

XIV. REVIEWS

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Ashton, P.S.: A Manual of the Dipterocarp Trees of Brunei State and of Sarawak. Supplement. Borneo Literature Bureau, Rock Road, Kuching, Sarawak (Printed by Cathay Press, Hong Kong). 1968. viii + 129 pp., 15 fig., 20 pl. (photogr.), large 8°, clothbound. M\$ 18.00 + postage M\$ 1.30; bank charges of M\$ 1.75 are required on foreign cheques.

This 'Supplement' records all Dipterocarpaceae from Sarawak, to the huge number of 247, 12 of which are yet undescribed by being insufficiently known. In the large Brunei Manual, published by the Oxford University Press (1964), 153 of these species had already been fully described; besides in that book very full evidence was given in many other aspects. This information is not repeated here. The Supplement provides keys (one botanical and one field key in all cases) to genera and all 247 species quoting all Sarawak collections, and providing for a full botanical description of all species not recorded in the Brunei book. It is therefore to be used together with the latter. A great asset as a precursor to the Malesian dipterocarps. The work is excellently printed on good paper.—v.St.

Fletcher, F.R., D.M. Henderson & H.T. Prentice: International Directory of Botanic Gardens. I.A.P.T. 1969 (Regnum Vegetabile 63), 206 pp.

The second edition of this useful work, with entries to 530 gardens. It consists of 3 parts, (i) Gardens by place name in alphabetic order (provided with particulars on situation, contents, etc.), (ii) 222 gardens arranged similarly which have particular, documented plant collections, (iii) index of familywise alphabetically arranged plant names to the contents of chapter ii. I do not know in how far and when data from the first edition were brought up to date; obviously many gardens did not answer as no less than 900 were approached and only 530 answered. The Rotterdam garden e.g. is no longer under Ir. F.J. Appelman, who died many years ago; even his successor is no longer there. Also the personnel of Bogor (Indonesia) cited is completely out of date. It is hoped that these are exceptions.—v.St.

Küchler, A.W. (ed.): International Bibliography of Vegetation Maps. 3. U.S.S.R., Asia and Australia. 1968. 389 pp. Lawrence: University of Kansas Libraries (Library series No. 29), 66044, U.S.A.

Arranged similarly to the first two volumes, compiled by a number of authors; the entries on the Malesian area provided by Mrs. M.J. van Steenis-Kruseman.

Searching items is a bit intricate, as within the large areas, say for example Southeast Asia maps are treated by political boundaries, thus Brunei is apart, as is Singapore, but as they are arranged alphabetically they stand miles apart and Singapore finds itself between Saudi Arabia and Syria. Further, if maps comprise more than one (present) political unit they stand under the next higher unit area. Thus a map of Brunei and Sarawak together is under SE. Asia general, as is one of Indochina, but Laos is apart.

This is all explained in the introduction in volume 1, but I cannot understand that whereas users will generally search maps irrelative of political frontiers no general survey, except the concise contents, and no cross references could have been given. This would have been most convenient.

P. Morsala (opposite Padang, W. Sumatra) has been misplaced and is arranged with West Irian.

Otherwise the work itself is extremely useful as no other complete, general sources exist. Also the specialists have for their areas certainly exhausted data which give it considerable use as a reference work. The legends are all fully copied so that one can easily gather the nature of the enumerated maps.—v.St.

Lawrence, H.M. (comp.): Catalogue 2nd International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration. Hunt Bot. Library, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Penn. 1968, 267 pp., 126 fotogr., many illust.

In 1964 the first international exhibition of this kind was held at Pittsburgh with 241 items of 71 artists and a catalogue was published, probably along the same line as this one which contains 362 items by 126 artists of 26 countries. The works displayed here are under custodianship of J.V.Brindle, Curator of Prints and Exhibits in the Hunt Library.

Besides an introduction, the main work consists of a short biography and portrait of an artist and one or more of his or her mini-scale reproductions of exhibits, forming an interesting array together. Among them are of course some scientific botanists, as Mme Raynal, Dr. Hutchinson, and others who are used to illustrate their own work. All are representatives of 20th century illustration. In hard-cover and set-off print this book is an interesting addition to botanical illustration. It is hoped that this series will be continued.—v.St.

MacArthur, R.H. & E.O. Wilson: The Theory of Island Biogeography. Princeton, N.J. 1967, 203 pp., 60 fig.

