

VI. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
(contd from p.566)

Congresses and Symposia

Commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the birthday of Linnaeus. In many places academies and societies commemorated this event.

In Sweden, Uppsala University, it took place just before the End of Term ceremonies of the University and a number of botanical and zoological taxonomists were invited to a Symposium "Systematics of To-day", to excursions in the vicinity of Uppsala, and to the imposing End of Term ceremonies, attended by His Majesty, The King. On that occasion several famous taxonomists received an honorary doctorate from the University. The festivities were concluded by a dinner and ball in the magnificent Rikssaal of the Uppsala Castle. For those who, like myself, had the privilege to attend and enjoy the abundant hospitality and friendliness in this beautiful country, these spring days will forever linger in the memory as delightful from all points of view. To observe flowers along the same trail the Prince of Botanists took with his students centuries ago, to visit Hammarby under delightful weather conditions, gave a peculiar charm to these days; we feel immensely indebted to our hosts, male and female, all gentle, eager, courteous, dignified, and above all, kind.

In England the Linnean Society devoted a special session to the Linnaeus commemoration. A symposium was held on the theme of phytochemical relationship of plants, June 1957.

In Holland a Committee, presided by Prof. L a m, organized an academic commemoration, May 23, 1957, at Haarlem and the estate 'De Hartecamp' where Linnaeus spent so many hours of research. A pamphlet recording the addresses was printed for this occasion.

At Bogor, Indonesia, the Director of the Botanic Gardens organized a Commemoration, after the Bangkok Congress, to which Prof. H ö r s t a d i u s. was invited to lecture, Dec. 1957.

The Ninth Pacific Science Congress was held at Bangkok, Thailand, Nov. 18 to Dec. 9, 1957, the plenary sessions took place in the remarkable Santithan Hall, the technical sessions in Chulalongkorn University. From various points of view it was a great success and well-organized and a tribute should be given for that to our Thai hosts including the Navy which was responsible for the solution of the vital transport problem. Details were extremely well looked after with

convenient lunches and drinks at the University and plenty of entertainment. Dozens of officials were always around to provide adequate information in the most courteous and gentle way. Various interesting excursions were held including sight-seeing in the city of Bangkok. During the Congress a botanical excursion led to the north of the rice-bowl in the low hills with a good locality of Podostemonaceae. A sight-seeing trip, partly by boat, led to the Southern cape with mangrove and flora of the sandy beach. Distances were sometimes long, but the country of Thailand is large, and they were shortened by the charming company of the Thais. The Congress was received by Their Majesties, the King and the Queen, on a beautifully flower-decorated lawn in front of the palace where they resided. Apart from the sessions in the Botanical Section there was also the Unesco-sponsored Symposium on Climate, vegetation, and rational land utilization in the humid tropics. A post-congressional tour brought about 20 botanists by bus (three days) to Chiangmai in the north of Thailand, enabling us to see the land. From there we went to Doi Sutep and Chiang Dao, a trip organized by Mr Kasin S u v a t a b a n d h u and Mr Tem S m i t i n a n d. We returned by train. The Information Bulletin of the Pac. Sc.Assoc. vol.9, no 6, Nov.1957, contained a preliminary account of the proceedings.

Proceedings Ninth Pacific Science Congress, Bangkok. The proceedings of each division will be published in a separate volume; there will be 20 volumes in all. Volume 20, containing the contributions of the Symposium on Climate, vegetation, and rational land utilization in the humid tropics, sponsored by Unesco, will probably be among the first to appear. In 1958 the following volumes were expected to be in the press: 20, Humid Tropics; 11, Forestry; 6, Coconut problems; 9, Entomology; and 15, Nutrition. Orders for volumes or the set to Ninth Pacific Science Congress Secretariat, Department of Science, Ministry of Industry, Rama VI Road, Bangkok, Thailand.

Darwin-Wallace Centenary. Sir Julian H u x l e y delivered the Darwin-wallace Memorial Lecture at the Inaugural Meeting of the XVth Int.Zool.Congress in London, July 16, 1958, titled "The emergence of Darwinism". It is printed in the Journal of the Linnean Society vol.lvi, no 365, together with several other contributions by distinguished biologists, active in the field of evolutionary research. At a special meeting of the Linnean Society, held on July 15, 1958, a number of invited biologists were presented with the Silver Darwin-Wallace Commemoration Medal in recognition of their outstanding contributions to our knowledge of evolution.

