

VII. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS*(continued from page 3904)*

Acta Mycologica Sinica. In 1982 this new journal was started reporting on pure and applied mycological research in China. Articles contain also descriptions of new taxa. The Editorial Board is P.O.B. 2714, Beijing. It is printed by Academia Sinica Printers.

An annotated list of the flora of Kairiru Island has been prepared by Br. O. W. B o r r e l l (MELU) and has been offered for publication to the Botany Bulletin, Lae. It is to be hoped that in view of the difficult financial circumstances of LAE funds can be found to have it published.

Edible Araceae. In recent years much attention has been given to the introduction, propagation, selection and domestication of aroids as an additional staple food in Malesia. At Bogor Ms. Dr. S e t i j a t i S a s t r a p r a d j a assisted by Drs. G. H a m b a l i have been very active in this field. We want to draw attention to the work of Ms. Dr. F. D. G h a n i (UKMB) who is also engaged in such a research. For papers on her work see the Bibliography.

Association of Pacific Systematists Newsletter has been started to provide another link among Pacific Systematists supplementing the present ways of communication and transcending fields of interest. If all goes well an organisation will grow that intends to give moral and physical support to all systematists interested in the area. It is edited by Dr. S. H. S o h m e r, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu (Hawaii) - 96819, U.S.A. The first issue (March 1984) includes a position paper by Dr. J.S. D u g d a l e (DSIR, Auckland) given at the XV Pacific Science Congress on biological collections and scientific necessities. He outlines the necessity for international cooperation and convincing local governments that the creation and maintenance of biological collections with adequate funding and staffing is an advantageous undertaking from which they will profit. A paper worth reading for all of us who try to get the necessary support in these financially difficult times.

An outline of the activities of the APS is given. Dues are only US\$ 5 to be send c.o. Dr. Sohmer. Readers of the Flora Malesiana Bulletin will find it useful.

Species of 'keruing' (Dipterocarpus). In a series of booklets issued by LIPI (no. 28) Dr. K. K a r t a w i n a t a (BO) has composed an atlas of 38 species of Dipterocarpus. Each has a page of explanation and notes (in Indonesian) and a page-size plate showing twigs, leaves, fruits. The series is intended to tie science with public interest with an emphasis on the education of the general public.

Newsletter of the Environmental Plant Life Services, produced by Dr. W. M e i j e r, Apartment C7, 1346 Village Drive, Lexington, KY 40504, U.S.A.

The A.P.S. offers itself for consultant services for exploration, conservation and management for the sustained yield of plant life resources. It does not plan to compete with existing environmental consulting firms, but intends to offer its services to them.

Judging from the two issues it deals especially with ecology and plant conservation within the sphere of interest of Meijer and his two partners Dr. J. C a m p b e l l and Mr. V. S h i p p, giving tidbits on tropical rainforests.

In the first issue there is a general outline of the aims of the E.P.S. with proposed projects, a plea for the use of local species and not exotic ones in tropical forestry, an account of Meijer's Rafflesia Project, the latter's concern that the special knowledge of the Malayan 'orang asli' is about to be lost with the present land development schemes, and the suggestion that a more extensive exchange of fruit trees between the various tropical areas would be of mutual benefit.

In the second issue there is a personal reminiscence of Marius Jacobs by Meijer and articles by Campbell on the Giant Panda, bamboos and their ecology. Some recent literature on tropical rainforest is reviewed.

Flora of Australia. Volume 22 was expected to appear in February 1984 but seems to have been delayed until at least this summer. Volumes 4 and 25 are now being edited.

In the ASBS Newsletter 37 (1983) 8-10 a large list has been given of 'ABRS Grants 1984' for 34 subjects immediately related to the Flora of Australia, some for local subjects, others for exploration, but mainly for revisionary work. The formidable total is about Austr.\$ 392,000 ! Except for Dr. P. Green (K) who got a grant for his work on the floras of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands all recipients are Australian botanists.

For the Bureau of Flora and Fauna Mr. A. Chapman made a tour through Europe and America to complete the Australian Plant Name Index. He has not yet seen the original descriptions of only about 15 of the 55,000 names involved. It is hoped to have the whole Index available on microfiche in another two years time.

Flora Malesiana volume 10/1 appeared on January 19th, 1984. It contains the Aristolochiaceae (Dr. Ding Hou; L), Olacaceae (Dr. H. Sleumer; L), Opiliaceae (Dr. P. Hiepko; B), and the Triuridaceae (Mr. J. P. M. van de Meerendonk; L).

