

VII. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

(continued from page 32)

The Annotated Flora of Kairiru by Bro. O.W. BORRELL (Marcellin College, Bulleen, Australia) has been allocated A\$ 3000 by the Papua New Guinea Biological Foundation towards its publication. Brother William is retouching the drawings and hopes for a speedy publication of the Flora.

Appreciation of soil fertility by the Dayaks of Central Kalimantan, J. Agric. Trad. & Bot. Appl. (JATBA) 20 (1983) 127—137 (in French) by P. LEVANG.

A survey is given of traditional methods used by the Dayaks when searching for soil suitable for fields to be used for swidden agriculture. They mainly look at the vegetation: the presence and/or absence of certain plants indicates whether the soil is fertile enough. They also use their bush knives, pushing it into the soil: if it comes out clean the soil is too sandy for agriculture. Some shake clear water with some soil: if it becomes clear again soon, the soil is again not

fit for agriculture. Sometimes the soil is tasted and smelled by certain specialists which gives an indication of the mineralization and acidity. Also, a young tree one or two meters tall is pulled out and the rootsystem and the soil is examined. The author has analyzed soil samples and came to the conclusion that in most cases the Dayak tests proved to be satisfactory for judging the fertility of the soil.

Australian plants. An index of collectors and delineators from the 1780's to the 1980's. Dr J.C. WILLIS (MEL) is supervising this Index and solicits contributions to it, especially of the 'smaller' collectors, whose collections otherwise may pass unnoticed. Dates, localities, sizes of collections and herbaria where deposited should be mentioned whenever possible. Correspondence should be directed to D. Pearson, c/o P.O. Beveridge (Vict.) — 3653, Australia.

Bakawan. With the second issue of the third volume (ISSN 0115-96-23) this Newsletter formerly dealing mainly with the mangroves and mangrove vegetation of the Philippines has become the official publication of REMIN, the Regional Mangrove Information Network of Asia and the Pacific, which was founded during a meeting of the National Mangrove Committees of Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Thailand in Manila between 30 April and 2 May 1984. Hopefully other countries with similar committees will join in the future. REMIN will have its headquarters in Manila and is financially supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. The present issue contains articles on the establishment of REMIN, a survey of the local committees, an introduction to the IDRC, and reports on the projects of the Philippines and Malaysia (with vegetational distribution maps). Some abstracts of recent literature are given. The general tendency of the articles is a greater interest in social relevance and exploitation than in the conservation of this much threatened vegetation type. It is to be hoped that in the future it will lay a greater emphasis on conservation against conversion in the right quarters.

The editorial office is National Mangrove Committee/Natural Resources Management Center, POB AC-493, Quezon City, the Philippines. No contribution fee has been cited.

Bambusblätter / Feuilles de Bambou / Bamboo Leaves. Published by Werner Simon, Georg Mayr Strasse 70, 8772 Marktheidenfeld, W. Germany. Co-editors are D. McClintock, U.K., and Y. Crouzet, France.

This new newsletter (First issue January 1984, second issue August 1984, third issue February 1985, DM 8.00 / NF 20.00 / £ 2.00 / Hfl. 9.20) intends to deal with the bamboos cultivated in Europe. As such it will be of little interest to our Malesian area. Still, as it is the only newsletter known to me dealing with these grasses, it should be watched, as it might well contain interesting information on S.E. Asian bamboos in the future. In the first issue, for instance, an article was included by D. OHRNBERGER announcing his series 'The bamboos of the world' discussed below. In the second issue a brief survey is given on the rootsystem and cauline branching of bamboos, and a list of all the generic names.

The bamboos of the world by D. OHRNBERGER published by J. Goerrings, St. Sebastianusstr. 2, D-5068 Odenthal, W. Germany.

This is a series intended to consist of 117 parts in A4 format each containing from 7 to more than 60 pages. About four parts will have introductory chapters, the others will each contain the information of a single genus. Such a part has two chapters. In the first the name of the genus, and those of its species and infra-specific taxa will be given, including their synonyms, and the pertinent literature briefly cited. Descriptions will not be given, the infra-specific taxa may have diagnoses to distinguish them from each other. The second chapter will discuss the geography of the taxa with maps which will also include the areas of their cultivation, if any. Thus far (Oct. 1984) 22 parts have appeared, the smallest being 7 pages and costing DM 1.80 (excl. handling and mailing), the largest on *Sasa* with 65 pages for DM 16.30. The work seems amateurish and of horticultural interest at most.

