

V. EXPEDITIONS AND OTHER EXPLORATION

(cntd from p.411)

Exploration of Thailand.

Mr T. S m i t i n a n d, Officer-in-Charge, Section of Botany, Forest Products Research Division, Royal Forest-Department, Bangkok, Thailand, writes, that there is still a large tract of virgin tropical rain-forest in the Peninsula not yet properly explored. An expedition from any foreign country is heartily welcome with cordial co-operation.

Sumatra.

Mr A.G.L. A d e l b e r t has started a herbarium of the local flora for the new Botanic Garden "Setia Mulia", above Padang, W. Sumatra, in conjunction with the curator Mr v a n K r e g t e n.

Dr W. M e i j e r, Pajacumbu, has made several trips in the neighbourhood of this place, and made ascents of Mt Sago and Mt Merapi; he is equally engaged in building up a collection.

In September 1955 Dr K o s t e r m a n s and Mr D i l m y made a collecting trip in the Semangus area, Palembang, S. Sumatra; coll. 300 nrs.

Malay Peninsula (& Borneo).

Mr J. S i n c l a i r, Keeper of the Singapore Herbarium, made collecting trips to Malacca and Cape Ricardo 1st-7th April 1955; Pulau Pisang and Pulau Sauh 16th-18th April 1955; Kuala Trengganu 4th-25th September 1955. In the last trip he collected 226 numbers of which 18 are probably new species

and about 40% are new records for the state of Trengganu.

Mr J.W. P u r s e g l o v e, Director of Botanic Gardens, Singapore, made trips to Fraser's Hill 13th-27th April 1955; Sarawak (Kuching & Lundu) 12th-30th September 1955. During the latter trip he obtained over 500 numbers including *Rafflesia tuan-mudae*.

Mr H.M. B u r k i l l, Assistant Director Botanic Gardens, Singapore, visited Pangkor Island 3rd-11th July 1955 and obtained 157 numbers including two new to the state of Perak. Though marine algae were sought the littoral areas were markedly devoid of macroscopic species.

Borneo.

Miss W.M.A. B r o o k e, a member of the well-known Brooke family of Sarawak, landed at Kuching in January 1954, and stayed for almost two years, making a collection of the flora for herbaria in Europe and the U.S.A. She visited four of the five divisions, attaining the upper reaches of several rivers by outboard motor. Her travels were made possible by the hospitality and assistance of District Officers, friends, business companies, and Missions. A planned trip to the Kelabit Plateau fell through, and she had no time left to climb Mt Murud. In total about 3000 numbers were collected.

During part of her early trips she was accompanied by Miss S. D a r n t o n (now Mrs C o l l e n e t t e), who sent her collections, c. 500 specimens, to the British Museum.

Dr A.J.G.H. K o s t e r m a n s of the Indonesian Forest Service made an exploration trip along the Belayan River (parallel to the Telen) in Centr. Borneo, in 1955.

Java.

An excursion joined by Mr A. D i l l m y, Dr K o s t e r m a n s, and Mr J a c o b s was directed towards an orientation of the flora of the big game reserve Ujung Kulon, extreme SW. Java, Aug. 1-7, 1955.

Dr W. M e i j e r, assisted by Mr M. J a c o b s, made special surveys of certain selected squares in the mountain forest above the Tjibodas Mountain Gardens, Mt Gedeh, W. Java, Aug. 22-27, 1955.

The botanical staff of the Forest Research Institute, Bogor, continued inventarization of some forest complexes at Janlappa, West Java; c. 400 numbers were collected.

Philippines.

Dr J.V. S a n t o s made a tour through the Batanes Islands, between Luzon and Formosa, principally to collect

grasses, early 1955.

Indonesian Timor.

It is planned that in Jan.-Febr. Dr B i s s e t, Mr v a n B o r s s u m W a a l k e s and Mr P l e y t e, all of Kebun Raya Indonesia, will make an exploration trip of about 3 weeks to the Indonesian part of the Island of Timor, with the ship "Samudera".

New Guinea.

In 1954 Dr R.D. H o o g l a n d of C.S.I.R.O., Australia, accompanied Dr P. v a n R o y e n (see below) on some trips in West New Guinea, viz in the Cyclops Mts and in Kebar valley. From May-Oct. 1955 he made an exploration in the Mandated Territory, Madang District (Gogol and Upper Ramu Rivers).

Dr P. v a n R o y e n of the Rijksherbarium at Leiden, returned in Holland in March 1955 (see p. 411). He collected about 2500 nos in different parts of New Guinea, e.g. from the interesting savannahs of the south coast (near Merauke and Port Moresby), in Kebar Valley (Vogelkop), on trips from Hollandia and Lae, and in P. Waigeo.

Late 1954 Mr N.W. S i m m o n d s, from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad (see p. 421) when on a world tour collecting Musa species, made an extensive trip accompanied by Mr J.S. W o m e r s l e y. He travelled along the N.coast from the Sepik to Rabaul (New Britain), through the Central Highlands, and in Papua from the Oriomi to Port Moresby and Sogeri. This tour provided ample opportunity for general botanizing; new collections for 1954 amounted to almost 2000 numbers.

Mr J.S. W o m e r s l e y of Lae besides explored the Baiyer River Valley in the western Highlands.

Mr L.J. B r a s s contemplates a new expedition, sponsored by the Archbold Expeditions and the Museum of Natural History New York, starting early April 1956 with two zoologists, to the Islands of Fergusson and Normanby in the d'Entrecasteaux group, and Misima, Sudest and Rossel Islands of the Louisiades; possibly Woodlark Islands will also be visited. Main work will be done on Fergusson Island. Mr B r a s s, whom we wish all possible success with this exploration, expects to be nine months in the field.

Melanesia.

About 1954 Miss L.E. C h e e s e m a n made a collecting tour in the New Hebrides, mainly for zoological purposes.

Pacific.

The National Science Foundation has given a grant to Dr H. St. J o h n for a three year study of the genus Pandanus in the Pacific. He expects to travel in the South Seas middle 1956.