

V. EXPEDITIONS AND OTHER EXPLORATION

Under this heading the regular routine exploration work, specially by the forestry services in Malaya, Sarawak, Brunei, North Borneo, Indonesia, and Lae, by the Botanic Gardens, Bogor and Singapore, and by the National Museum, Manila, will not be mentioned; it is most encouraging that the gradual accumulation of materials through these services is steadily increasing and gaining in importance. Since 1954 the Forest Department in Dutch New Guinea, at Hollandia, has also started a regular collection and a Herbarium, duplicates of which will be distributed through the care of the Rijksherbarium, Leyden.

The aim of this chapter is to record in a concise way special collecting and exploration trips and expeditions; formerly these were included under miscellaneous information.

Malaysia general.

At the invitation and the expense of the Indonesian Government, Dr A.H.G. A l s t o n of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London, spent a year in Indonesia, with headquarters in the Herbarium Bogoriense, for studying and collecting Pteridophytes, Oct. 1953, till Oct. 1954. He collected in West Java, South Borneo (16-29 Jan.), Atjeh, Eastcoast and Westcoast of Sumatra (14 Febr. - 10 April), Celebes (May 26 - July 31), Moluccas (Ternate, Tidore, Halmaheira, Batjan (Aug. 3 - Sept. 3)).

Dr F.A. M o C l u r e, of the Office Foreign Agricultural Survey, Dept Agric. Washington, made in 1954 a tour through the Pacific and Malaysia for procuring information on bamboo suitable for the pulp industry; in April he touched Bogor.

Dr C.G.G.J. v a n S t e e n i s made a tour through Malaysia in which were touched Bogor (28 Oct. - 14 Nov. '53), Labuan (14 Nov.), Luzon (15 Nov. - 5 Dec.), Portuguese Timor (15 Dec. - 9 Jan. '54) and Malaya (12 - 19 Jan.). During this trip occasional collections were made. The main goal was to make a representative collection in Portuguese Timor (about 500 numbers), a special study of the genera Casuarina & Eucalyptus, and of the high-mountain flora (Mt Tata Mailau, 2920 m). During the trips in Timor valuable assistance was received from Mr R. C i n a t t i, Dili.

Sumatra.

An exploration trip was undertaken by staff-members of Herbarium Bogoriense (P. G r o e n h a r t, J. v a n B o r s s u m W a a l k e s, D.R. P l e y t e, and some helpers), in conjunction with a party of geologists from Bandung, to the Padang region, Central West Sumatra, June - July 1953.

Borneo.

Dr A.J.G.H. K o s t e r m a n s of the Forestry Planning Division, Bogor, made a continued exploration in Northeast

Borneo, in the Nunukan-Bulungan forest reserves, Oct. 29, 1953, to Jan. 10, 1954.

He started an exploration of the Semoi River system in East Borneo, leaving Bogor May 15th, 1954.

In January 1955 he will make an other exploration trip to Central Borneo, along the Bêlayan River, running parallel to the Têlên formerly followed by Endert in 1925.

Java.

A collecting trip in Bantam, West Java, was made by a party from Kebun Raya Indonesia, Febr. 1-14, 1954, consisting of P. G r o e n h a r t, A.G.L. A d e l b e r t, T.O. v a n K r e g t e n, and D.R. P l e y t e, who collected both herbarium and living specimens.

Lesser Sunda Islands.

A special trip for field study and filming of *Varanus komodoensis* was made May 21 - July 6, 1953, by Mr A. H o c - g e r w e r f, Head of the Division Game & Nature Preservation, Kebun Raya Indonesia, Bogor, to the islands of Komodo, Padar, and Rintja, W. off Flores. He was accompanied by the Head of the Photographic Section of Kebun Raya Indonesia, Mr F. H u y s m a n s. A collection of plants from these exceedingly dry islands were collected for Herb. Bog. A stencilled report was published in a limited number of copies by Mr A. H o o g e r w e r f.

Philippines.

Miss Barbara B. B r i t t o n was in 1953 for a year appointed Lecturer in Botany in the University of the Philippines, Quezon City. She made several trips in Luzon, Mindoro, and Mindanao assembling about 500 numbers. Sets have been deposited at the U.P., Leyden, and in the U.S.A.

Moluccas.

May 16, 1953, Mr A.M.R. W e g n e r, of the Zoological Museum, Bogor, started on a zoological exploration to the Northern Moluccas, specially Central Halmaheira and Obi, with collectors for botanical and zoological specimens, with the ship "Samudera" of Kebun Raya Indonesia. Mr P l e y t e made some valuable herbarium material.

New Guinea.

The Fourth Archbold Expedition to New Guinea, sponsored by Richard Archbold of the American Museum of Natural History and assisted by the Arnold Arboretum and the U.S. Office of Naval Research, carried out zoological, botanical, and ecological field work in far eastern parts of the Territory of Papua during March-November, 1953. Personnel consisted of L.J. B r a s s, leader and botanist, Hobart M. v a n D e u s e n, mammalogist, Geoffrey M. T a t e, general zoological

collector, and K.M. W y n n, in charge of transportation. Investigations were conducted in three main areas: 1) Cape Vogel Peninsula, from a base at Menapi, 2) a strip of territory extending from the north coast at Baiawa, Mui Biri Bay, to the summit of Mt Dayman, Maneau Range, and 3) east slopes of Good-enough Island from Bolu Bolu to an altitude of about 1750 m on the central mountains. Inland transport was by native porters. The plant collections, made for the Arnold Arboretum, comprise 3554 numbers (including 620 bryophytes), 14090 herbarium sheets of specimens. A duplicate set of the botanical collections will be deposited in the Forest Herbarium at Lae.
--L.J.Brass.

Dr P. v a n R o y e n, enabled by several funds, started exploring the flora of West New Guinea, mainly of the lower regions and the middle high mountains. He left Holland Febr. 6, 1954; he expects to remain at least a full year or longer pending facilities and help. Some trips in West and East New Guinea were made together with Dr H o o g l a n d. In Jan. 1954 he started for an exploration of Waigeou Island. He will return early March via Singapore and expects to be back in Holland by early April.

The Land Research and Regional Survey Section of the C.S. I.R.O. (Australia) is carrying out a general resources survey in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. A systematic botanist is attached to the field party and is expected to collect in the Territory each year. In 1953 the Buna-Kokoda area (Northern District, Terr. of Papua) was visited, in 1954 the Wani-gela-Cape Vogel area (Northern and Milne Bay District, Terr. of Papua). The collections are distributed from Canberra; they are H o o g l a n d 3231-4040 (1953) and 4144-4841 (1954) and S a u n d e r s 1-180 (1954).

Fiji.

Dr A.C. S m i t h returned to the Smithsonian Institution in February after spending nine months in his third exploratory trip to Fiji. His collections, 2700 numbers in 10 duplicate sets, were made on the islands of Viti Levu, Ovalau, Ngau, and Taveuni. After the study of this material has been completed he proposes to prepare a definitive Flora of Fiji, covering at least the phanerogams. Any study material from this general area (New Hebrides to Samoa and Tonga) will be welcomed.