

V. HERBARIA, GARDENS, ORGANIZATIONS

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5th International Flora Malesiana Symposium, Cairns / Sydney, 2001 Australia

Organizing Committee: Dr. B.J. Conn, Mr. L.A. Craven, Mr. J.R. Croft, Dr. A. Hay (co-chair), Dr. R.P.J. de Kok, Dr. D.J. Mabberley, Dr. J.G. West (co-chair), Dr. P.G. Wilson.

The Symposium & Mid-Conferences Tours will be held at and near the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney between 9–14 September 2001. They will be preceded by Associated Workshops & Tours in tropical Queensland between 2–7 September, based in Cairns.

Papers and posters on the following topics are invited:

- Systematics and Taxonomy of Malesian vascular plants
- Biogeography – both within Malesia and on relationships with surrounding regions
- Non-vascular Plants – overviews of biodiversity and evolution of Malesian groups
- Ecology – especially role/impact of fire in wet and dry forests; plant-fungal interactions
- Ethnobotany
- User and Stakeholder perspectives on Malesian plant systematics and the Flora Malesiana project – views from outside the systematics community.

Suggested topics for the Sydney Workshops include:

- Malesian Plant Families – with currently active research teams
- Malesian Plant Families – needing to be started or accelerated
- Ethnobotany
- Local floras
- The Flora Malesiana Website User
- Stakeholder perspectives on generating and delivering biodiversity information.

Suggested topics for associated field-based workshops in tropical Queensland include:

- Training in Interactive Computer Identification Systems
- Lauraceae – systematics, biogeography and ecology Ethnobotany.

The following Tours are being organized:

- Pre-conference tours in tropical Queensland, to wet and dry forests
- mid-conference tour in Sydney's region.

See <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.gov.au/fm/fm.html>, where you can also register for the Second Circular.

The Ethnobotanical Conservation Organization for South East Asia (ECO-SEA), was established in 1998 and is headquartered in Northern California. ECO-SEA is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the collaborative study and active preservation of native Southeast Asian plants and customs through conservation education, ethnobotanical research and institutional strengthening. The directors are currently involved in collaborative activities with researchers in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Individuals or institutions interested in affiliating with ECO-SEA are welcome to contact the Executive Director, Jeanine Pfeiffer at PO Drawer 1710, Davis, California, 95617 USA. Tel./Fax: +1 530 758 1716. E-mail: jpfeiffer@ecosea.org or visit the ECO-SEA website at <http://www.ecosea.org>

The Ethnobotany and Conservation of Indonesia's Native Fruits, a new 3-year collaborative study organized by the Ethnobotanical Conservation Organization for South East Asia (ECO-SEA), will begin July 1999. The first phase involves scientists from the Herbarium Bogoriense and the Indonesian Botanic Gardens (Kebun Raya Indonesia) and researchers from the University of California at Davis and the Strybing Arboretum (San Francisco, California) in association with the Kempo Manggarai ethnic group of Western Flores. Later phases will involve other regions and ethnic communities in Indonesia. The research is sponsored in part by the University Research Expeditions Program of the University of California and by the Fulbright Commission of the United

States. Interested parties can contact the team leader, Jeanine Pfeiffer, at PO Drawer 1710, Davis, California, 95617 USA. Tel./Fax: +1 530 758 1716.

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The Herbarium of the University of Malaya (KLU) will be moving from the current site to a new building (Rimba Ilmu Building) near the Rimba Ilmu Botanic Gardens. In view of the many activities involved in the move and reorganization of the collections at the new site the herbarium will be closed for visitors between 15 August 1999 and 15 December 1999. Also, during this period requests for loans will not be processed. We solicit your understanding for any inconvenience this temporary inaccessibility of our collections may cause, and look forward to further cooperation with your institution from our new site. — Dr. Noorma Wati Haron, Curator.

The Index nominum algarum (INA) at UC is being converted into a database that will be searchable on-line [P.C. Silva & R.L. Moe, *Taxon* 48 (1999) 351–353]. It includes names of recent and fossil taxa at all ranks (down to subformae!), inclusive colourless flagellates traditionally treated as protozoa.

The XXI IUFRO World Congress, (International Union of Forestry Research Organizations) will be held between 7 and 12 August, 2000, in Kuala Lumpur. The theme is Forests and Society: the role of research. Brochure: *IUFRO News* 27/4 (1998) 1–33.

E-mail: iufroxxi.csc@forvie.ac.at; Websites: <http://iufro.boku.ac.at/iufro/congress/csc/> and <http://frim.gov.my/iufro.html>

Rijksherbarium becomes Leiden University branch of National Herbarium of the Netherlands (NHN)

This year the three university herbaria in the Netherlands: the Herbarium Vadense of the Agricultural University in Wageningen (WAG), the Herbarium of Utrecht University (U), and the Rijksherbarium of Leiden University (L) are merging to form the decentralized National Herbarium of the Netherlands (in Dutch Nationaal Herbarium Nederland; NHN). The three herbaria will continue their present specializations (Asia and Europe in Leiden, Tropical Africa in Wageningen and the Neotropics in Utrecht) and remain responsible for the teaching programs of plant systematics in their respective universities, but will integrate their research programs and various aspects of collection management. Apart from corefunding from the three universities for the individual branches, the NHN will receive a government grant, specifically targeted at the scientific curation of the collections, offering taxonomic training programs for students from tropical countries, and working towards European collaboration.

The research groups are being restructured to meet the challenges of this new situation. In Leiden there will be two research groups, 1) vascular plants of SE Asia (combining the former tropical group with pteridology and palynology) and 2) European Cryptogams and Phanerogams (combining the former research groups on Cryptogams and on the Dutch flora). Flora Malesiana work will remain firmly established within the first group under the leadership of Dr. M.C. Roos. In both groups (as well as in the branches in Wageningen and Utrecht) molecular systematics will be incorporated in the research (sub)programs on phylogeny, historical biogeography and biosystematics.

After six years of great uncertainty because of plans to cut the budget for the Rijks-herbarium by about 60%, plant systematics in the Netherlands once more faces a sustainable future. In Leiden and Utrecht we are in a very good starting position. A recent international Peer Review of all Biological Departments in Dutch Universities qualified the research of the last 5 years at Leiden to be excellent in terms of quality, productivity, relevance, and future potential; Utrecht scored 'very good' for the same parameters. In Wageningen the staff has almost been depleted in recent years due to retirements. Here a new taxonomic and biosystematic staff must be recruited to make a fresh start.

For Flora Malesiana, business will continue as usual, with the Leiden University branch of the NHN fully committed to contribute its utmost to the scientific inventory of the plant world of this global megacentre of diversity. — P. Baas

An interesting site has been announced just before this issue went to print: **La systématique sur le WEB**, <http://sfs.snv.jussieu.fr/lienssyst.html>. At present the text is still in French, but an English parallel is being worked at. From here one can access a multitude of other sites of interest to taxonomists in general: general sites, societies, journals, molecular data, identification sites, museums, nomenclature, various databases, address list, organizations, search machines, etc.

The journal **Taxon** now has its own website: try

<http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/iapt/taxon/default.htm>

The Thunberg herbarium (UPS) can be viewed with

<http://ups.fyto.uu.se/cgi-bin/wwwdrive.fytotek/beginner>

select HB for herbarium

enter UPS-THUN in first line

select FA for family or SP for species

enter name of family or species in box to right

Thunberg (1743–1828) collected and described many taxa from South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Java.