

**VIII. THE PROSEA PROGRAMME
(PLANT RESOURCES OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA)**
(continued from vol. 12, page 363)

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

For PROSEA, internet seems to offer an excellent opportunity to widely distribute and disseminate information on the plant resources of SE Asia. The PROSEA databank contains several very useful databases for PROSEA clientele. As try-outs the following three units are available on internet at: <http://www.proseanet.org>

- BIBWEB, short for bibliography on the web, based on PROSEA's PREPHASE – a unique collection of references to grey literature in the fields of agriculture, forestry and botany from SE Asia. Each record contains a clear indication of the source of publication and the location where the publication can be consulted;
- PHOTWEB, short for photo on the web, based on PROSEA's PHOTFILE – all PROSEA line-drawings and a large collection of photographs of plant species dealt with in the PROSEA handbook. At present it contains more than 10,000 images;
- TEXTWEB, short for text on the web, based on PROSEA's TEXTFILE – the electronic equivalent of the printed PROSEA handbook.

At the 10th PROSEA Board of Trustees Meeting, 20–22 November 2000, Chiang Mai, Thailand, new agreements of cooperation 2001–2005 were signed between the PROSEA Foundation and the participating institutions, but WAG will only participate as full member until the end of 2002. The Board approved the Action Plan 2000–2005 for management and the Project Formulation Framework (2001–2005) useful for fund raising. New members of the Board until 2003 are Dr. P. Siaguru (UNITECH, PNG), Dr. P.S. Faylon (PCARRD, Philippines) and Dr. B. Varasundharosch (TISTR, Thailand).

In a PROSEA slogan contest, to provide PROSEA with a catchy sub-title, the winning entry was proposed by Ms. L. Philip (country officer in Malaysia): PROSEA – THE SUPER-HIGHWAY TO PLANT INFORMATION.

On 25 January 2001, a meeting was held in Bogor, Indonesia, to start a society called FRIENDS OF PROSEA, to help the continuation of PROSEA. The society aims to build friendship among its members, to promote activities in informal education, to build a biodiversity think-tank, to promote the conservation of biodiversity and to raise funds for the purpose. The meeting was opened by Dr. A. Soegiarto, Chairman of the PROSEA Board of Trustees, and it was attended by more than 40 participants representing 5 government Research and Development Centres of the Ministries of Health, Forestry and Agriculture, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), 8 private industries, the PROSEA Network Office, and the PROSEA Country Office Indonesia. It is tried to obtain more industrial members.

The Country Office Indonesia works together with Radio Republik Indonesia and the Gunung Halimun Group to disseminate PROSEA information by a weekly radio programme in the form of a mixture of questions and answers, dialogues and traditional music. Numerous subjects, for example on vegetables, timber trees, legumes, manuring and pruning of fruit trees have been paid already attention to. In this way PROSEA Indonesia really demonstrates the usefulness of PROSEA information to help the rural poor.

One of the projects of the PROSEA Country Office Philippines is 'The Green Thumbs Up' project. Together with the Philippines Science High School a game design contest was conducted in order to learn about plants and their uses and having fun at the same time. Three intellectually challenging board games were the top winners of the contest; all three are considered proto-type PROSEA derived materials, which have the potential to be mass-produced and distributed. For interested persons please contact the Country Office Philippines (e-mail: prosea@ultra.pcarrd.dost.gov.ph).

In the Philippines, also, PROSEA has defined poverty alleviation and livelihood part of its focus directions for the year 2001 and beyond. The task of translating the technical information in the PROSEA databank is the first phase in bridging the gap between PROSEA information and serving actual needs of the poor communities. Slowly but surely this process is being realised, in cooperation with other groups and organisations with the same battle cry.

In Thailand the PROSEA Country Office established a PROSEA database service branch in 4 strategic locations in the country (in libraries or documentation centres): Central Thailand: Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Bangkok Province; Naresuan University, Phisanulok Province; northern Thailand: Chiang Mai University and Maejo University, both Chiang Mai Province; north-eastern Thailand: Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen Province; Suranari University, Nakhon Ratchasima Province; southern Thailand: Prince of Songkhla University, Songkhla Province.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

PROSEA 18: Plants producing exudates. Editors: E. Boer (WAG) & A.B. Ella (UPLB). Coordinator: E. Boer (WAG). Hardbound edition: Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands, 2000, 189 pp. ISBN 90-5782-072-2. Price: EUR c. 57.00. Low price paperback edition: PROSEA, Bogor, Indonesia, 2001. ISBN 979-8316-40-1. Price: USD c. 14.00.

Here it is – the valuable source of information on plant exudates in South-East Asia – read it, and be convinced that exudates are not outdated ... In 15 papers 38 major species are described on 70 pages, 40 minor species are dealt with briefly on 18 pages and some 270 exudate species with another primary use are enumerated. The introduction, dealing with general aspects of exudates, comprises some 30 pages. In addition to the editors, in total about 20 persons contributed directly to this book.

