

XV. PACIFIC PLANT AREAS — EXTRA VOLUME

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Name: *Cornelis, Gijsbert, Gerrit, Jan*

Family: *Van Steenis*

Synonyms: *Rasamala* (Indon.), *Mister Landbridge* (Engl.)

Vernacular name: *Kees*

Taxonomy and distribution: The distribution suggests a tropical origin in West Malesia; however, first appearances are often misleading in this specimen. Closer examination reveals a clustering of relatives in Holland (Backer, 1936), suggesting that this is an aberrant specimen of a large family almost confined to North-west Europe. This is further supported by the fact that most tropical localities are montane (Leuser, Gede, Papandajan, Idjen, etc.) pointing to a preference for temperate climatic conditions. A peculiarity indicating relictual features is a preponderance of insular localities. Conservative traits can best be perpetuated in isolation. In the secondary Malesian centre the absence of localities in Borneo and New Guinea is striking and is certainly not due to undercollecting. See the Green Bible for full details. Localities in Africa, America and Australia are based on ephemeral events.

Habit: Relatively small, c. 1.70 m, but remarkably solid and well preserved despite respectable age. Mostly erect and on the move, prostrate only during about seven hours per day. Formally dressed, but lately also observed in casual dress in summer. Rough outer coat disguises sensitive interior.

Habitat and ecology: Now mostly to be found within brick walls, wrecking brains, botanical specimens and typewriter. Formerly showing a preference for outdoor life. Highly productive and contributing heavily to the so-called Kalkman curve (see the annual reports of the Director, and Jacobs, 1972). Obligately nicotiniophilous, facultatively alcoholiphilous, consuming considerable amounts of chocolate (mostly obtained by winning bets) and other sweets which do not appreciably affect the above described habit. Firm in believe and disbelieve, indifferent to criticism (Van Steenis-Kruseman, 1972). All human traits represented, albeit often in unusual form (see Van Balgooy & Van Os, 1972, for small selection).

Dispersal: Short overland dispersal preferably as an endomobilochores, formerly also as an epicyclochore. The secondary Malesian centre was formed after successful oversea rafting. Despite profound disdain for long-distance dispersal in plants, not adverse to long distance air flotation which is responsible for the localities in Africa, America and Australasia.

Map: Filled circles indicate localities with considerable consequences for the Rijksherbarium, for science, or for both, open circles short time visits, often hardly less significant.

Sources: Backer, C.A., Verklarend Woordenboek (1936) 547; Steenis, C.G.G.J. van, The Green Bible I, 1 (1950) 499–502; Balgooy, M.M.J. van & J.H. van Os, Steenisiana (1972) 38 pp., illus.; Steenis-Kruseman, M.J. van, The life of a Botanist, Blumea 20 (1972) 1–6; Jacobs, M., Lines in the published work of C.G.G.J. van Steenis, tropical botanist, Blumea 20 (1972) 7:24. Published and unpublished records in the archives of the Rijksherbarium.

