

IV. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

(continued from Volume 10, page 318)

Australasian Bryological Newsletter — Although there have been already 26 issues, this journal has only now come to our attention. It appears bi-annually, in June and December, and is circulated without charge to all those interested within Australasia and overseas. Write to Mr. P.J. DALTON, Plant Science department, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252-C, Hobart (Tasm.)-7001, Australia. Issue 26 with 8 pages reported on the Second Australasian Bryophyte Workshop, Canberra, 1991; a list of recent literature, inclusive some Malesian items; personal news; forthcoming publications and events.

The Herbarium Pacificum (BISH) has been awarded a further four-year subcontract with the University of Illinois to collect plants in Papua New Guinea for the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The subcontract begins in September 1992.

The Botany Branch and Queensland Herbarium (BRI) have been transferred to the Department of Environment and Heritage. Dr. R. W. JOHNSON retired as Director on 29 July 1990, Mr. T.J. MACDONALD was appointed as Acting Director until 31 December 1990, and then succeeded by Dr. G. P. GUYMER. There are now over 500,000 collections, mainly from Queensland, but also from New Guinea and the Pacific.

The new **Flora of China Newsletter** will be published twice annually and is intended to inform the botanical community worldwide about the progress made in the Flora as well as related botanical activities in China. Readers are invited to send any information regarding research on the Chinese flora (e.g. revisions, monographs, checklists, floristics, conservation, etc.) that are in progress, near completion, or recently published. The Newsletter will be sent to all collaborators of the Flora of China Project, and the subscription is free. Others, who wish to be on the mailing list, are asked to write either Dr. W. TAI or Dr. I. AL-SHEHBAZ, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis MO63166-0299,

U.S.A. Information should be sent to Dr. DAI LUN-KAI, Herbarium, Laboratory of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology, Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, Beijing 100092, People's Republic of China.

Next issues will include sections on the history of botany in China, endangered and threatened vascular plants, and information on various Chinese Institutes.

The **Flora of China Project** is based on the revision, updating, and condensation of the *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae* (FRPS). Research and collaboration are emphasized to produce revised accounts. In addition to the publication of an English-language flora, the Project will eventually result in the development of a computerized database and a checklist with synonyms, distributions, endemism, altitudes based on the information on the published treatments. The Project offers a unique opportunity for large-scale collaboration between Chinese and non-Chinese systematists. Such already exists between the U.S. institutes A, CAS, MO, and all major botanical institutes of China. Among others the editor of the *Flora Malesiana*, Dr. W.J.J.O. DE WILDE (L), has agreed to be Regional Advisor.

The Flora contains about 30,000 species of vascular plants, but much information is unavailable to non-Chinese speaking scientists. The FRPS, started in 1959, will hopefully be completed by the year 2000 and will consist of 80 volumes of which 65 have already been published. The condensed version of the Flora is expected to be completed in 15 years (!) and will be published in Beijing in 25 volumes plus a final updating one with the general index. There will be no illustrations. Volume 17 will be the first to be published and contains the Labiatae, Solanaceae, and Verbenaceae, while manuscripts for a number of families for volumes 15 and 16 already have been received.

Change of publisher for Flora Malesiana — From 1992 onwards the Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus has taken over the publication and distribution of *Flora Malesiana* from Kluwer Academic Publishers. The Flora will be published in-house and the high standard of printing will be maintained. In order to increase the circulation, future installments will be offered for sale at much lower prices than had to be charged by the commercial publishers. Previously published issues and volumes are also available (unless out of stock) at much reduced prices. Please write to the Rijksherbarium for detailed price information. The first installment to be issued from Leiden has been II, 2 (1) in the Fern series.

The **Flora of the Philippines Project (PPI)** was conceived as a tripartite venture: The Inventory, Collections Management, and Writing/Documentation. The first stage, the inventory, was launched in 1990 and the second component, collections management, has been funded by a grant to BISH from the MacArthur Foundation. This phase began in September 1991.

