

I. FROM THE EDITORS

We offer apologies to our readers for the delays incurred with the production of this and the previous issue of the *Flora Malesiana Bulletin*.

This is the last issue of the present volume (1992–1997) which is now composed of 8 parts. Time to reflect on some of the changes that were implemented and the constant elements that have persisted over this period. At the second *Flora Malesiana Symposium* in Yogyakarta it was decided to publish an additional spring issue that would have the character of a newsletter, while the autumn issue was to have more extensive reports, papers and, of course, the bibliography. We feel that the latter persisting element is still the most important and lasting contribution to Malesian botany. Just by checking the 10 indices (the 11th will be available soon), one can rapidly obtain information on any Malesian taxon published in the past 50 years. Also for biographic purposes, collecting itineraries, and various research projects the *Flora Malesiana Bulletins* form a gold-mine.

Flora Malesiana and its sister projects in and around the region are doing well, although this is not directly evident from the number of published instalments. Many manuscripts have been received in a more or less finished state. An issue containing the treatments of *Boraginaceae* (H. Riedl), *Daphniphyllaceae* (T.C. Huang), *Illiciaceae* and *Schisan-draceae* (R.M.K. Saunders), *Loranthaceae* and *Viscaceae* (B.A. Barlow), and *Rafflesiaceae* (W. Meijer) can be expected in 1997, and the treatments of *Cymodoceaceae*, *Myristicaceae*, *Potamogetonaceae*, and *Zosteraceae* are in preparation. Progress of the *Flora* is far from 'glacial' as suggested by Tim Whitmore in his review in the *Kew Bulletin* (vol. 51: 421) of the *Meliaceae* treatment in *Flora Malesiana* by Mabberley, Pannell and Singh. It was particularly unfortunate to single out this family treatment for criticism of slow progress because the individual authors completed their treatments at an admirable speed. Only due to asynchrony of the individual contributions by the different authors the FM instalment appeared many years after the revision work had started.

In this editorial we wish to congratulate the Royal Forest Department of Thailand on its Centennial in 1996. One of the activities organised to commemorate this occasion was the *Flora of Thailand Symposium* held in Phuket in September. Our Thai friends graciously provided the logistic facilities to have a *Flora Malesiana Board* meeting on this occasion as well. Congratulations are also due to the team of the *Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak project*, who in a short period of time published the second volume. Obviously there is a very beneficial synergy between *Flora Malesiana* and these two more local flora projects, which we cherish and which holds a promise for the future of plant taxonomy in Southeast Asia.

LATEST NEWS: 4th *Flora Malesiana Symposium* in Kuala Lumpur

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