

## INTRODUCTION

This is the final volume of the series Pacific Plant Areas, initiated by the former director of the Rijksherbarium, Dr. H.J. Lam, during the sixth Pacific Science Congress at Berkeley, USA, in 1939. Lam became the chairman of the subsection Pacific Plant Areas in 1953. The actual start of the project did not take place until 1958 when Dr. C.G.G.J. van Steenis took over the chairmanship of Dr. Lam, whom he was also later to succeed as director of the Rijksherbarium.

The first volume published in 1963 by the National Institute of Science and Technology in Manila consisted of an extensive Bibliography of Pacific plant maps, scrupulously compiled by Mrs. M. J. van Steenis-Kruseman and 26 maps and text prepared by the general editor, Professor van Steenis.

Since then the subcommittee Pacific Plant Areas imperceptibly vanished into thin air but the project was adopted by the Rijksherbarium. The second volume under joint editorship of Dr. van Steenis and myself appeared in 1966. It contained, apart from a supplement bibliography by Mrs. van Steenis, 146 maps mainly compiled by myself.

Unfortunately, since then Pacific Plant Areas has become too much of a one-man job and as the time I could spend on the project became more and more limited, the third volume did not appear until 1975. It contained another supplement bibliography by Mrs. van Steenis and 69 new maps.

Volume 4 was published in 1984, containing a third supplement bibliography and 79 new maps.

The present volume contains a fourth supplement bibliography and 47 new maps (with accompanying text for 52 numbered taxa: nrs. 324–375). Some maps actually cover more than one taxon; for example, nr. 324 shows the distribution of the family *Alseuosmiaceae*, but also that of its three genera, *Alseuosmia*, *Crispiloba* and *Wittsteinia*. Some taxa are combined on one map, for example nrs. 331–333.

Furthermore, I have listed the most important additions and corrections to maps and texts published in the previous four volumes.

In 1971 I published "Plant geography of the Pacific based on the distribution of Phanerogam genera" with a list of all genera then known to occur in the Pacific basin. This list in the meantime has become obsolete through the many new records, changing taxonomic concepts, etc. A new list is presented here, which, albeit less detailed than the one published previously, provides students of Pacific botany with a more up-to-date basic list.

The manuscript for the present volume was finished in May 1992.

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