The MacArthur Foundation grant provides funding for the curation of a considerable backlog of material in PNH (about 25,000 specimens will be treated – including data-basing the label data). The newly appointed Collections Manager, Ms. I. CASTRO, has commenced this work and will be continuing the project over the coming three years. She has a M.Sc. in Botany and was formerly with the Department of Science and Technology (ITDI). Herbaria and botanists who have queries about specimens emanating from PNH are invited to write to Ms. CASTRO. Interdepartmental cooperation and co-supervision is provided by

B. C. STONE of the Bishop Museum. It is hoped that by combining the PPI databases and the CPM (Collections Management Program, our short title for the MacArthur Grant-funded project), over 30,000 specimens can be data-based over the coming three years, using modified LABELS3/DB.

Visitors to PNH (Philippine National Herbarium, Manila) will find facilities for their working visits much improved over past years with the new space provided by the mezzanine floor, the better lighting and cabinet organization, and (from early 1992) the restoration of central airconditioning. These rehabilitations and improvements were the outcome of the collaborative effort between BISH and PNH, the financial support coming to a large extent from grants provided by the MacArthur Foundation and the National Science Foundation on the basis of successful proposals authored by Dr. S.H. SOHMER of BISH on the basis of solid joint efforts by Dr. D.A. MADULID (PNH) strongly supported by the Director of PNH, Fr. G. CASAL. This improvement is part of the National Museum's contribution to the 'Flora of the Philippines Project' which is the overall goal.

Plans are being laid for the collection and distribution of propagules and Philippine plants through the network of Botanical Gardens and Dr. D. MADULID is actively pursuing the idea of establishing a Botanical Garden in the Philippines.

Manual of forest fruits, seeds and seedlings in 2 volumes with c. 1000 pages by F.S.P. NG is published by the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). Volume 1 (400 pp.) was published in mid-1991 and covers the families Actinidiaceae to Flacourtiaceae. Volume 2 (c. 600 pp.) was expected in mid-1992 and covers the families Gnetaceae to Vitaceae. The Manual describes and illustrates with line drawings and photographs over 300 genera of woody plants.

Moss Flora of China. An editorial committee of 5 Chinese and 5 non-Chinese bryologists has been formed to work on an English version.

Pacific Plant Areas. The text for volume 5, the last part, has been finished by Dr. M.M.J. VAN BALGOOY (L). The maps still have to be drawn, after which funds for publishing must be found. The book will contain a supplement bibliography of published maps, 60 new maps, additions and corrections to the first 4 volumes and a tabular list of Pacific Phanerogam genera.

Sandakania is an occasional series of botanical papers published by the Forest Research Centre, Forest Department, Sabah. In the first issue articles by J. KULIP and K.M. WONG deal with new species and records of bamboos, *Gigantochloa* and *Racemobambos*, P.S. SHIM records two new ferns for Borneo, and Y.F. LEE and A. BERHAMAN describe the history, aims, and species composition of the Sabah Forestry Department's Arboretum at Sepilok. All articles are nicely illustrated. The next issue will describe *Pandanus* in Borneo (B. C. STONE), developmental heterophylly in *Syzygium rejangense* (K.M. WONG), a generic synopsis of *Rubiaceae* in Borneo (C. PUFF), and the mangrove trees of Sabah (L. MADANI). This seems an interesting posy of papers. If you want to examine them better, write to the Chairman of the Editorial Committee, Mr. R.C. ONG, Forest Research Centre, P.O. Box 1407, 90008 Sandakan, Sabah. Submission of papers on Bornean or Southeast Asian botany are invited.

SOLFRIP (Solomon Islands Forest Resources Inventory Project). — Work is still going on nation-wide to determine the extent of remaining potential commercial timber resources, the ecological interactions and the uses of forest resources by the local people.

