

IX. SYMPOSIA, CONGRESSES, SOCIETIES, MEETINGS
(continued from page 167)

NOTE TO ORGANIZERS:

Please submit your announcement to this Bulletin as early as possible! Several made here were received too late for interested readers to make use of. After the event please send a summary of the doings, and/or the Proceedings, if any.

A symposium titled Origin and evolution of the Australian alpine biota was held at Thredbo in the Snowy Mountains not far from Canberra in February 1985. It was sponsored by the Australian Systematic Botany Society, but speakers from the fields of zoology and the earth sciences were also invited. As the title indicated there was a substantial input from New Zealand as well. The proceedings have been edited by the current president, Dr. B.A. BARLOW, and may have been issued at about the time of the present publication.

The Third International Round table Conference on Dipterocarps (see p. 166), a short report:

The hosts, the Mulawarman University and the International Working Group on Dipterocarpaceae can look back on a successful event. The conference was attended by many biologists and students of forestry, especially from the region. After the opening ceremony on 16 April 1985 with a remark by the governor of East Kalimantan and a keynote address by the Indonesian Minister of Forestry sessions were held for the rest of the week. Among the many subjects were Forest composition and structure; Systematic problems in dipterocarps; Dynamics and regeneration; Reproductive biology, germination and propagation; Soil properties and microbiology; Forest recovery after perturbation (mainly devoted to the effects of the forest fires in Kalimantan and Sabah); Tree and forest management. Excursions were made to the University's forest plot in Lempake, which was not entirely destroyed by the fires, and to the Bukit Suharto Protection Forest. In the latter a good impression of a primary dipterocarp rain forest (e.g. with Vatica scaphifolia, see Progress) could be obtained in the few hectares that have survived the fires and illegal logging (of the 19,000 ha $\pm$ 80% has been destroyed). Along the road between Samarinda and Bukit Suharto (halfway to Balikpapan) there were nothing but dead trees as far as one could see, and a secondary vegetation with much Callicarpa, Gleichenia, Melastoma, Musa, and Vitex covered the soil. The proceedings are due to be published about a year after the conference. — H.P. Nooteboom.

The First International Symposium in conjunction with the Award of the International Prize for Biology was held during 16—18 November 1985 in Tokyo. The subject was 'Modern aspects of species' and Dr. PH. RAVEN, Dr. F. EHRENDORFER and Dr. L.D. GOTTLIEB were invited botanists from abroad in addition to Dr. E.H.J. CORNER, the winner of the prize. The proceedings are now in preparation and will be issued in due course.

The Training course on research methodology in plant taxonomy in Bogor (2 September — 19 October 1985). Just as in many other countries the science of taxonomy is of little esteem in Indonesia and students at the Universities get little more than the bare rudiments. Thereby a downgoing spiral is started: 'badly learned, worse taught', and young scientists at the various institutes have an insufficient background for the job they are supposed to do. This has long been felt to be a very unsatisfactory situation.

At the State University of Leiden over the years a course in advanced angiosperm taxonomy has been developed by Dr. J.F. VELDKAMP and Dr. R. GEESINK (L) which has practical aims: to teach students in a short time how to set up revisionary work, how to work with and prepare descriptions, keys, and to show the basics of nomenclature. The course has been set up so that even non-biologists afterwards have a good idea of how taxonomy works.

In casual discussions over the past years between senior staff members of the LBN and L it had been remarked that it would be so nice if Indonesian staff members could do this course, but, well, there were always some small matters like money, language and time, which prevented the execution of such a venture.

Then, however, because of a cultural agreement between Indonesia and the Netherlands money was found. Most of it was to be provided through the LBN. Arrangements could then be made quickly and an adapted course was developed. A manual of about 250 pages was prepared which may perhaps be published by UNESCO, Indonesia.

The Leiden team consisted of Dr. M.M.J. VAN BALGOOY, Dr. R. GEESINK, Dr. C. KALKMAN, and Dr. E.F. DE VOGEL. Dr. J.F. VELDKAMP, who took an active part in the preparation, could not attend due to family matters. The Indonesian staff consisted of Ms. Dr. S. SASTRAPADJA and Ms. Dr. E. WIDJAJA and Mssrs. Dr. K. KARTAWINATA, Dr. M. RIFAI and Mr. H. WIRIADINATA.

Participants were for the LBN: Ms. T. DJARWANINGSIH, N. M. RAHAYU, S. RUGAYAH, D. SULISTIARINI, S. SUNARTI, N. UTAMI and Mssrs. U.W. MAHYAR and B. SUNARNO. From other institutes came Ms. T. HADIJATI (UNSUD, Purwokerto), Mssrs. A. ACHMAD (UNHAS, Ujung Pandang), A. BASRUKIJADI (UI, Jakarta), M. DJAJADISASTRA (UNPAD, Bandung), Ir. M. NATASAPUTRA (IPB, Bogor) and PURNOMO (UGM, Yogyakarta).