This is edited in a series of monographs in population biology, the first author being an ecologist, the latter a taxonomist and zoogeographer.

They are concerned, largely in a mathematical way, to analyze age and number of species, area and diversity patterns, strategy of colonisation, role of stepping stones and biotic exchange, and evolutionary changes following colonisation.

One should realize that the text is a very poor reflection of the pompous, misleading title of the book. None of the classic works of botanists on island floras, e.g. Hooker, Hemsley, and Skottsberg are mentioned in the bibliography, nor seem my own works on land-bridges and island floras to contain any 'theory'.

Plant names are absent from the index except for "Compositae", which according to Carlquist lose pappus through island conditions, although absence of pappus happens also to occur in continents, and absence of pappus characterized possibly the ancient stock from which Compositae originated.

"It follows that percentage endemism should increase with island area" (l.c. p.173). Is this characteristic for island taxa? It holds equally for any continental area. Anyway it is an open door, not a theory.

"In a saturated (equilibrium) biota the successful colonisation of new species means that an approximately equal number of older resident species must become extinct". How can one estimate which vegetation type is saturated? It sounds cerebral, not biological theory.

A book which may be useful for population dynamics of animals, but not particularly for islands, and from which a botanist can learn nothing, an island phytogeographer least of all.—v.St.

Pennington, T.D. & J. Sarukhan: Arboles tropicales de México. 1968, vii + 413 pp., c. 150 tab. Copyright FAO. Published by Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Ave. Progreso No.5, Mexico 21, D.F., Mexico (in Spanish).

A selection of c. 150 species of trees from the warmer and moister parts of Mexico, chosen either because they are economically important, of common occurrence, or characteristic of certain forest types; not all are native (e.g. *Casuarina cunninghamiana*), but the great majority is. All spp. are fully described (after living material) with data on ecology, wood, etc. and of each a page size drawing is given, with a small map of distribution in Mexico, and a photograph of the stem base (for bark). The work is intro-

duced by a key to the vegetation types (which are also sketched with data on composition and climatic pattern), explanation of technical terms, and several keys to the species. There is also a bibliography and list of herbarium specimens examined. This manual is a useful asset for Mexican forest officers.—v.St.

Phanerogamarum Monographiae.—This is a new series published by J.Cramer, 3301. Lehre, Germany. As the title suggests it will contain monographs, on world scale as the first volume, or regional as the second volume to be mentioned below. The volumes are octavo, but differently set, the first volume being in lettertype, the second in fairly rough, cheaply executed offset. Though this series may be a welcome outlet for larger revisions, for which it is sometimes difficult to find space in botanical journals, the price is prohibitive.

Tomus I. G.Boquet: Revisio Physolychnidum (Silene sect. Physolychnis). 1969, 342 pp., 43 tab.; descr. in Latin, text in French. About £ 17.-/-.

A revision with keys to 61 species. The section occurs in Afghanistan through the Himalaya to China and Lake Baikal, the Arctic, Rocky Mts in North America, and the Andes south to Fuegia. There are 2 indices to epithets, an Identification List, and a bibliography.

Tomus II. P.van Royen: The genus Rubus (Rosaceae) in New Guinea (Sertulum Papuanum XV). 1969, 121 pp., 30 fig., 4 pl. £ 5.5/- (for subscribers to the series 20% discount).

After some general remarks on morphology, ecology, and distribution, there is the systematic part in the customary way; there is also a separate 'Identification List of collections', and an 'Index to scientific names'. Before, 18 spp. were recognized, 6 have been reduced and 7 newly described, so that the account is now 19 spp. and 7 varieties. The difficulties encountered with European Rubi are - as in Java - barely present. Use of the MS before publication showed that the keys and specific concepts work reasonably good. There are 3 widely distributed species, *R. rosifolius*, *R. fraxinifolius*, and *R. moluccanus*, all other species being endemic to New Guinea. No attempt, save some casual remarks, was made to integrate the four 'groups' of species distinguished with the infrageneric system of Focke. It would also have been desirable to compare the New Guinean species with those described from the rest of Malesia; I am not at all certain that all 16 endemics are really confined to New Guinea. A good precursor to a later regional Malesian treatment.

Tomus III. B.C.Stone: A monograph of the genus Pelea (Rutaceae). This revision of a Polynesian genus I have not yet seen.—v.St.