

VI. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

(cntd from p.424)

Akademi Biologi, Bogor. The Indonesian Government is anxious to develop training in biology; the failure of the University of Bandung Faculty to achieve this (due to shortage in staff personnel) has necessitated making temporary use of the personnel of the Kebun Raya Indonesia towards this goal. With freedom of choice and with an extra-allowance, a number of staff members of K.R.I. has agreed to give each a few lectures at the Akademi Biologi, Bogor. The course is intended to last 3 years, when a degree can be obtained which is in standing assumed to be slightly under a bachelor's degree. Personnel thus raised will be partly required for the Gardens, partly for teaching purposes in secondary schools; each year a few excellent students will be selected to go abroad for special training in scientific botany or zoology. Out of 300 candidates 30 have been selected. They are accomodated temporarily in the buildings of Tjibodas mountain gardens where lessons are given. Oct.10, 1955, the Akademi Biologi was officially installed by H.E. the Vice-President Dr Moh. H a t t a, and the Minister of Agriculture H.E. Moh. S a r d j a n.

Buitenzorg Fund. Dr H.P. B o t t e l i e r, Utrecht University, who had been awarded the grant of the Netherlands Buitenzorg Fund for 1954 has, on the invitation of the Indonesian Government, prolonged his half year's stay and has acted as Professor of Botany in the Faculty of Agriculture at Bogor for an additional year; he returned to Holland Jan. 1956.

The grant for 1956 has been awarded to Dr P. V e r m e u l e n, of the Hugo de Vries Laboratory, Amsterdam; he intends to go to Bogor about June 1956. Dr Vermeulen is specially interested in Orchidaceae and has agreed to revise Apostasiaceae for the Flora Malesiana.

Catalogue of plants grown in Kebun Raya Indonesia. A committee has been established by the director, Prof, K u s n o t o, to compile a revised catalogue of the Gardens (the former one dating from 1930, published as Suppl. vol. 1 of the Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg). Mr J. D o u g l a s,

Curator of the Gardens, is in charge of this undertaking; there is full co-operation with Herbarium Bogoriense and other services.

Ebenaceae of Malaysia. The monograph of the ebony species by the late Mr R.C. B a k h u i z e n v a n d e n B r i n k Sr is now completed with the plates, the delay in publishing these being due to the war. This atlas represents the fifth part of Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg series III, volume 15 (Jan. 1955, p. i-xix, t. 1-92).

Herbarium Bogoriense. Prof. K u s n o t o and Mr Anwar D i l m y have succeeded in raising Government funds for a substantial repair of the roof of one of the buildings of the Herbarium Bogoriense; an attempt was made to interest the Ford Foundation for a modern air-conditioned Herbarium building which is so urgently needed in moist tropical countries.

The Botanic Garden "Setia Mulia" at Padang Tinggi, West-coast of Sumatra, has been officially opened Sept. 8, 1955 (cf. p.413).

Flora of Japan. The National Science Foundation, Washington, has granted money for the translation into English of Dr J. O h w i 's Flora of Japan, publ. 1953, Tokyo, in Japanese. The new edition will contain also a treatment of the Pteridophytes, a chronology of plant collectors in Japan, and a map.

The Timor problem. A Geographical Interpretation of an Underdeveloped Island by F.J. O r m e l i n g. "The Timor problem consists of an avalanche of closely related subjects. The majority ... emanate from a combination of factors -- unfavorable physical conditions, simple technologies, and a social setting which impedes progress and modernization -- and result in an alarming agrarian situation, marked by malnutrition and soil erosion." 247 pp. illustrations, maps. J.B. Wolters, Djakarta, Groningen, 1955.

Canberra Herbarium. At Canberra, Land Survey Section of C.S.I.R.O., a small building has been erected to house the New Guinea Herbarium; Mr C h r i s t i a n, Head of the Section, is to be congratulated on this achievement which will be significant as a centralizing effort facilitating efficient work.

Roxburgh's specimens are to be found in a number of herbaria, but no one institution seems to have a complete set. Whenever possible Roxburgh had coloured drawings made of the plants he described and they total over 2500. One

set of these drawings is at Kew. Hitherto the plates were scattered through the general collection of drawings but in 1954 they were extracted by Miss W h i t i n g and brought together. They are now being checked, and it is hoped eventually to publish a list of them together with references to the copy of Roxburgh's manuscripts of this Flora Indica, which is at Kew.

