

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### *Botany 2000-Asia*

Botany 2000-Asia is a co-operative programme, recognised and sponsored by UNESCO, of Asian botanists aiming to raise the standard of Asian descriptive botanical research. The primary field is plant taxonomy. Following the formal establishment of the UNESCO program in 1989 a steering Committee headed by Dr. N. MARCHANT organized a workshop in Perth, Australia, in October 1990, followed by two family oriented workshops, one on Zingiberaceae in Haat Yai, Thailand, (1991), and another on the Rutaceae in Manila, February 1992. Subsequently two study groups were formed with their own newsletters to promote and co-ordinate research in these families. In November 1993 a third workshop, on Annonaceae and Simaroubaceae, was organised. The aims and initiatives of the Botany 2000 Board are of course of special interest to Flora Malesiana. Those who want to receive the Botany 2000-Asia Newsletter, please write to: UNESCO/ROSTSCA, att. Mr. M. VAN ALPHEN, 8 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057, India.

The latest issue of this newsletter has an interesting article by Dr. R. KIEW, advocating local and national Flora projects. She states that we cannot wait for Flora Malesiana to be completed and that in view of the decline of botanical institutes in the Western World, the Malesian region cannot rely on scientists from the old empire to shoulder taxonomic work. The latter attitude we acclaim very much, as the Foundation Flora Malesiana is convinced that the position of Malesian countries in the Flora Malesiana project should be strengthened. But at the same time we are convinced that as much as possible we must join efforts for a timely completion of Flora Malesiana. A complete Flora Malesiana will facilitate the efficient production of numerous user-friendly local Flora's. In the next issue of the Flora Malesiana Bulletin we will elaborate more on this topic.

### *Flora Malesiana Checklist*

Dr. P. C. VAN WELZEN (L) has made a basic data base comprising all accepted taxa published so far in Flora Malesiana Series I. Although BO, L, and MO are still committed to their agreement on the Flora Malesiana Checklist project, it is at the moment very difficult to sustain the money for the people who run it. Cooperation with similar projects in adjacent areas is sought.

### *Inventory of plant resources of West Kalimantan project*

A project undertaking an inventory of plant resources in West Kalimantan, currently focussing on the Bukit Baka-Bukit Raya National Park area, is underway and aims to:

- carry out six plant collecting expeditions;
- set up a specimen based database;
- produce field identification guides and florula;
- establish scientific exchange and provide systematic botanical training.

The project is a joint collaboration between the Herbarium Bogoriense (BO) and the Arnold Arboretum (A). Funded by NSF, the principal investigator is Dr. JOHN BURLEY, Board member of the Foundation, and co-P.I.'s are Prof. PETER STEVENS and Dr. JIM BEACH. Pak Uway W. Mahyar is the BO counterpart where a laboratory has been set up (tel. +62 251 336 538!). BO has kindly provided a large area for this project. Pak Uway is undertaking field collections with Ms. Alison Church, a regular visitor from A. Ibu Ermayanti is responsible for the task of managing the data base in Bogor.

One expedition has already been completed in the Bukit Baka area, resulting in 700 collections. BO has the material for distribution to herbaria in the South, A for those in the North. The next expedition is planned for April and May, and it is hoped to carry this out in commercial cutting blocks around the National Park, giving excellent opportunities to collect material from canopy trees, associated lianas and epiphytes.

In addition to the outputs originally planned, it is hoped to produce a DELTA key to all genera encountered. IBU INDAH F. WINDARDI will be accompanying at least one expedition to collect mosses. She will identify her material at A and prepare an account of her findings. Any specialist visiting BO is liable to be enticed into the project realm to help with the identifications. Be warned!

### *Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak Project*

The Tree Flora of Sabah & Sarawak Project officially got under way in January 1992. Dr. E. SOEPADMO (KEP) is the Coordinator and Chief Editor. The project is aimed at synthesizing our present taxonomic knowledge and diversity of tree species reaching timber-size found in Sabah and Sarawak (basically Borneo). The objectives of the project are:

- (a) to document all plant species that reach timber-size ;
- (b) to produce an up to date tree flora for the two states ; and
- (c) to upgrade local expertise in plant taxonomic work.

The project is a collaborative endeavour jointly undertaken by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Forest Department of Sabah, and Forest Department of Sarawak with the financial support of the Malaysian Government, British Overseas Development Administration (ODA), and International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

Taxonomists who are interested to prepare treatments of families (or other taxa) for the Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak Project are cordially invited to contact Dr. E. SOEPADMO, Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kepong, 52109 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The project is envisaged to take at least ten years to complete and the Tree Flora will be produced in four volumes. Collection activities are scheduled for the whole duration of the project. To date revisional work on 35 families of the 57 families to be included in the first volume (scheduled to publish by December 1994) of the Tree Flora has started. Seventeen manuscripts (Aceraceae, Bignoniaceae, Burseraceae, Casuarinaceae, Celastraceae, Connaraceae, Cornaceae, Datisceae, Goodeniaceae, Hypericaceae, Monimiaceae,

Nyssaceae, Olacaceae, Simaroubaceae, Sonneratiaceae, Styracaceae, and Trigoniaceae) have been submitted to the Chief Editor for editing.

