

VII. DATES OF PUBLICATION
(continued from page 2019)

Blume, C. L., Catalogus van gewassen in 's Lands Plantentuin te Buitenzorg. 1823.

'Beschrijving van eenige gewassen' (in Verh. Bat. Genootsch. 9, 1823, p. 129-202).

Both publications are from 1823, and were printed in the Staatsdrukkerij at Batavia. The archives at The Hague and Djakarta yielded no exact dates of publishing. The preface of the Catalogus is dated Feb. 3, 1823 (l.c. p.[27]). In the Verhandelingen a meeting of Oct. 7, 1823 is covered (see p. xxv). It seems reasonable to assume that the Catalogus antedates the paper in the Verhandelingen.

In the first publication the tree Swietenia sureni Bl. is described on p. 72, while in the latter the same tree is under the name Cedrela febrifuga Bl. In the Verhandelingen on p. 134, first paragraph, Blume says that Prof. Reinwardt had remained uncertain about the classification of 'surèn' (the common Javanese name) because he had no fruit at his disposal. He then continues in the second paragraph on the same page: "I was for these reasons pleased to obtain fruits of this very tall tree, but attempts to secure flowers remained fruitless for a long time. In examining the fruit I believed to recognize surèn as a species of Swietenia; but an examination of the flowers has now (underlined by me, v.St.) convinced me that this is a Cedrela, a genus which merely differs from Swietenia in the smaller number of stamens which are in the latter connate in a tube, but are not connate in Cedrela." (transl.). These remarks confirm the earlier publication of the Catalogus.

Also Hasskarl mentioned (Flora 8¹, 1825, p. 139) that Dr. Blume "seine Cedrela früher als Swietenia Sureni bekannt gemacht hat."

We must conclude that E.D. Merrill rightly used the epithet 'sureni' in Toona sureni (Bl.) Merrill.

Steenis, C. G. G. J. van, The Mountain Flora of Java.

Published and distributed 3 November 1972. New names are Bulbophyllum bakhuizenii Steen., Gaultheria fragrantissima Wall. ssp. punctata (Bl.) Steen., Justicia obtusa (Nees) Steen., and Justicia smeruensis (Brem.) Steen.

Flora Malesiana. Volume 6, part 6 (concluding volume 6) and volume 7, part 2, were published and distributed 14 December 1972.

Verh. Batav. Genootsch. Kunsten en Wetenschappen. This periodical is of very limited importance for taxonomy, with a few exceptions (see e.g. in this chapter under Blume). It started as early as 1779, and was printed at the Landsdrukkerij (government printer) at Batavia. It was originally issued in a rather limited number, not sufficient to meet the demand in the Netherlands, because of the high costs. Also, at the time, engraving was not yet practised in Java. This was the reason that volumes 1-4 were reprinted in Amsterdam/Rotterdam, 1781-1786, as is evident from a letter dated May 1, 1779 (see T.H. der Kinderen, 'Het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen gedurende de eerste eeuw van zijn bestaan 1778-1878. Gedenkboek', Batavia, Bijlage H, p. xxxi-xxxii). The first volume to be reprinted was a corrected copy of the Batavian edition, while the remark was made that occasionally drawings would be sent for engraving and insertion for the 'improvement' of the Batavian edition.

Some of the earlier volumes were again reprinted in 1825-27, e.g. volume 5, in which Noronha described his Altingia and Rhangas (1790, repr. 1827).

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A PIECE OF HIS MIND - I

"Neither physicists nor mathematicians seem much interested in reality. Their concern is with probability, whereas the biologist cannot detach himself from the quest for reality. His problem is this reality and how it has come into existence, not whether it is highly probable, or rather improbable, that Lactoris occurs only in the Juan Fernandez Islands, or that drought plants in Africa predominantly tend to succulence but in Australia tend to reduce their leaf size; that whales, pitcher plants, orang utans do exist at all, or had to come into existence, while a trilobite or dinosaur had to vanish.

Biologists will not be able to solve these questions, but handling them requires a different sort of approach than the 'models' of physicists and mathematicians, which to us are simplistic, and to my mind inadequate as a way to deeper insight."

C.G.G.J. van Steenis, Overdenkingen (Reflexions),
farewell address 1972.