

V. HERBARIA, GARDENS, ORGANIZATIONS

(continued from page 267)

**5th International Flora Malesiana Symposium, Cairns/Sydney, Australia
(1–)9–14 September 2001**

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), and Dr. P.G. Wilson.

From the first circular:

The arrangements for the next Flora Malesiana Symposium in Sydney are coming along very well. There seems to be a lot of interest in attending and we would encourage as many as possible to contribute to your organization and to promote research on the flora of the Malesian region. The program includes a mixture of the more traditional topics as well as attempts to address some new trends in plant systematics. We hope it will be exciting and attractive to a wide range of participants, so that more people show interest and can assist in the production of treatments for Flora Malesiana.

We are running a small program of field trip and workshops in North Queensland near the rain forest (September 1–8), prior to the main Symposium in Sydney. The Sydney meeting (September 9–14) will take place in the Royal Botanic Gardens – one of the most beautiful venues for a meeting, sitting alongside Sydney Harbour.

Program

The program will be a mixture of invited and contributed papers, together with posters. Papers and posters on the following topics are currently being finalized. If you want to develop a session on another topic please contact someone on the Organizing Committee.

- Systematics and taxonomy of Malesian vascular plant groups (not all confirmed at this stage):
 - Palms
 - Ferns and fern allies
 - Orchids
 - *Lauraceae*
 - *Rubiaceae*
 - *Cunoniaceae*
- Bioinformatics
- Ethnobotany
- Evolutionary ecology & biodiversity distribution patterns
- Local floras
- Non-vascular plants – overviews on biodiversity and evolution in Malesian region
- Stakeholder and user perspectives of Flora Malesiana information and Malesian plant systematics in general – gaining views from outside our systematics community

Workshops

A number of Flora Malesiana activists have indicated they want to hold or participate in 'family workshops'. So far, these include the palms, *Lauraceae*, ferns, *Cunoniaceae*, *Rubiaceae*, and probably some others.

A training workshop in the techniques involved in the development of interactive identification systems will be held in North Queensland at Atherton, 1–4 September. This will be a hands-on workshop based at the Atherton part of the Australian National Herbarium (QRS), with botanical experts as well as those who have developed software packages and designed appropriate graphics.

Tours

A pre-conference tour will take place in North Queensland, 5–8 September. It will venture into the rain forests and dry monsoon forests, led by enthusiastic experts.

A mid-conference tour (September 12) will explore the Blue Mountains forests, near Sydney.

The second circular will be distributed in December 2000. It will include the draft program and keynote speakers, registration fees and costs of all activities, accommodation and tour details, deadline dates for abstracts, posters, etc. If you did not respond to the first circular and you wish to receive the second circular, please either register your interest via the website, or e-mail the Symposium contact: fmv@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au.

See: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/fm/fm.html>

Borneo Collection seeks volunteers — The **Borneensis Collection** is a young and ambitious natural history museum maintained by the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation at Universiti Malaysia Sabah. The object of Borneensis is to develop a reference collection for the entire Bornean flora and fauna, with special reference to vertebrates, insects, land snails, herbaceous plants, and bryophytes.

Several large expeditions and the ongoing research work by researchers of the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (ITBC) have produced rich materials for these groups, which, however, remain partly unprocessed due to lack of properly trained staff. For this reason, we are currently seeking local and international volunteers who are willing to help with sorting, mounting, labeling, and identifying specimens, or any of these activities for any length of time.

In return, we can offer basic accommodation, a small allowance, and the opportunity to work on the world's richest biodiversity in a stimulating academic environment. For further information, please contact Dr. M. Mohamed or Dr. M. Schilthuizen at the addresses below or visit our website at <http://www.ums.edu.my/ubtp>

Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Locked Bag 2073, 88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. Tel.: +(60-88)-320104; fax: +(60-88)-435311; e-mail: dmaryati@ums.edu.my or schilthuizen@excite.com

Come and visit Bali! — I.B.K. Arinasa, F.A. Zich & I.W. Sumatera, **Six guided walks in Bali Botanic Garden** is a nice little booklet, but at least some illustrations would make it much better. Same for I.B.K. Arinasa & I.P. Astuti (Eds.), *An alphabetical list of plant species cultivated in the Bali Botanic Garden* (1999), and I.B.K. Arinasa, D.M. Puspitaningtyas & E. Patimah (Eds.), *An alphabetical list of orchid species cultivated in the Eka Karya Botanic Garden, Bali*, which has a few colour photographs.
E-mail: krieliipi@singaraja.wasantara.net.id

An Identification handbook of commercial and potentially commercial woody forest vines of the Philippines is being prepared by Dr. R.P. Escobin and Ms. M.C.N. Banaticla at the Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI) at Los Baños. The project is funded until June 2001 by the National Research Council of the Philippines, Department of Science and Technology (NRCP-DOST). The study specifically deals with those species that are used in the handicraft industry. Those that are suitable but not yet commercially used in the manufacture of handicraft products are also presented. The expected output is a handbook with complete botanical descriptions, identification keys, photographs and line drawings, plus basic information (synonymy, local names, distribution, other economic uses, etc.) and end-use characterization.

Images of Vascular Plant Type Specimens at The New York Botanical Garden (NY) are now live! — Approximately 2400 high-resolution images of herbarium specimens from the families *Annonaceae*, *Ericaceae*, *Lecythidaceae*, and New World *Rutaceae* can be found by searching <http://www.nybg.org/bsci/hcol/vasc/>

Eventually, all of NY's 75,000 vascular plant type specimens will be imaged and view-able through its on-line catalogue. Images of *Cyperaceae*, *Elaphoglossum*, and *Scrophulariaceae* types will be added in the near future.