A Project Newsletter has been started. The first issue contains information on a grant by ITTO (US\$ 712,800 for the first three years), a Utility Program for BRAHMS, the families (63) entered into the database, the families so far submitted for volume 1 (17 out of 35), and the overseas contributors/coordinators. All are encouraged to send any relevant material, ideas, information, and suggestions to FRIM, and to submit relevant precursors to Sandakania (ask for editorial guidelines!).

KEP has acquired compactors for housing part of the herbarium collection. Wing B of the herbarium has been converted for this purpose at a cost of over RM 150,000. With this, shelf space in this wing has increased by 50%.

Under the training aspect of Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak Project, a workshop on the Computerization of Herbarium Specimens (BRAHMS) was conducted on the 9-14 November 1992 at Kuching, Sarawak. The workshop was led by Mr. D. FILER of the Oxford Forestry Institute assisted by Mr. D. KIRKUP (K) and was attended by 21 local participants.

A botanical expedition to the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuaries in Sarawak is planned for 25 June to 4 July 1994. This is the first expedition to Sabah and Sarawak to be undertaken under the Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak Project. The expedition is organized by the Forest Department of Sarawak.

Mr. R.C.K. CHUNG (3 September 1992) and Ms. NOORSIHA AYOP (1 March 1992) have been appointed as Junior Botanists by the TFSS Project, whereas from November 1993 the following young botanists have been appointed: Miss TUNKU KHALKAUSAR, T.F. (FRIM) and Mr. J.B. SUGAU (SAN).

Mr. K.M. KOCHUMMEN (KEP) who is finalizing the manuscripts of Burseraceae and Celastraceae for the TFSS Project, was Liaison Officer for the project at K between 10 May to 9 July 1993. After that he visited L (10 July to 23 July 1993) and FI (24 July to 6 August 1993).

### *In Memoriam Dr. H.O. Sleumer (1906-1993)*

Dr. HERMANN OTTO SLEUMER died on October 1, 1993 in his 88th year, after a short illness. As a phanerogam taxonomist, he held positions in Berlin (1933-1949), Tucuman (1949-1953) and Leiden (1953-1971). After his retirement he continued his productive research as a voluntary Honorary Staff Member of the Rijksherbarium until 1988. He made substantial contributions to the *Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, *Flora Malesiana*, and several other projects on a wide array of families such as Clethraceae, Ericaceae, Flacourtiaceae, Icacinaceae, Myrsinaceae, Olacaceae, Opiliaceae, and Proteaceae. His revision of the Ericaceae for *Flora Malesiana* is by far the largest family treated in FM so far (750 species). Furthermore, he collected plant material on various botanical expeditions in the Malesian region, viz. to Luzon, New Guinea, Sarawak and Sabah, and Thailand. With him we have lost a taxonomist of truly international standing. An obituary will be published in the forthcoming issue of *Blumea*.

### ***Appointments***

Dr. R. KIEW has been appointed as professor in Botany at the University Pertanian Malaysia in Selangor. Dr. M.A. RIFAI will be appointed as professor in Plant taxonomy at the University of Jakarta. Congratulations! We hope that these appointments indicate a firmer position for plant taxonomy in Malesia.

Dr. D.J. MABBERLEY has been appointed as professor extraordinary in Systematic wood anatomy at the University of Leiden.

Dr. E. SOEPADMO officially retired from the University of Malaya on the 13th of March 1993 and joined Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) on the 1st April 1993 to assume duty as full-time Coordinator and Chief Editor of the Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak Project. He is also the Scientific Coordinator for the one-year long Belum Expedition (Upper Perak) beginning in June 1993. This expedition is organized by the Malaysian Nature Society and sponsored by the Perak State Government and the German Government.

Ms. L.S.L. CHUA has been appointed as Conservation Officer at KEP on June 1992 and is now working on in-situ and ex-situ conservation of *Nepenthes*.

### ***Gopher service***

US has inaugurated a Gopher Server that provides Internet access to the following data bases and documents that their staff have created or now manage:

- type specimen register US National Herbarium (over 88.000 records)
- ASPT newsletter
- Biological conservation newsletter and bibliography
- Historical collections in US
- Phylogenetic analysis software

It solicits expressions of support, as favorable responses will enable it to enlarge its services. For more information, please contact: Dr. W.L. WAGNER, curator of Pacific botany and chairman (US).

### ***Bogor***

Please note that the Botanical Garden in Bogor has had some small changes in address: POB 309, zipcode 16003.

***Flora Malesiana Network Inventory***

Just like last year, the secretary of the Foundation Flora Malesiana wants to make an inventory of the state of the art in the Flora Malesiana project. An-up-to-date insight in what is going on, and what progress has been made or can be expected is important for the coordination and fund-raising activities. In principle all people revising taxa for Flora Malesiana have been sent a Reply Form. Those who have not received one as yet are kindly requested to contact the secretary as soon as possible. The results will be published in the next issue of Flora Malesiana Bulletin.

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***WANTED: NEW AUTHORS***

in particular to work on the large and important families still not allotted to specialists  
(10 families of flowering plants and 5 for ferns, altogether comprising 1/3 of the flora)