Singapore Conference. A Linnaeus-Wallace centenary symposium was organized by the University of Malaya and held in Singapore Dec.2-10, 1958. This was to mark the 200th anniversary of the publication of Linnaeus' Systema Naturae and the 100th anniversary of the publication of Wallace's and Darwin's papers on natural selection. Much of Wallace's work was actually done on Singapore Island. This conference was, amongst others, attended by Mr E.J.H. Corner of Cambridge University, by Mr J.W. Yatt-Smith and Dr P.R. Wycherley from the Federation of Malaya, and by Dr J.S. Womersley from New Guinea. The conference opened with lectures introducing the Indo-Malayan region and the concept of organic evolution. Six days were devoted to symposia in the fields of botany, ecology, general systematics, evolution, genetics, and anthropology.

The Ninth International Botanical Congress, Montreal. This Congress will take place Aug.19-29, 1959, at McGill University and the University of Montreal, Canada. To receive circulars and documents one should write to the Secretary-General, Dr C.F. Rankton, IXth Int.Bot.Congr., Science Service Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The Section Nomenclature will meet Aug.16-19, 1959.

Humid Tropics Research. The Advisory Committee held its first meeting July 1957 at Manaus. The subject of the symposium held at this occasion was "Curare and curariform substances".

Symposium on Phytochemistry of Tropical plants, sponsored by the Government of the Federation of Malaya and Unesco South Asia Science Co-operation Office, Kuala Lumpur, Dec.4-8, 1957. The Proceedings appeared in printed form (183 pp.) and contain various items of interest, on alkaloids (Rauwolfia, Kopsia), tea chemistry, some Rutaceous plants, Phaeanthus, constituents of conifers, etc. Besides the papers there are valuable phytochemical bibliographies of Indo-Australasian phytochemistry by countries. Office of Unesco, Djalan Diponegoro 76, Djakarta, Indonesia.

Symposium on Origin, Cytogenetics and Breeding of Tropical Fruits. Organized by the Hort.Soc. of India and the Unesco South Asia Science Co-operation Office, held in Delhi early Dec.1958.

Proceedings Symposium "Genetics and Plant Breeding in South Asia", held in Jan.1957. Rupees 25,00. Obtainable through the Indian Soc.Gen.& Plant Breeding, c/o Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi 12, India.

Symposium on Tropical Vegetation at Bogor, sponsored by Unesco Djakarta Branch, held at Kebun Raya Indonesia, Dec. 10-25, 1958. Chairman was Prof. Kusnoto Setiodi-wiryono. The symposium was followed by excursions through Java and Bali; leader Dr A.J.G.H. Kostermans.

American Association for the Advancement of Science. The future of arid lands. Papers and recommendations from the International Arid Lands Meetings. Edited by G.F. White, pp. ix, 453, text-figs. 80. Washington, D.C. 1956.

### News

Bi-centenary of the Kew Botanic Gardens. In honour of this occasion a commemorative volume will be published under editorship of Dr W.B. Turriel, Vistas in Botany. A review of the present state of knowledge and the unsolved problems in botany, written by 20 world-renowned experts.

Centenary Singapore Botanic Gardens. Towards the end of 1959 the Singapore Botanic Gardens have existed for a hundred years. The present Director, Mr H.M. Burkell, intends to bring out a commemoration volume of the Gardens' Bulletin.

In honour of this memorable occasion the frontispiece of this Bulletin gives a picture of the Singapore Botanic Gardens and accordingly this number has been dedicated to it.

Calcutta Herbarium. The Herbarium of the Indian Botanic Garden, which was under administration of the Government of Bengal, has been transferred to the administration of the Government of India and renamed "Central National Herbarium" incorporated with the Botanical Survey of India. All correspondence regarding the Herbarium is to be addressed to the Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Central National Herbarium, Sibpur, India.

Herbarium, Department of Agriculture, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. A small herbarium resulted from collections made from time to time by officers of this and other departments of the Botany Division. Identifications are mostly made or verified at the Singapore Botanic Gardens which also acquired 6 duplicates of unusual specimens. Each new acquisition receives a new number which is recorded on the sheet. By March 1958 the numbers ran Dicotyledons 1-681, Monocotyledons M1-M221, Gramineae G1-G658, Cyperaceae C1-C143, Cycadaceae CY1, Filicales F1-F236, Lycopodiales L1-L9, in all about 1300 numbers. The majority of the specimens are those found in association with agriculture.

Herbarium of the Faculty of Agriculture, Pajakumbuh, Central Sumatra. From Dr W.M e i j e r the sad news was received that this local Herbarium of Sumatran plants, which he built up during the past years and which contained already about 4000 numbers, with pertaining wood samples, lianas, fruits, etc., has been destroyed.

