

## VII. PROJECT PACIFIC PLANT AREAS

This series of two or more volumes starts to be published in the summer of 1962; the page proofs of the first volume, which was sent to the press in May 1960, were received by Dr. E. Quisumbing at Manila where the volume is being printed, in March; its publication can be expected by July 1962.

The series "Pacific Plant Areas" means to give all that is already known about distribution of taxa of generic and lower level which centre round the Pacific Ocean, and also to add to our knowledge by giving new maps which have been carefully prepared by specialists. Hence the series consists of a bibliographic part and a cartographic part, preceded by an explanatory introduction. Volume I is mainly bibliographic, containing about 3200 references to maps and 26 newly prepared maps; volume II will be mainly cartographic, containing about 124 newly prepared maps, and will hopefully be ready for the press by the end of 1962.

The project was first conceived by Professor Dr. H.J. Lam, who at the 6th Pacific Science Congress at Berkeley in 1939 expressed the idea. The war frustrated the further working out of his plan, which was originally entrusted to a separate Standing Committee of the Pacific Science Congress, on which Dr. Lam and later Dr. Oliver reported. At the 8th Pacific Science Congress, at Manila, November 1953, the plan was revived and an official promise was obtained through Dr. E. Quisumbing that the Philippine Government was prepared to print such issue as a special publication of the Office of Economic Coordination, Institute of Science and Technology, Manila. At the same Congress, the Standing Committee of Pacific Plant Areas was incorporated as a subcommittee into the Standing Committee of Botany. In 1957 Professor Lam asked Dr. C.G.G. van Steenis to act for the Committee as editor. After careful consideration and consultation of various botanists at Leyden and abroad, it was concluded that the first task should be to prepare a bibliography and in addition a limited number of new maps. Mrs M.J. van Steenis - Kruseman was persuaded to bear the burden of the bibliography which necessitated to scan the literature for plant distributional maps. She arranged these references according to family, and annotated them as for completeness of the maps and the sort of indication made on them. Such a catalogue of published plant-geographical maps is, as far as we know, a novelty. Here follows an example:

"Drosera sect. Rossolis PLANCH. -- L. Diels, Pflanzenreich IV. 112, Heft 26 (1906) map.

Complete; New & Old world, also incl. Indo-Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific; delineated; monograph."

The value of an accurate and detailed knowledge of the areas of plants in the Pacific can be summarized as the becoming available of new reliable data for the following objectives:

- a) Comparison of present distribution with the fossil record.
- b) Comparison of distributions of plants and animals.
- c) Distribution of host plants of pests.
- d) Ethnobotany.
- e) Relation between means of dispersal and their actual effect.
- f) Integration of the Pacific flora with those of the surrounding areas.
- g) Study of special problems connected with island floras, e.g. relic endemism, land bridges, raiation through isolation, etc.

Besides, the occupation with the subject has already led to the idea that once a tropical transpacific land bridge must have connected the Old World with the New, which was developed by Dr. van Steenis last year at the 10th Pacific Science Congress.

Since it has been constantly taken in view that only reliable data have any value, utmost accuracy has been attempted in preparing the maps. These are published not in a definite order but in opportune sequence. It is here mentioned with gratitude and pride that so much loyal help is received from colleagues abroad. This is necessary and of great importance to make the maps as accurate and detailed as possible. The list of irregular collaborators, as far as they are not members of the Rijksherbarium staff, include: (Australia) Dr. R. H. Anderson, Miss Dr. N. T. Burbidge, Dr. S. L. Everist, Mr L. S. Smith, Mr J. H. Willis, (France) Mr R. Capuron, Mme M. L. Tardieu-Blot, (Great Britain) Dr. H. K. Airy Shaw, Dr. H. R. Fletcher, Mr L. L. Forman, Miss Dr. F. M. Jarrett, Dr. N. Y. Sandwith, (India) Dr. H. Santapau, (Japan) Dr. H. Hara, Dr. T. Hosokawa, (Morocco) Prof. Ch. Sauvage, (New Zealand) Dr. P. Wardle, (Singapore) Mr J. Sinclair, (U.S.A.) Dr. G. K. Brizicky, Dr. L. Constance, Dr. R. S. Cowan, Dr. A. Cronquist, Dr. R. K. Godfrey, Dr. F. R. Fosberg, Miss Dr. L. M. Perry, Dr. R. C. Rollins, Dr. A. C. Smith, Dr. B. C. Stone, Dr. C. E. Wood, Dr. J. J. Wurdack.

A regular collaborator is Mr M. M. J. van Balgooy, working at the Rijksherbarium, who received a grant from the P. W. Korthalsfund, which served for 2 months' work in 1961; from last December he is now working on a grant awarded to

the project by the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., which will enable him to work through the year 1962. Working full-time for the Pacific Plant Areas, it is expected that he will be able to assemble enough maps and legends for the second volume. Previously, he devised a preliminary subdivision of the Pacific in plant-geographic provinces (Blumea 10, 1960, 385-430).

The newly prepared maps which in volume I have been added to the bibliographic part (which covers the whole of the Phanerogams), visualize the distribution of a great variety of plants and of taxa. Of *Crossostylis*, *Gonystylus*, *Gynotroches*, *Oreomyrrhis*, and *Tecomanthe* the entire area is given; of *Canarium*, *Dichapetalum*, and *Rourea* only that (major) part that occurs in the Pacific. One Pacific species has been mapped for *Bruguiera*, *Camposperma*, *Carallia*, *Cerriops*, *Crateva*, *Dolichandrone*, *Mapania*, and *Styrax*, or more species of one genus from a special habitat (*Triumfetta*, 3 species all from the sandy beach; *Rhizophora* and *Bruguiera*, all from the mangrove).

Each map is accompanied by a legend of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  page in typescript, which gives a) the full name of the taxon and where published or critically treated, with family and synonyms, b) concise notes on habit and variability, problems concerned with the area, subtaxial and geographic correlations, c) habitat, d) frequency and sociology, e) dispersal, f) additional remarks, g) sources, h) the author who compiled the map.--M.Jacobs.

#### VARIA

"That is just it," answered Voltaire, "you must have the devil in you to succeed in any of the arts."

W.Durant, The story of Philosophy.