Tropics — A new quarterly published by the Japan Society of Tropical Ecology. Editor-in-Chief is M. HOTTA. It is open either to the results of original research, experimental or descriptive, or significant reviews of various aspects of tropical regions. Papers on all aspects of ecology and/or other fields related to ecology are accepted. Membership of the Society is ¥ 8,000 for regular individuals; ¥ 6,000 for students; ¥ 16,000 for institutions; ¥ 100,000 for supporting members; non-Japanese members US\$ 70.00 for regular individuals (US\$ 20.00 for individuals in developing countries), and US\$ 140.00 for institutions. Members will receive Tropics, news letters, and announcements free of charge.

The first issue contains: A discussion on regional classification on floristic criteria of the humid tropics of Asia, by P.S. ASHTON. Species strategy in early stage of secondary succession associated with soil properties status in a lowland mixed dipterocarp forest and kerangas forest in East Kalimantan, by S. RISWAN and K. KARTAWINATA. Density effects and growth analysis in some tropical forest plantations, on *Melia azedarach* and *Azadirachta indica*, by S. THORANISORN, P. SAHUNALU, and K. YODA. A new bee from Sumatra with African affinities feeding on *Impatiens korthalsii* is described by S.F. SAKAGAMI, M. KATO, and T. ITINO. Another article by M. KATO, T. ITOINO, M. HOTTA, and T. INOUE is dedicated to the pollination of four West Sumatran *Impatiens* species by hawkmoths and bees. Messrs. T. TOMA, K. NAKAMURA, P. PATANAPONPAIBOON, and K. OGINO discuss the effect of flooding water level and plant density on the growth of pneumatophores of *Avicennia marina*, while S. SUKARDJO writes about a visual-cultural assessment and evaluation of mangroves in Indonesia.

Dr. L.J. BULALACAO (PNH) is finishing her work on comparative pollen calendars from the Philippines: Baguio and Manila. Pollen data from Baguio City located on a high upland plateau with an altitude of 1700 m (16–24° N, 120–37° E) was compared to that of the city of Manila, an urban metropolis with an elevation of 12 m (14–36° N, 120–59° E). The Durham gravity-slide continuously monitored pollen between 1981 and 1988. *Pinus insularis* was the most common pollen type in highland Baguio. Montane pollen taxa, i.e. *Alnus japonica*, *Juniperus* spec. were reported as dominant. Arecaceae (*Veitchia merrillii*), Compositae (*Tridax procumbens*), Gramineae, *Mimosa pudica*, Myrtaceae (*Psidium guajava*, *Syzygium* spec.), and Tiliaceae (*Muntingia calabura*) were the urban taxa. Both calendars contained members of Poaceae. Some pollen taxa from highland areas, i.e. *Alnus*, *Juniperus*, *Artemisia*, remained in the highland environment. *Pinus* reached urban areas in small quantities. Baguio City contains certain temperate pollen grains. The City of Manila contains tropical species, many are accredited to Man and his activities.

Since 1989 Dr. D.A. MADULID (PNH) has been working on a project 'Field survey of medicinal plants used by ethnic tribes in the Philippines' funded by the World Wildlife Fund, DFNS. He has covered the Ati, a tribe on Panay Island, the Subanons of Lanao, the Ifugaos in the Mountain Province, the Dumagats in Bulacan, and the Gaddangs in Ifugao Province.

He is also involved in compiling information for the Critical Plant Sites in the Philippines and in providing data for the Philippines for the Centers of Plant Diversity project of the IUCN. He is also preparing a Red Data Book on the rare and endangered plants of the Philippines.

A three-year research project was granted to Dr. R.M. DEL ROSARIO (PNH) by the National Research Council of the Philippines to start in the third quarter of 1992. The subject will be the Bukidnons of Mindanao: ethnobotany and conservation management. The different tribes involved are the Ilianons, the southern and western Manobos, Natigsalugs, Pulagions, Tala-andigs, Tighawanons, and the Umayamns.

All claims for herbal drugs being prescribed by the practitioners in the different cultural communities will be validated with the assistance of pharmacologists and pharmacists from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila.

Mr. W.F. VENDEVIL in early 1992 has submitted for publication 'Medicinal plants of Ilocos Norte'. One hundred seventy species of medicinal plants are described together with their medicinal uses.