

NOTE ON HOUTTUYN'S HERBARIUM

C. G. G. J. VAN STEENIS & J. F. VELDKAMP

Rijksherbarium, Leiden

In the Cyclopaedia of Malaysian Collectors and Collections, Mrs. M. J. van Steenis-Kruseman (*Flora Malesiana* I, 1, 1950, 248a, 527b) stated that plants of Herb. Houttuyn, which Houttuyn had acquired from various collectors, were subsequently incorporated in other herbaria, that of Burman in particular.

Merrill had questioned this in his work on Houttuyn (*J. Arn. Arb.* 19, 1938, 291—375, reviewed in *Fl. Mal. Bull.* no. 17, 1962, 906), as he could not locate a single sheet of Houttuyn's collection. He only mentioned (l.c. p. 310) that in the Copenhagen Herbarium, in Herb. Vahl, there would be a fragmentary specimen of *Myristica fragrans* on the back of which was noted 'ded. Houttuyn'. We could not find this photographed in the IDC microcards of Herb. Vahl.

However, Houttuyn specimens do exist.

The first indubitable Houttuyn specimen was mentioned and photographed by Hoogland (*Reinwardtia* 2, 1953, 207, plate 1) and this came from Java; it was the type of *Assa* (= *Tetracera*) *indica* and is incorporated in the Rijksherbarium, Leyden.

In 1963 a second specimen with the same characteristic handwriting was annotated by Mr. Ch. Monod de Froideville, viz. of Burman's '*Paspalum dissectum* L.' (sh. 904. 26—22, under *P. longifolium* Roxb.), of which the left culm of the two exactly agrees with the drawing of it in Houttuyn's *Natuurl. Hist.* II, 13 (1782) 164, pl. lxxxix fig. 2 (not reversed as in the case of the *Tetracera*) in which Houttuyn remarked also upon the difference between his plant from Java and the true *P. dissectum* of Linnaeus.

These sheets, both from Java, are not marked as having made part of the Herb. Van Royen. They do not carry the name Houttuyn, but they must have been in his possession.

Two other specimens with exactly the same handwriting are present in the Rijksherbarium under the name *Boerhavia diffusa* L. One carries the name *Boerhaavia hirsuta* L. (sh. 908. 155—1131), now correctly named *B. diffusa* L., to which is added that it was collected in the vicinity of Semarang, Central Java. The crude manuscript is that of the other two sheets in Herb. Houttuyn, but on the upper right edge is added in finer handwriting and faded ink '*Boerhavia*'. This is Thunberg's handwriting. The other sheet is named *Boerha(a)via diffusa* (sh. 908. 157—428) on which to the crude manuscript of Houttuyn is added on top, written in the same faded ink and fine Thunberg handwriting, '*BOERHAVIA diffusa* Linn.'. In all probability this specimen belonged to the same Java collection of Thunberg and is so similar that it may equally have been gathered near Semarang. Thunberg was in Java from 1775—1777 and in the latter year he collected in the vicinity of Semarang.

From these data we may safely conclude that all four sheets have belonged to Houttuyn's collection and that they are all collected by Thunberg in Java and donated or sold by him to Houttuyn.

Asja. Na. Hipe v. 82. bl. 275. Pl. XXVI. Fig. 1.

Class. XIII. Polyandria
tetragynia

HERB. LUGD. BAT.	N ^o 902.111- 291
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Planta Ind. Orient. Jav.
Ay - Aja dicta.

Fig. 1. Sample of Houttuyn's handwriting, $\times \frac{1}{2}$.

Houttuyn's collection was sold and became disintegrated, so that other sheets may have been incorporated in other herbaria as was suggested in the Cyclopaedia of Collectors (l.c. p. 248a and 527b), most likely in Vahl's Herbarium at Copenhagen, Burman's Herbarium at Geneva, and possibly in others.

In order to facilitate recognizing and locating Houttuyn's specimens we have here reproduced his handwriting from the file in the Rijksherbarium. Several of his type specimens have not yet been traced, notably that of *Cyperus javanicus* Houtt., which is not present in the Rijksherbarium.