North American Flora. The first series of this work has been discontinued. It was in a systematical order which has apparently been a handicap towards its progress for the same reasons as Fl. Mal. is issued in order of opportunity (cf. Fl. Mal. I, 4, 1948, xi-xii) and that of Madagascar and Tropical East Africa.

The second series will be composed of parts, each devoted to an order, family, or smaller group and complete with bibliography and index, but not in a prescribed taxonomic sequence. Parts will appear at irregular intervals as manuscript is available. They will vary in size; the price will depend upon the number of pages. The New York Garden will publish the series with the aid of the David Lydig Fund; the editorial committee consists of H.W. R i c k e t t, D.P. R o g e r s, and D.D. K e c k.

The first part of the new series (p. 1-36) contained the Tuberales: Geneaceae, Tuberaceae, and Terfeziaceae. The 2nd part (Dec. 1955) the Compositae-Heliantheae-Coreopsidinae by E.E. S h e r f f & E.J. A l e x a n d e r covering pp. 1-149, with a bibliography by Dr R i c k e t t and an index.

Catalogue of the Sloane Herbarium. Dr D a n d y, working most of the time at the Tring Museum, is engaged in the compilation of a catalogue of this most precious British Museum collection.

Pittosporum and Colocasia in Australasia. Mr Robert C o o p e r of the Auckland Institute and Museum has prepared a thesis on the Australasian species of Pittosporum under supervision of Prof. W o o d s o n, Missouri Botanical Gardens, to be published in the Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. He is at present studying the Polynesian forms of Colocasia antiquorum (taro) including those of New Caledonia and Queensland. It is one of the important food plants of the Polynesian and Melanesian Islands.

International Association of Botanical Gardens. Following the resolution of the 8th Int. Bot. Congr. at Paris towards better contacts and closer co-operation between botanical gardens, possibly as an international Association,

Dr K.N. K a u l, Lucknow, and Mr J.W. P u r s e g l o v e, Singapore, were the representatives chosen for the tropical zone. Mr Kaul visited Singapore and had then a conference in Indonesia, Aug. 26 at Tjibodas Garden with the director and staff of the Kebun Raya Indonesia. Many suggestions were put forward among which exchange of material, personnel, etc.

Resistance of Woods to Marine Borers in Hawaiian Waters by C.H. E d m o n d s o n (B.P.Bish.Museum Bulletin 217). Results of the reaction of 351 woods to marine borers in Hawaiian waters, appraisal being made after submergence of test blocks for intervals ranging from a few months to more than six years. The probable causes of resistance in woods are discussed. Included are woods from Hawaii, north, central and south America, Caribbean area, Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Philippines, Fiji, Samoa, etc.

Flora of China Project. At the Arnold Arboretum Herbarium Dr Shiu-Ying H u supervised the work of Dr L i u and Dr T i n g. Together they have continued indexing of Chinese plants and the preparation of a card file to record the Chinese vegetation. Dr Hu and Dr Liu together have completed a treatment of the Malvaceae of China (J. Arn. Arb. 36, 1955, 421).

Botanical collections in China. Dr W. R o t h m a l e r has given a short account of the personnel and contents of the main Herbaria in China (Taxon 4, 1955, 20-21).

Kerr's Siamese collections are incorporated in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) Botany Department, except for the orchids and orchid paintings which are at Kew.

Forest Resources map of Malaya. The Survey Department of the Federation of Malaya has edited as map no 122 (1954) a map of Malaya in colours scale: 1:750.000 of forest resources. Indicated are: forest resources below 1000 feet, mangrove reserves, forest resources over 1000 feet, all other land over 1000 feet, rubber, coconut, oil palm and miscellaneous other cultivation, pineapple and rice, mining land, coast deposits and alluvium, proposed forest reserves, game reserves. A very useful map, which can also be used to locate place names.

Map of East New Guinea. Through the courtesy of Mr W o m e r s l e y and Dr H o o g l a n d we received a copy of a most useful map scale 1:2½ mill. well filled with names of places and provided with an index of names! Compiled

and drawn for the Department of Territories of the National Mapping Office, Department of the Interior, Canberra A.C.T. (1954). It includes also New Britain and most of the Solomon Islands.

Edible Plants. Prof. T. T a n a k a, Osaka, is working hard on writing a supplement to Sturtevant's Notes on Edible Plants.

Royal Physical Society (Kon. Natuurk. Vereniging), Java. Aug. 1955 the Society was liquidated and converted into a Foundation for Natural Sciences. The Foundation has obtained a new, modern building of its own at Bandung in which will be housed the very valuable library which has been rebound and rehabilitated through the diligence of the Botanic Gardens, Bogor.

