

X. PLAN FOR A FIELD STATION BY THE GUNUNG LEUSER RESERVES
NORTH SUMATRA

Recently a 9-page report was issued as a first step to establish a modest but effective station for all kinds of field work, amid the Gunung Leuser Reserves, on the bank of the Alas River. Some details about these Reserves, which together cover 6500 sq.km, have been sketched on pages 2185 and 2186 of Flora Malesiana Bulletin no. 27. The whole area is exceedingly rich in plant and animal life, and is also geologically interesting and varied. It would be the first station of its kind in Sumatra, situated at about 300 m altitude, with tops of 3000 m and higher within reach.

Little ecological work has been done yet, except on orangutans, but collections of identified material of plants and animals, and publications thereon, are in existence, which means that a basis for further work has been laid. The station will have elementary facilities, like working benches, a basic hand-library, electricity, and a dark-room, but workers should bring their own specific movable equipment.

The site chosen is uninhabited, in view of the primary forest, and can only be reached by crossing the Alas River, which must be done by boat; a steel cable has been projected for greater safety. On the opposite side is a road. Construction of a wooden building for 6 persons on concrete props (perspective drawing added to the plan) can be done under the direction of a missionary. The cost for construction, furniture, equipment, and 5 year maintenance is estimated at 30,000 US dollar; a budget is given in the report. The station should be manned by a local family and operate under a board, in close connection with the Gunung Leuser Committee and Indonesian authorities.

The aim of the report is to awake interest among persons and agencies who might be willing to work there and/or to contribute funds. Indonesian authorities have already expressed interest. A copy of the Report will be sent on request by Dr. M.Jacobs, Rijksherbarium, Schelpenkade 6, Leiden, Netherlands.

CORRECTION — In Fl.Males.Bull. no. 23, page 1696, the occurrence of Dactylocladus was mentioned as a new record for Malaya; this was an inadvertent error for Combretocarpus.