Flora of Taiwan. As announced previously (p. 3899) the chief editor, Dr. Kuoshieh Hsu of the Taiwan Provincial Department of Education had promised two more books which have now appeared:

The common littoral plants of Taiwan. 191 pp. (1983). Brief descriptions and beautiful photographs.

Plants of the Hengchun Peninsula. 172 pp. (1983). This deals with 153 species of the extreme Southern peninsula which have sometimes never been depicted before and many of course not in colour. The excellent size of the plates (usually 13 cm wide) and the well-chosen stage of development of the plant increase their value even more. Our warm congratulations to Dr. Hsu. — C.G.G.J. van Steenis.

Flore du Cambodge, du Laos et du Viêt Nam, fasc. 21, in which Dr. T. Yamazaki will treat the Scrophulariaceae, is in press.

Flore de Nouvelle-Calédonie et Dépendances. Volume 12 contains the Leguminosae-Mimoseae (I. Nielsen), Chrysobalanaceae (G. Prance) and Plumbaginaceae (J. Edmondson) and appeared on May 31, 1983. Volume 13 with the Convolvulaceae by H. Heine is in press.

Flore du Viêt Nam. Under the supervision of Dr. A. L. Takhtajan (LE) about thirty Vietnamese botanists will do research on various families of Viêt Nam: fieldwork, preparing herbaria and making taxonomic revisions. Dr. Pham Hoang Hô, University of Ho Chi Minh City, has already assembled the necessary elements for a concise flora of Vietnam completing that for South Vietnam (1970-1972).

The freshwater plants of Papua New Guinea. This book prepared by Dr. G. J. Leach and Dr. P. L. Osborne will treat the aquatic representatives of 48 families of flowering plants, ferns and Characeae, 157 species in total. The concept of 'aquatic' has been very broadly used ('anything that floats in or grows far into the water') and some species typical of shores, banks and similar transgression zones have been included, e.g. Phragmites, Typha. A key to the families and where appropri-

ate to genera and species will be given using vegetative characters as much as possible. Each taxon will be comprehensively described and many will be illustrated, some in colour. Notes on ecology, habitats, distribution, uses, etc. will be given. Quite a few new records of these much neglected plants will be included. No doubt after publication more will be discovered when the appetites of collectors have been whetted. The book will be published by UPNG Press, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and will be available later this year.

A guide to the Botanic Gardens, Singapore. Mr. B. T i n s l e y has written a most excellent History and Guide to the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, under the name 'Singapore Green'. See under Reviews.

A guide to the flowering plants of the Hawaiian Islands is a project set up to produce a manuscript for a single volume manual to the native and naturalised flowering plants of the Hawaiian Archipelago within three years. It is funded by the Irwin Charity Foundation of San Francisco, U.S.A. Chief editors are Dr. S. H. S o h m e r, Dr. W. L. W a g n e r (BISH) and Dr. D. R. H e r b s t (Office of Environmental Services, Honolulu). An index to the relevant literature is also prepared by Ms. S. W. M i l l dealing with 28 categories. Another result will be a checklist with up to date nomenclature of all taxa. Acknowledged specialists are asked to assist either to identify exotics or to write up the groups of their speciality. Travel funds for inspection of types in foreign herbaria will be requested from the NSF.

Joint Kalimantan Expedition. A mimeographed report of the 1981 expedition has been published including 39 pages of botanical records. It can be obtained from Dr. K. Iwatsuki, Botanic Gardens, Koishikawa, 3-7-1 Hakusan, Tokyo 112, Japan.

Journal of Tropical Ecology. The International Society for Tropical Ecology (I.S.T.E.) has become increasingly concerned about both its declining membership and the diminishing circulation of its Journal of Tropical Ecology in recent years. The Society thus reluctantly took the decision to cease publication of its journal in India and to have it relaunched in 1985 by INTECOL, the general ecology section of the International Union of Biological Sciences. It will be published by Cambridge University Press in conjunction with ICSU Press, the publishing house of the International Council of Scientific Unions. Dr. J. F u r t a d o (University of Malaya) is convener of the committee that will oversee the Journal. Dr. A. G. M a r s h a l l has been appointed Editor with Dr. M. D. S w a i n e as his Deputy. An international editorial board is being appointed.

They would be pleased to hear from anyone who would consider submitting a paper for publication in the Journal. Please write to Dr. A.G. Marshall, Department of Zoology, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2UD, Scotland, U.K.

Pacific Plant Areas, volume 4 (January 1984) by M. M. J. v a n B a l l g o o y (L). See under Reviews.