Ninth Pacific Science Congress. The Science Society of Thailand, host organization for the 9th Pac. Sc. Congress of the Pacific Science Association, has announced the appointment of Nai B o o n Indrambarya as Assistant Secretary General of the Congress. Nai Boon is Director General of Fisheries in Thailand. The Congress is scheduled for January 1958 in Bangkok.

Experimental taxonomy in Brazil. During Dr C l a u - s e n 's visit to South America several Brazilian biologists expressed interest in establishing an experimental program on evolutionary differentiation in plants in a tropical region. The project was discussed informally among biologists from Rio de Janeiro and the state of Sao Paulo on an excursion to Mount Itatiaia on the border between the two states and at the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro. Plans were laid for the start of an investigation of selected groups of plants along a transect from Mount Itatiaia eastward toward the Atlantic coast, to be patterned after the investigations of the Carnegie Institute, Washington in Central California. In addition to its significance in relation to basic science, it was believed that such a program eventually might be of value in connection with the utilization and conservation of Brazil's natural resources. (Carnegie Inst. Wash. Yearbook no 53, for 1953-1954, p. 147-148).

Humid Tropics Research. The General Conference of UNESCO at its 8th session, held in Montevideo, Nov. 1954, has authorized the coordination of research on scientific problems relating to the humid tropical zone and to promote international or regional measures to expand such research.

By kind invitation of the Government of Ceylon this meeting will be held at the University of Ceylon, Colombo, March 22-24, 1956. Unesco is convening this preparatory meeting of specialists in humid tropics research to discuss reports and to determine what action can be taken by Unesco to promote research on these problems.

Index nominum genericorum. A first set of 1000 cards has been distributed and in Taxon 4, p. 213-216 the editors Dr. L a n j o u w and Dr. S t a f l e u have elucidated the principles along which this index is prepared.

The ANZAAS conference took place at Melbourne Aug. 1955; among the exhibits of the Wood Product Section of CSIRO an exhibit was made of Nothofagus.

Rockefeller grant for Marine Biology. Rockefeller Foundation has given the University of California \$ 1,000,000 for the support of research in marine biology at the University's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Cal. The grant will be expended over an 8-year period and will be used to strengthen present research projects and initiate new ones. A visiting professorship and four resident professorships will be established, in addition to several graduate fellowships and post-doctoral fellowships. Plans also include improvements in laboratory equipment and facilities and greater use of the University's fleet of five ships for experimental work on marine plants and animals in the open sea.

18th International Geographical Congress. Rio de Janeiro Aug. 9-18, 1956. The first circular for this Congress was dated Dec. 1954. Executive secretary is H. O' R. S t e r n - b e r g, Centro de Pesquisas de Geografia do Brasil. Av. Pres. Antonio Carlos 40. 9^o andar. Rio de Janeiro, D.F. In section V, Biogeography, there are numerous subjects of interest: zonation of tropical mountain plants, vegetation forms of tropical islands, correlation of vegetation types on different continents in the tropical regions, origin of tropical and subtropical grasslands, soil-plant relations in the tropics, etc.etc. Only Congress members (\$ 20.US) are entitled to submit papers. A topic for one plenary session will be the problem of grasslands in tropical regions. There will be a number of excursions.

Plantae Vidalianae. Dr. E. Q u i s u m b i n g of the National Museum, Manila, reports that during a visit to Europe and the United States in 1954 he found in the basement

of the Herbarium of Madrid, Jardin Botanico, 176 bundles of plants collected by Sebastian Vidal in the Philippines prior to 1886. The bundles appear to have been untouched since Vidal deposited them. Vidal's Revision de Plantas Vasculares de Filipinas, published in Manila in 1886, includes only 2,000 numbers of the 4,062 numbers recorded in his lists and notes. Plants belonging to the 2001-4062 numbers were found in the 11 bundles studied by Dr Quisumbing. Many of the names used by Vidal in his Revision are no longer valid and Dr Quisumbing hopes, if opportunity affords him to study the collection found in Madrid, to publish Plantae Vidalianae, including nomenclatural changes and discussion of the 2,000 numbers also.