COMMODITY GROUPS PROGRESSES (situation September 2001)

PROSEA 12 (2): Medicinal and poisonous plants 2. Editors: J.L.C.H. van Valkenburg (WAG) & N. Bunyaphatsara (Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand). Coordinator: J.L.C.H. van Valkenburg (WAG).

The manuscript is to the printers and the book will appear end 2001. The number of papers included is 171. In August the sad news reached us that David Holdsworth passed away. For all 3 PROSEA medicinal and poisonous plants subvolumes David was an enthusiastic associate editor (specialist on medicinal plants of PNG and Borneo), stimulating this work right from the beginning in 1996 as member of the Task Force. PROSEA will remember him with gratitude for all his contributions.

PROSEA 12 (3): Medicinal and poisonous plants 3. Editors: R.H.M.J. Lemmens (WAG) & N. Bunyaphatsara (Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand). Coordinator: R.H.M.J. Lemmens (WAG).

Early September 2001, of the c. 314 papers planned, 235 manuscripts had been delivered; about 150 passed one to several editorial rounds, about 65 drawings had been prepared, and another 25 concepts for drawings are available. All parties concerned are convinced that end 2002, 12 (3) will be available as book.

PROSEA 14: Vegetable oils and fats. Editors: H.A.M. van der Vossen (WAG) & B.E. Umali (UPLB). Coordinators: B.E. Umali (UPLB) & L.P.A. Oyen (WAG).

The manuscript is at the printers now and the volume will appear in November 2001. The book contains, in addition to the introduction and other usual chapters, 16 major and 30 minor species or genus papers.

PROSEA 15 (1): Cryptogams: Algae. Editors: W.F. Prud'homme van Reine (L) & G.C. Trono (UPLB). Coordinator: E. Westphal (WAG).

The manuscript of this subvolume went to the printers in August and the book will appear end of October 2001. In addition to the introduction, it contains 70 papers with descriptions of species or genera, without formal distinction of majors and minors as is done in other volumes. A chapter referring to species with other primary use is also missing because algae have been described in this subvolume only and in no other PROSEA book.

PROSEA 15 (2): Cryptogams: Ferns and fern allies. Editors: V.B. Amoroso (Central Mindanao University, Bukidnon, the Philippines) & W. de Winter (Alterra, WAG). Coordinator: P.C.M. Jansen (PROSEA, WAG).

Early September 2001, of the about 60 planned papers, 54 manuscripts were available. Some 30 papers have been partly edited but only 15 had a full editorial round with also a completed drawing. Work is progressing slowly but steadily. A rough first draft of the introduction has been prepared by Mr. de Winter. Publication can be expected end 2002.

PROSEA 15 (3): Cryptogams: Fungi.

At the PROSEA Workshop in November 1999 in Bogor it has been decided that work on the fungi will not get priority and most probably only will continue after the year 2002.

PROSEA 17: Fibre plants. Editors: M. Brink (PROSEA, WAG) & Hasnam (Research and Development Centre for Industrial Crops, Bogor, Indonesia). Coordinator: M. Brink (WAG).

We are happy that the second editor for this volume is also known now. The following persons agreed to become associate editors: Dr. R.P. Escobin, Forest Products Research & Development Institute, College, Laguna, the Philippines; Dr. P.C.M. Jansen, PROSEA Publication Office, Department of Plant Sciences, Wageningen University, Wageningen, the Netherlands; Dr. E. Joyal, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, United States of America; Dr. S. Lisson, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Indooroopilly, Queensland, Australia, and Dr. H.A.M. van der Vossen, Venhuizen, the Netherlands. By early September 2001 first editorial work had been done for about 20 out of the total of 44 papers and 5 drawings had been made. From the c. 150 minors, about 35 have been done. Work is progressing well and publication can be expected in the second half of 2002.

PROSEA 20: Ornamental plants.

At the PROSEA Workshop in November 1999 in Bogor it has been decided that work on the ornamentals will not get priority and most probably only will start after the year 2002.

COMMODITY GROUP CD-ROMs: (EDITORS: ETI/PROSEA/PUDOC)

PROSEA 6: Rattans and PROSEA 7: Bamboos.

The CD-ROM on Rattans and Bamboos is in production and should be ready by the time you read this Bulletin. It has become an attractive product with easy access to all texts and distribution maps, two videos and over 200 colour photographs illustrating the numerous rattan and bamboo species. ISBN 90-75000-19-7. Price: c. EUR 60.00.

For more information on PROSEA Commodity Group CD-ROMs and ordering details, please visit www.eti.uva.nl/products.

Bibliography CD-ROMs: (Editor: PROSEA)

PROSEA 13: Spices (3395 records) & PROSEA 19: Essential oil plants (1018 records). Price: USD 5.00.

The bibliography CD-ROMs are only for sale at the PROSEA offices in SE Asia, particularly at the Network Office in Bogor, Indonesia.

Recommended citation of the whole series of PROSEA books:

Jansen, P.C.M., E. Westphal & N. Wulijarni-Soetjipto (General editors). 1989–2002. *Plant Resources of South-East Asia*. 19 Volumes. Pudoc Scientific Publishers Wageningen, the Netherlands (1989–1994); Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, the Netherlands (1995–2002).