights can be observed, intermingled with patches of natural forest and individual trees. Note that in some of the clearcut areas, it is difficult to determine whether natural or secondary forest was cut. On the ridge (3), a strip of untouched forest is left and in (4) - area not completely shown in this example - the clearcut fields are united showing a different pattern from that in (2). As houses or dwellings are not visible, it is impossible to determine the number of inhabitants. Without prior groundtruth and local knowledge, there is no way to tell whether the 'permanent' agriculture will be extended, the patches of natural forest will be cut before long and the people abandon the area, or that they will stay and the vegetation will degrade to a scrub forest or grassland.

Both the photograph and the legend we owe to the kindness of Mr. G. Sicco Smit, ITC, Box 6, Enschede, Netherlands, who published them in his paper 'Shifting Cultivation in Tropical Rainforests Detected from Aerial Photographs', ITC Journal, p. 603-633, 11 pl. (1978).

Thanks are also due to Professor Dr. C.G.G.J. van Steenis, who kindly supplied the Bibliography and many biographical notes, and to all others who provided text items and suggestions. The Editor, as always, will be glad to consider new names for the mailing list.

One more point, please. There has been such an increase of botanical activities in our field - that's why the Bulletin this time has been typeset in a smaller letter, too - that it has become very hard for the Editor to keep track of all events and publications. Recipients of the Bulletin are therefore urgently requested to send the Editor a news item every year before 1 December, as fortunately several are already doing, but not enough. We are fully aware that news is something that must be hunted for, and that communication takes precious time and effort. But we kindly remind you readers that every year you receive some 200 pages full of information for nothing, so if you really wish to render some service in return, this is the thing to do.