Flora of the Philippines. The only published flora of the Philippines is that of Blanco in 1837, based on only 450 species. Dr E. D. Merrill's Enumeration of Philippine Flowering Plants in four volumes, was published in 1923 and serves as the basis for any Philippine flora. Since 1923 thousands of species have been added to the Philippine flora. Dr E. Quisumbing spent considerable time with Dr Merrill in 1954, collating his own and Dr Merrill's notes on the Enumeration, and hopes to be able eventually, after further work at Harvard and in European herbaria, to prepare the text for a Flora of the Philippines.

Standing committee on Pacific Botany of the Pacific Science Association.

1. Subcommittee on Medicinal Plants. The chairman, Prof. Ir Kusnoto Setyodiwiryo, reports that the members of the subcommittee in Indonesia held their first meeting March 28-29, 1955, in the Hortus Medicus of the Ministry of Health, Tawangmangu, Central Java.

As a result of this meeting the members in Indonesia have established an association called "Lembaga Tanam2an Obat2an" (Institution for the Study of Medicinal Plants). This institution will be incorporated in the "Madjelis Ilmu Pengetahuan Nasional" (National Council of Sciences). The internal organization of this "Lembaga" is as follows:
President: Prof. R. Soetarman, Head, Institute for Physiology, Medical Faculty, Djakarta; Vice-President: Dr E. Locho, Pharmacist, Department of Pharmacy, Djakarta; Secretary-General: Dr R. Hartono, Pharmacist, Department of Pharmacy, Djakarta; Members: Dr A. J. Darman, Lecturer, Institute for Physiology and Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Bogor, and Mr A. Dilmy, Acting Keeper, Herbarium Bogoriense, Bogor.

In order to achieve an effective research group, an executive committee has been set up, consisting of representatives in all fields connected with the study of medicinal plants. The committee is as follows: Chairman: Dr E. Looho; Secretary: Dr R. Hartono; Members: Mr Nazar Nur, for cultivation methods, Mr A. Dilmy, for botanical determination and identification of plants, Ir Adnan Kusuma, for standardization of the plants in pharmaceuticals, determination of active principles, Dr A.J. Darman, for pharmacological evaluation, Prof. Dr A.M. Ernst, for toxicological assays, and chemotherapeutical experiments, Prof. Dr R. Soetarman, for clinical research, Ir J.A. Nijholt, for pilot plant investigation and industrial manufacturing of the drugs.

Indonesia is represented in the Sub-Committee on Medicinal Plants by this Lembaga Tanam2an Obat2an. It has been considered ineffective to combine the chairmanship of the Sub-Committee with that of the Lembaga. It has therefore been decided to separate these two functions and to commit them to two different persons.

A copy of the announcement of the Lembaga has been sent to all the members of the Sub-Committee in the various member countries of the Pacific Science Association. It is Professor Kusnoto's hope that, as far as it has not yet been done, the members in the various countries will take steps to organize a similar institution in their respective countries.

2. Sub-Committee on Botanical Bibliography. Dr H.E. Walker, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, reports present membership, comments received from members on bibliographic needs and problems and work in progress, and summarizes this information to form a preliminary and tentative list of Pacific botanical bibliographic work presently being attempted.

Copies of this report, 13 pages mimeographed, may be obtained from the Pacific Science Association, Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu 17, Hawaii.

3. Sub-Committee on Common Names of Pacific Plants. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Dr Mona Lisa Steiner, reports that the Sub-Committee will compile common names of plants in the various regions in the Pacific basin together with their scientific equivalents. Only plant names which are in active use are going to be included. It is hoped this enumeration of plant names and their respective localities will come out in the form of a dictionary, at least partially complete, for the Ninth Pacific Science Congress in January 1958.

The Pacific basin has been divided into the following areas: Malay Peninsula, Mr J. Wyatt-Smith; Borneo, Celebes, Mr H.G. Keith; Philippines and Taiwan, the chairman; Micronesia, Dr F. Fosberg; Melanesia, Mr B.E.V. Parham; Polynesia, Miss Marie Neal; North Australia, Miss N. Burbidge. The chairman has asked botanists to help in New Guinea and Mexico and enquiries have been made for the names of people able to help in Central America.

A list of the common foodplants found in the Philippines has been prepared and sent around to all the members. Each member can either work directly or assign a collaborator for a certain subject. The following projects are being prepared in the Philippines: a list of forest trees, one of weeds and forage plants, one of ornamentals, and one of medicinal plants. Dr Felipe Salvosa is taking care of the first, Mr Demetrio Mendoza of the second and the chairman of the third.

The only solution to this difficult problem of common names appears to be standardization within each country or language unit. This may eventually be accomplished by compilation of the names in common use, which is what this Subcommittee is trying to do.