A full description of the project, including a manual (in PDF) for imaging plant specimens can be found at: http://www.nybg.org/bsci/herbarium_imaging/

Please direct any questions or comments about NYBG's imaging project to Mr. G. Lemon (glemon@nybg.org).

Indonesian name changes: Irian Jaya has recently officially been renamed to Papua Barat. Ujung Pandang is Makassar again. A new name for former Portuguese Timor has not yet been decided upon; Timor Timur has been suggested.

Leiden MSc Programme in Biodiversity and Natural Products

Biodiversity is a rich source for a sustainable exploitation of the natural resources in the world, e.g. for development of various fine chemicals such as drugs. Leiden University offers several MSc courses which aims at teaching the students knowledge of the disciplines involved in the exploration and exploitation of biodiversity. These courses are meant for students with a degree in chemistry, biochemistry, biology or pharmacy. The programme is organized by the National Herbarium of the Netherlands, Leiden University branch (the former Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus Leiden) and the Leiden/Amsterdam Centre for Drug Research (LACDR).

Objectives of the Programme

The major aim of this MSc programme is to provide students with a theoretical background to multidisciplinary research in biodiversity, natural products and plant cell biotechnology, and make them familiar with the various theoretical and experimental tools by doing a research project utilizing state-of-the-art equipment. The students should develop into independent researchers who are able to go on to a PhD programme, or take the responsibility for projects in an industrial or institutional research environment. The programme offers the following specializations:

MSc in Biodiversity and Systematics

The Master's programme focusing on biodiversity issues is linked to the specialization courses on 'Systematics and Evolution' and/or 'Biology and the Environment' offered in the Biology curriculum of Leiden University, and/or to the training programme of the Graduate School 'Biodiversity'. It provides basic knowledge on the theory, methodology and practice of systematics and taxonomical biodiversity studies, and enables the student to develop into an independent researcher, but it also qualifies the student for positions in nature management and conservation policy. The other non-systematical specializations are:

- MSc in Natural products and Biodiversity
- MSc in Pharmacognosy
- MSc in Plant Cell Biotechnology

For more information please contact:

J.B. Mols

Course Administrator MSc Program

National Herbarium of the Netherlands, Leiden University branch

P.O. Box 9514, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0) 71 5273524; fax: + 31 (0) 71 5273511; e-mail: mols@nhn.leidenuniv.nl

Leuser Development Programme — A joint cooperation project of seven years between the government of Indonesia and the European Union to conserve Leuser Ecosystem (LE) area, an outstanding wilderness in northern Sumatra, Indonesia. The area is

one of the richest expanses of tropical rain forest in Southeast Asia and a home for rare animals such as the Sumatran orang-utan, Sumatran rhino, Sumatran tiger, Sumatran elephant, and the Thomas leaf monkey.

For more information see the LDP webpage: www.eu-ldp.co.id

Any comments for changes would be appreciated and should be sent to Mr. Gunung Gia on: adminlmu@indosat.net.id

Resource tenure, forest management, and conflict resolution: perspectives from Borneo and New Guinea

9–11 April 2001, Australian National University, Canberra (ACT), Australia

Conference theme

This conference will seek to establish a comparative understanding of the way that local custom relating to the ownership and use of land and natural resources has been, and is still being, shaped by different combinations of national and trans-national forces, and to assess the extent to which local custom can still form the basis for community-based or community-driven forms of resource management or sustainable development.

Conference format

- The first two sessions will be devoted to a general review of the pre-colonial and colonial history of human settlement and resource management.
- The next eight sessions will have panels of four speakers, each of whom will speak for a maximum of 15 minutes focussing on one of the five political areas: Brunei, Sarawak/Sabah, Kalimantan, Papua Barat (Irian Jaya), and Papua New Guinea.
- In the final afternoon conference four workshops will be formed, one for each political area, followed by a final plenary discussion of proposed activities and their coordination, e.g. a detailed design of a research project to address some of the major issues, to establish a network of institutional partnerships, and to prepare further meetings in the region.

Call for papers

The Conference Committee welcomes proposals for contributions to the eight panel sessions which will form the main part of the conference.

Costs of travel, accommodation, and registration

Some funding has already been set aside to cover traveling and lodging costs for citizens of Malaysia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea who will be presenting papers at the conference. Additional funds are being sought. The conference registration fee will be only AUD 50 (25 for students), payable at the time of registration. Participants with Malaysian, Indonesian, or Papua New Guinea passports will pay nothing.

Organizing Committee

The Conference Organizing Committee comprises four Regional Coordinators and a Conference Administrator. The four Regional Coordinators are:

Dr. F.M. Cooke (Sarawak/Sabah): fadzilah.cooke@anu.edu.au

Dr. C. Ballard (Papua/Irian Jaya): cballard@coombs.anu.edu.au

Dr. C. Filer (Papua New Guinea): cfiler@coombs.anu.edu.au

Ms. K. Fisher (Kalimantan–Interim Coordinator and Conference Administrator):
rmap@coombs.anu.edu.au

Potential participants resident or interested in one of these regions should communicate directly with the relevant Regional Coordinator. Instant replies cannot be guaranteed as coordinators may be off-line for certain periods.

Therefore, copies of any communication with the Regional Coordinators, together with any general enquiries about the conference, should be sent to Ms. Fisher.

With the movement of the IAPT to Vienna the webpage of TAXON has changed to <http://s1.botanik.univie.ac.at/iapt/taxon/default.htm>