

REVIEW

Malayan Naturalist 43, nrs. 1 & 2: Conservation and Utilization of Malaysian Palms. November 1989. Many black-and-white photographs. Malayan Nature Society, P.O. Box 10750, 50724 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Price M\$ 4.00 for members; M\$ 10.00 for non-members.

The first three chapters deal with the conservation status of Malaysian Palms in respectively Peninsular Malaysia (by R. Kiew), Sabah (by J. Dransfield & D. Johnson), and Sarawak (by K. Pearce).

R. KIEW gives a geographic description of the region, a very short account of the palm flora, a paragraph on threats to survival and changes in the list of The Conservation Status of Peninsular Malaysian Indigenous Palms (1987) by Kiew & Dransfield. In Appendix 1 a revised version of this list is given. Table 1 gives a list of endangered palms in Peninsular Malaya. Threatened palms occurring in protected places are dealt with in a general and some special sections. Also a list of Malaysian species cultivated in botanic gardens is given.

J. DRANSFIELD & D. JOHNSON give, after a small introduction, a list of the Conservation Status of Palms in Sabah.

K. PEARCE again starts with a geographic Description of the Region, followed by an account of the palm flora, a Checklist of Indigenous Palms of Sarawak and Their Conservation Status (also giving local names). Sections on threats to palms, the conservation status of palms, and threatened palms in botanic gardens, public parks and private collections are included.

After the chapters on conservation status a nice chapter 'Nature Notes' is given by R. KIEW and G.W.H. DAVISON, with sections on epiphylls, epiphytes, litter trapping species, palm-ant relations, fungi, palms as source of food for animals, palms as living space for animals, and conclusions.

The last two chapters, by R. KIEW and K.G. PEARCE, respectively, deal with Utilization of Palms, in Peninsular Malaysia and in Sarawak. They give a wealth of information indeed, also on the economic aspects of the utilization. Palms are used for such different items as for making cigarette paper, sugar and alcohol, salt, building fish traps and bridges, weaving mats, hats, and baskets, and of some the fruits are eaten. The commercial value of rattans, by no means of little importance, is discussed. Also a section of palms used in villages is added.

In the chapter of PEARCE photographs are given of the many ways of using weaved rattan as baskets, chair seats, mats, hats, etc. This issue of the Malayan Naturalist is a very useful source of knowledge of palms and their uses, as well as their conservation status in Malaysia.

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