The Bukit Raya Expedition (1982 — 1983) (see p. 3892). A popular account in Bahasa Indonesia by Messrs. J.P. MOGEA, H. WIRIADINATA (BO) and H. VAN REULER (School for Environmental Conservation Management, Bogor) appeared in *Suara Alam* 31 (1985) 28—29, 37—40. The colour photo taken by Dr. W.J.J.O. DE WILDE (L) of Rafflesia represents *R. arnoldi*.

East Asian Tertiary / Quarternary Newsletter published by the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hongkong, Pokfulam Road, Hongkong. Number 1, 1984, (out of print), nr. 2 (1985). HK\$ 50.00 /US\$ 6.50 each by Bank drafts in HK\$, US\$ or £. Cheques should be crossed out and made payable to 'University of Hongkong'.

The second issue of this newsletter contains chapters on general subjects (e.g. comparative biogeography of East Asia and Eastern North America), geology, palaeoclimatology, -botany and the evolution of vegetation, -zoology, -anthropology, and personal notes. — Dr. K.Y. Chen, University of Hongkong, in litt.

Environmental Plant Life Services Newsletter 1/3 (1984) 24 pp. (Dr. W. Meijer, Apartment C7, 1346 Village Drive, Lexington (KY) 40504, U.S.A.). contains besides various notes on the Kentucky flora short biographical notes on the late Dr. J. MULLER (L), Dr. W. MEIJER's (KYO) Rafflesia-guide CHAIDIR (Padang), who unfortunately drowned. Further notes on Rafflesia, of course:

Because of the spectacular size of the flowers, which make them attractive for the tourist trade, the so-called cleaning of the forests advocated by various Forest Departments, whereby lianas such as Tetrastigma, the hosts of these parasites, are cut down, and the nonchalance with which some high ranking government officials treat their national parks, the latter must be happy to observe that these botanical Pandas seem doomed to disappear with much less fuss than their zoological counterparts. More destruction of Rafflesia-sites is noted in the EPS Newsletter 1/3 (see Research).

An unpublished thesis was written by Ms. M.B. JUBIL (UKMS) in 1984 on the ecology and taxonomy of the *R. pricei* population in the Crocker Range. The flowers are more variable than described, unfortunately the Newsletter does not give details. The locality of *R. keithii* along the Keningau-Kimanis Road has been destroyed by fire, the only known locality of this species is now the much endangered one near Poring. The vegetation with numerous endemic species of the

Pinosok Plateau on Mt. Kinabalu has been destroyed for vacation projects, while road building activities are encroaching the Mesilau Cave and have blocked the river in several places. A map is given to indicate the various places. A plea is made to keep Sabah's National Parks inviolate, alas, too late, we fear. Chief Minister Datuk Harris Mohd Salleh is cited to have said 'foreigners in the developed countries would prefer to see the whole of Sabah converted into jungle so that their countries can be kept supplied with tropical hardwoods and also send their people for research purposes in Sabah.' If correctly cited there seems to be a contradiction here, and although there is a truth in both halves of the statement, the innuendo is deplorable.

The Rafflesia gadutensis locality in the G. Gadut Reserve is now probably destroyed by clearing of the forest.

An interesting article on lianas by MEIJER with a list of species found 30 years ago on the lower slopes of Mt. Sago, Sumatra.

A 10-point summary of the destruction of the Mt. Kinabalu Nat. Park is given.

Flora of China. Dr. T.-T. YÜ has published a special report on the progress of the project in *Syst. Bot.* 9 (1984) 368—370.

Flora of Taiwan. The Editors have announced plans to prepare a second edition.

The Golden Bough, a newsletter to foster the biosystematics of Loranthaceae and Viscaceae. Co-ordinator Dr. R.M. POLHILL, Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew TW9 3AB, U.K. The first issue was published in November 1982 but has reached us only now. It was intended that further issues were to be offered twice yearly as a forum for the interchange of ideas and information about mistletoes. This one contains a list of addresses and current (1982) interests of students of the families, some short notes, e.g. on epiparasitism and a tribute to Danser, requests for material and an enumeration of services offered by various specialists for identification or collecting.

Herbarium Pacificum News. From the numbers 1 and 2 of this new serial (1984) it is learned that the Herbarium Pacificum of the Bishop Museum, Hawaii, has received a substantial grant from the NSF for three years to continue the present high level of service to the national and international botanical communities, to curate and integrate the Doty Algal and Hoe Bryological collections into the Herbarium Pacificum, and to computerize the data associated with the Type Collections.