The course consisted of subjects in general theoretical aspects of and around plant taxonomy, e.g. classification, cladistics, geography, nature conservation, and practical ones, e.g. terminology, phytography, nomenclature, identifications of living and dried material, techniques in collecting, preparation and labeling, the paper foundation for revisions, all culminating in small research subjects on which papers had to be handed in at the end of the course. These subjects had previously already been tried out on Dutch advanced students and the Indonesian participants did equally well. It is intended to join the results together and prepare them for publication. (See also under Progress).

Some field work was done in the Lengkong area, G. Salak and G. Halimun.

Notwithstanding the initial language barriers the course turned out to be a great success. An example of the dedication with which the work was done is that several participants wished to continue their work after closing hours and even in the week-ends. All concerned found the course most valuable and the LBN intended to develop courses in other sciences on a similar base.

For the next year small projects have been devised to be done by some of the Indonesian participants on their own under the distant guidance of the Dutch

ones. The knowledge gained can thus be applied practically. It is hoped that mutual visits will take place after a year or so to check on the results and hopefully more often in the future to keep the ties between the LBN and the Rijksherbarium well knit.

A 3-day symposium on The systematic status of large flowering plant genera was held in the first week of February 1986 in Thredbo, New South Wales, organized by the Australian Systematic Botany Society and sponsored by the Australian Academy of Sciences. A limited number of ca. 50 invited participants attended. Obviously Acacia and Eucalyptus featured prominently.

A 3-day symposium entitled Evolution and systematics of Australia's tropical flora will be held in August 1986 in Brisbane by the Australian Systematic Botany Society and the Ecological Society of Australia. Dr. P.S. ASHTON will be the keynote speaker.

Symposium tropical botany: practice and principles. 28 September — 4 October 1986, Zeist, The Netherlands. To be held on the occasion of the celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the University of Utrecht and the retirement of F.A. STAFLEU from the chair of Systematic Botany at this University. Special attention will be given to the Neotropics in view of the long tradition of involvement of the Utrecht University in Neotropical Botany.

The Second Conference on the Palaeo-environment of East Asia will be held between January 9—14, 1987, at the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong. Participants must have been registered by the Secretary, Dr. E.K.Y. CHEN, before September 30, 1986. The registration fee is US\$ 150.00, which includes a reception, a banquet and lunches, must have been received by August 31, 1986.

Reports of progress on the many projects of the First Conference (January 1983) will be given; new projects started in the past 4 years will be described; planning for future collaboration and interchange between the various countries in and outside the area will be facilitated. Some 25 scientists from China have already indicated their wish to attend offering papers in their disciplines.

8—11 June 1987: International workshop on reproductive ecology of tropical forest plants. Bangi, Malaysia. Further information: Division of Ecological Sciences, UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, F-75700 Paris, France.

XIV Botanical Congress. Berlin-Dahlem, 24 July — 1 August 1987.

Systematic Botany will be convened by Dr. W. GREUTER (B). Presentation of contributed papers will be by abstracts or posters only. There will be general lectures at lunch time as well as public lectures in the evenings. Upon request opportunity will be provided for workshops, discussion groups and meetings of international associations. The meetings of the Bureau of Nomenclature will be held during the preceding week, 20–24 July. Pre- and post-Congress scientific field trips will be arranged to North, South and Central Europe. The full registration fee is DM 500.00 if timely announced; later it will be substantially more! English will be the official language.

XVI Pacific Science Congress. The National Academy of Sciences, Seoul, South Korea, is the originator of this Congress to be held from 10 to 20 August, 1987. The main theme will be 'New dimensions in science, manpower, and resources in the Pacific', which will be introduced in three interdisciplinary symposia: 'Development of science and technology for the Pacific countries', 'Population and food for the Pacific Basin', and 'Perspectives on the major resources of the Pacific region'. For further information write to: Organizing Committee, XVI Pacific Science Congress, Seoul, 1987, KPO Box 1008, Seoul 110, Korea.

More details may also be found in the APS Newsletters.

Date unknown yet: International Pteridology Symposium, National Herbarium of China to celebrate Professor R.-C. Ching's 90th birthday. Further information: Prof. K.H. Shing, Herbarium, Hortus Botanicus Pekinensis, Instituti Botanici Academiae Sinicae, Xingshan, Beijing, China.