

## I. EDITORIAL

In October 1981, the Sijthoff-Noordhoff firm which published the *Flora Malesiana* was taken over by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Box 566, The Hague, The Netherlands\*. Publication is continued in the same form, but the transition caused some delay in the schedule. *Flora Malesiana* Series ii (Pteridophyta) Volume 1 Part 5 thus was issued on 1 March 1982. The posted price is Dfl. 170 abroad (in the Netherlands, Value Added Tax is to be paid). This price includes the binding of this volume, which is now completed.

This Part 5, containing pages (1)-(20) and 331-599, gives the Dedication and the revision of the Thelypteridaceae, both by R. E. Holttum. The Dedication, p. (6)-(20), incl. portr., is to Carl Christensen. Rather than biographical — many such references give F.A. Stafleu & R.S. Cowan, *Taxonomic Literature*, 2nd ed. (1976) 501 — it is a history of pteridology in a nutshell, with notes on strengths and weaknesses of various authors, exemplified in Gleicheniaceae, Grammitidaceae, Lomariopsis/Stenochlaena, and Pleocnemia. "We now have reached the stage at which most Malesian species can be allocated to definite natural groups which may have generic rank; most genera can also be associated in groups which appear to be natural; but it is often not yet clear how groups of genera are inter-related." The Thelypteridaceae itself was one of the most difficult groups the author could choose. It here contains 440 species in 22 genera, with many new taxa and transfers, particularly from *Dryopteris*, a key genus to which Christensen devoted a monumental study. All Old World genera are treated (*Haplodictyum* is sunk into *Pronephrium*). The publication of this Part brings the score for Series ii to:

Families 7    Genera 42    Species 881    Pages taxonomic 565, others 55.  
Most of it is the work of Dr. R.E. Holttum, who on 20 July 1982 is to reach the age of 87 (biography on *pages 2477-2500*). Recently a fellow-botanist at Kew described him as 'a true dynamo', and his energy and wisdom are indeed proverbial; so is the excellence of his mind. We congratulate him and ourselves with this outstanding achievement.

*Flora Malesiana* Series i Volume 9 Part 2 has passed the final stage of proofreading and can be expected from the press at about the same time as this issue of the Bulletin. It contains pages 237-552, with 118 figures, and gives the revision of the *Dipterocarpaceae*, by P. S. Ashton. There are 388 Malesian species in 10 genera, with a 45-page introduction

\* Orders should, however, be placed with Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, c/o Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, Distribution Centre, Box 322, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, or with Kluwer Boston, 190 Old Derby Street, Hingham, MA 02043, U.S.A. — This also holds good for the book by C.G.G.J. van Steenis, *Rheophytes of the World*.

But please note that the Leiden Botanical Series has been moved from Nijhoff to the firm of Brill, Box 9000, Leiden, The Netherlands! All orders can be placed there.

giving a comprehensive discussion of all aspects of this most important family of stately trees. The price is Dfl. 158 (excl. postage).

To follow are no more families in this volume, but Addenda & Corrigenda, a substantial Dedication to O. Beccari by R. E. G. P i c h i S e r - m o l l i, Index and binding.

Flora Malesiana Identification List number 60, *Carex* (Cyperaceae), by H. P. N o o t e b o o m, was issued by the Rijksherbarium and can be requested from the Librarian.

The cover shows water buffaloes dragging rattan canes. After a three days' walk on a trail along the Opa Swamp in SE. Celebes, they just arrived in the village of Ladongi, at the end of a truck road, in November 1978. Celebes is the rattan island par excellence in Malesia. In this whole region, rattan is the most important forest product after timber. An article on the remarkable, manifold significance of this and other 'Minor Forest Products' can be found in this issue.

The present issue is more slender than previous ones, because in the Netherlands everyone 'must step back a little'. It suits the classic virtue of taxonomists to be concise in their utterings. This issue is to be appreciated accordingly.

Thanks are due to all who sent news items. The Editor hopes for a continued supply. The deadline is the end of the year. Especially Professor C. G. G. J. v a n S t e e n i s is acknowledged for contributing the Bibliography.

New names for the mailing list are always welcome for consideration.