Léveillé's names of Chinese plants. In the Notes of the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh Dr. L. A. L a u e n e r (E) has been publishing this most important Catalogue of the very many names proposed by the erratic botanist H e c t o r L é v e i l l é. In 17 instalments since 1961 he has now (1984) with the assistance of some specialists completed the Dicotyledones. They will be republished as a single volume. It is planned that Mr. D. M c K e a n (E) will tackle the Monocotyledones. This critical examination of Léveillé's herbarium is of immense value to Chinese botany (and marginally to the Malesian as well) for which the botanical world may be very grateful to Dr. Lauener.

Orchid Research Newsletter. Published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew TW9 3AE, U.K., edited by J. Z. S t i r t o n & P. J. C r i b b. The first issue is of January 1983, the second of July 1983. Its aim is to promote knowledge about current research in orchids and to eliminate any overlap of projects by establishing an index of orchidologists with their current and future research projects. This information will be published twice a year. See the second issue for an example. These first two issues were free of charge, a subscription to the future ones will be the pittance of £ 3.00 or US\$ 6.00 p.a. Cheques or direct debit orders should be made out to Jana Stirton, Orchid Research Newsletter, Account no. 10.83.88.02, Barclay's Bank Plc., 13 Station Parade, Kew Gardens, Kew TW9 3PT, U.K. All orchidologists should subscribe immediately!

RIC Bulletin, vol. 2, 2. This is the first copy that has reached us of this new newsletter of the Rattan Information Centre. It contains an article on rattan research in Bangladesh (K. M. W o n g; KEP), a survey of characteristics of epidermal cells in relation to taxonomy and quality of rattan canes (S. S i r i p a t a n a d i l o k; Kosetsart Univ., Bangkok), the second of a series on rattan planting (J. b i n B a h a r u d i n and C. A. b i n A l i; KEP). The Newsletter is published by the Rattan Information Centre (RIC), Forest Research Institute, Kepong (Selangor), Malaysia.

Revised Handbook of the Flora of Ceylon, vol. 4 (1983). We welcome this new volume still under the editorship of Dr. M. D. D a s s a n a - y a k a & Dr. F. R. F o s b e r g. This thick issue (532 pp.) is of the same format as the previous ones (see Reviews, pages 3601, 3789). Volume 3 appeared in 1981, it had a meagre sprinkling of illustrations, this one has unfortunately none at all. It contains treatments of the Anacardiaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Avicenniaceae, Begoniaceae, Burmanniaceae, Campanulaceae, Lobeliaceae, Nyctanthaceae, Periplocaceae, Sphenocleaceae, Symphoremaceae, Verbenaceae and Zingiberaceae. Why Nyctanthes is treated as a separate family is unclear; recent research clearly shows it to be an Oleacea (see under that family in chapter IV). The acceptance of the other split-families also indicates the narrow view taken. Moldenke has retained Pygmaeopremna, to me it is just a Premna. — C.G.G.J. van Steenis.

Royal Society South-East Asian rain forest collaborative research program. Dr. K w i t o n J o n g (E), the Scientific coordinator, visited Malaysia in July and August 1983. The primary purpose was to find

out what local scientists thought about the latest proposals for a joint scientific research program on rain forest ecology and to consult individuals and organisations interested in the program. The latter will concentrate initially on studies which would bring a better understanding of the recovery processes involved when a species-rich rain forest is disturbed through natural causes or by man. The Danum Valley Conservation Area in Sabah is an area of primary mixed dipterocarp forest some 438 km<sup>2</sup> in extent with neighbouring areas of logged-over forest and is considered a promising site for the program. This area is in fact part of the Sabah Foundation timber concession and all indications are that it will be kept in pristine condition for a long time to come. It is hoped that the program will involve the production of a regular newsletter to keep all the participants informed.

Vegetation mapping of Sumatra conducted by Dr. Y. L a u m o n i e r, P.O.B. 17, Bogor (see also Fl. Mal. Bull. 34, p. 3570 and 35, p. 3901). The first sheet (of southern Sumatra) appeared in November 1983. Beside the main map at 1:1,000,000 separate ones are given at a scale of 1:5,000,000 of administrative divisions, hypsometry, geology, lithology, soils, bioclimats, agricultural and natural regions, and of zoogeographic barriers and units. In order to understand the main map a thorough study of the legenda is required as divisions are not only made between types of forest but also between different types on swampy and dry land areas. The latter are again divided into 5 geographic divisions making the whole very complicated. When studying the map the terrible conclusion becomes rapidly evident: there is hardly any primary forest left but for the mountain area and in some places west of it. From the soil map one can imagine that outside the river valleys most of the country will consist of degraded soils that cannot support permanent cultivation. The map is nicely produced and a valuable acquisition. — H.P. Nooteboom.