Botanic Garden, Sibolangit, East Sumatra. From Mr K.S. D e p a r i, Forestry Office, Pematang-Siantar, we heard the welcome news that this garden will be rehabilitated; an obelisk will be erected in memory of Mr L ö r z i n g, who was so long responsible for the maintenance of this garden in the past.

The Hooker Lecture of the Linnean Society was held by Dr W.B.T u r r i l l, on the subject of "The evolution of floras with special reference to those of the Balkan Peninsula", April 17, 1958. It has been printed in the Journal of the Society, vol.xliv, no 365.

Copeland Fern Herbarium. This was temporarily deposited at Berkeley. It has now been acquired by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, with financial aid of the National Science Foundation.

Brisbane Herbarium. The welcome news has been received that the worn-out herbarium building is gradually replaced by modern wings and equipment.

Forestry Service, Netherlands New Guinea. The Botany Department has been transferred to Manokwari from Hollandia. The Director of Forestry, Ir F.W.R a p p a r d, was succeeded in 1958 by Ir J.J.M o o y.

Tectona. This journal, which has been discontinued, has produced a final index to volumes 28-43. Issued 1958, 175 pp. For.Res.Station, Bogor.

Mr S.M.L a t i f, Bogor, was working on a book "An Orchidists Vocabulary", obviously explaining technical terms used in orchidaceous studies.

Mr M.R.H e n d e r s o n is compiling a book for the "Malayan Nature series", titled "Common Wild Flowers", mainly for use in Malaya by students and amateurs. It will be published by Longmans/Green, England.

Dr J.H u t c h i n s o n's second edition of his "Families of Flowering Plants" is in the press and can appear any moment.

Willis, Dictionary of Flowering Plants and Ferns. Dr J.C. Willis has bequeathed the rights of his Dictionary to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This work is greatly in need of rewriting; a new edition will be prepared at Kew under the supervision of Mr H.K. Airy Shaw, who will start on it spring 1959.

Pandanus research. The U.S. National Science Foundation has made a second grant to the University of Hawaii for field research on the Pandanus. Principal investigator is Dr Harold S t . J o h n, Professor of Botany at the University, who is assisted by Benjamin S t o n e.

The project started in the northern summer of 1955 and collections have been made in the Marshall Islands, where there are approximately 140 cultivated kinds of Pandanus, Palau, Guam, and Saipan. Collections were also made in Yap, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Okinawa, and Japan and the collections in museums and universities studied. In the southern summer of 1957 collections have been made in the New Hebrides, Admiralties, Solomons, and Bismarcks.

In the Marshall Islands Pandanus cultivation has been going on for at least several centuries, each kind named and known for certain characteristics and cultivated vegetatively to avoid reversion. Some of these named varieties were recorded by Von Kotzebue's expeditions (1815-1818; 1823-1826) which discovered the Marshall Islands.

A set of paintings from Raffles' time from Bencoolen is in possession of Mrs D r a k e, of Inshriagh, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, Scotland, whose great great uncle was Sir Stamford. Mr E.J.H. C o r n e r has studied, April 1957, these 68 paintings which are for the most part extremely fine water-colour drawings. Some are the best Mr Corner ever saw of the species concerned, and are delineated with meticulous accuracy. Mr Corner dispersed a mimeographed report of them among institutes interested in Malaysian botany. Though the set is said to have been made in Bencoolen, March 1824, done after the burning of the Fame, I am not quite certain all were done at Bencoolen, as among them is Stereospermum fimbriatum, which is a common species in Malaya, but has never been found in Sumatra.

Vegetation Map of Malaysia. Autumn 1958 a coloured map, compiled by the General Editor of Flora Malesiana from local vegetation maps, mostly provided by forestry services, was issued by Unesco. Eighteen vegetation types (incl. three cultivations) have been indicated; the scale is 1:5 million. Subscribers to the Flora will receive a copy with volume 2 (Vegetation of Malaysia). It is for sale with Unesco, Paris.

Soil Map of Java. A soil map of Java has been composed by Mr J a h j a, Head of the Pedological Institute at Bogor; this was distributed to the members of the Vegetation Symposium at Bogor, Dec.1958. Its scale is 1:2.500.000. There are 26 types of the classes alluvial, regosols, lithosols, grumosols, latosols, podsollic sols, red-mediterranean sols, andosols, etc.

The Phyto-Chemical Survey of the Malayan Flora was continued by the Department of Chemistry, Federation of Malaya, the Department of Chemistry of the University of Malaya with the collaboration of the Botanic Gardens Singapore, the Forest Research Institute, Kepong, and the Department of Botany, University of Malaya.