The Doty collection involves the processing of ca. 13,000 spirit-preserved collections of Algae. The Type Collections contain ca. 6,000 specimens.

It is mentioned that the work on the new Flora, 'Guide to the flowering plants of the Hawaiian Islands', is making considerable progress. In the fall of 1984 treatments were at hand for 182 genera and 400 species accomplished during the preceding 10 months. It is hoped that illustration and typesetting of the MS is ready by August 1987 and the target of publication is 1988, 100 years after the excellent Flora by Hillebrand was published. Several specialists are attracted from outside Hawaii.

Another project going on is a second, revised edition of Mary C. Neal's book 'In gardens of Hawaii', increased to contain some 3,000 species.

Journal of Tropical Ecology. (Continued from p. 30). A number of prominent tropical ecologists have joined the Editorial board. The Chief Editor is Dr. A.G. MARSHALL, his Deputy is Dr. M.D. SWAINE. Each annual volume will consist of 4 issues, each of c. 96 pp. The price for individuals in developing countries will be around £ 10.00/issue, to others £ 20.00 (or US\$ 40.00), to Institutes £ 45.00 (or US\$ 90.00). Contributions are requested and may deal with any aspect of tropical ecology, and both those devoted to the results of original research as well as those which form significant reviews will be considered. Generally, papers should not exceed 5000 words in length. Short communications not exceeding 2 printed pages are also accepted and will be printed at the end of each number. Write to Dr. A.G. MARSHALL (JTE), Department of Zoology, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2TN, Scotland, U.K. (From a folder circulated by the JTE, see note sub Wallaceana, below).

Nomina generum malesianorum. Dr. C.G.G.J. VAN STEENIS is preparing an updated second edition of this monumental reference work listing all generic names in Phanerogams ever used in Malesia by alphabet and by family.

Pocket checklists of Indonesian timber trees. (Continued from p. 48). Good progress is reported by Dr. T.C. WHITMORE (OXF). The list for Sumatra is nearly finished and the one for Celebes has been started. Experts have been contacted for difficult families.

The Royal Society's Rain Forest Project. (Continued from p. 31—32). A Memorandum of understanding was signed in October, 1984, by Mr. LIEW THAT CHIM, Deputy conservator of forests in Sabah, and the Royal Society, after which the latter decided to form a new Southeast Asian rain forest research committee to coordinate the next phase of the program. Dr. A.G. MARSHALL (Dept. Zool., Aberdeen University) was appointed as Chairman and research coordinator with Dr. K. JONG and Dr. M.D. SWAINE as committee members. Newsletters outlining the progress may be requested from the Chairman. The Sabah Foundation is financing the construction of a field studies centre at Danum for research, training and education, that should be ready in June, 1985.

Tree flora of Malaya, prepared at KEP. Taxonomic revisions for Volume 4 continue: Boraginaceae (Dr. F.S.P. NG), Lauraceae (K.M. KOCHUMMEN), Meliaceae (Dr. D.J. MABBERLEY, OXF), Myrsinaceae (Dr. B.C. STONE, PH), Oleaceae (Ms. Dr. R. KIEW, UPM), Rhamnaceae (Dr. A. LATIFF, UKMB), Rubiaceae (K.M. WONG) and Sapindaceae (S.K. YAP).

Wallaceana is a global newsletter for tropical ecology published in four issues each year and is the official newsletter of the Working Group of Tropical Ecology in the International Association for Ecology (INTECOL). Aside from the communications of news and developments in tropical ecology, it is also the objective of the Newsletter to provide an adequate picture of review of selected disciplines and topics related to tropical ecology, in a form readable for gener-

al interest and yet useful as informative summaries or discussions. Since the inception of a new format in 1984 each issue carries one or two original articles or reviews pertaining to general issues as well as to specific topics of biological and ecological interest, ranging from aquatic sciences to forestry. The Newsletter is priced at very nominal subscription rates as it is produced with financial assistance from UNESCO: within S.E. Asia Mal\$ 12.00 or US\$ 6.00 (individual), 20 / 10 (institutional), outside S.E. Asia 20 / 10 (indiv.), 30 / 15 (inst.). Write to The Editor, Wallaceana c/o Dept of Zoology, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur 22-11, Malaysia. (Summarized from a folder of the Newsletter).