

VI. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
(continued from p.1558)

a) Research and Publications:

Taiwan herbaceous flora (see Fl.Mal.Bull. 22, p. 1562). In 1968 Prof. Hui-Lin L i spent a considerable time in Taiwan discussing this project with Taiwan botanists and authorities. An agreement was finally reached among those who are to be actively participating and a plan of procedure and a budget were prepared. These were presented to the Science Commission of the Central Government for approval. No action has yet been taken (Dec. 1968). Prof. Li will spend half a year sabbatical leave at the Smithsonian for this work.

Musci of Taiwan. During two summers of 1967 and 1968 Dr. Ching-Chang Chuan g collected Musci in Formosa and is working on these in the University of Vancouver, Canada.

Flore du Cambodge, Laos et Vietnam. Several botanists are engaged in elaborating groups for this Flora, e.g. Mlle Lecompte on Combretaceae, Mme Bui Ngoc Saul on Araliaceae, and Mme Thirlet on Loganiaceae.

Flora of Thailand. Work on this proceeds; a few small families have been revised and will appear in print for the first volume which will also contain the general chapters. Also the newsbulletin, Progress of Thai Botany, is being prepared; this will be published in the Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society.

Malayan Scientist. This aims to give some insight into the range and nature of scientific research carried out by the Faculty of Science, University of Malaya. Contributions are by students, teachers, research workers, and naturalists, in a very diversified field. Number 3 is dated 30 Sept. 1967, 114 pages.

Pharmaceutical Survey of Malaya. The appointment of Mr. John Carrick, Field Pharmacologist (Colombo Plan) at the Department of Chemistry, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, as Head of the Phytochemical Survey of Malaya, terminated Dec. 31, 1967; he departed for Adelaide. His numbering ran to no. PCSM 2600. His assistants, Mr. Teo Leong Eng (technical assistant botanist) and Mr. G. Pachiappan (laboratory assistant) will continue collecting and begin their numbers as T. & P. 1 (PCSM 2601 onwards).

Cultivation of New Guinea Rhododendrons. In The Rhododendron, the quarterly of the Australian Rhododendron Society, there is an interesting paper by M. Black on the History of Rhododendron Collecting, in which great attention is paid to the wealth of New Guinea Rhododendrons, new collecting techniques, tasks ahead, and an appreciation of species which may be worthwhile.

The history of the rousing of attention to the Papuan Rhododendrons is not so well attended to, in so far as the initiative taken at Leyden by the Rijksherbarium is completely ignored. As a matter of fact we distributed as early as 1955 seed of large-flowered species, collected near the Wissel Lakes by a forester, Mr. Rosendahl, to Edinburgh, Kew, and Boskoop. Since that time the effort was perpetuated, but obviously it takes a decade before Rhododendron growers realize the value of this new promising source.

Also from Lae and by Dr. H. Sleumer (from his expedition) Rhododendron seed and cuttings were distributed in the sixties. In 1968 Mr. M. Black, free lance, and Mr. P. Wood from

the Edinburgh Botanic Garden went through Malaya, Bogor, to Papua, to hunt for living plants of Rhododendron and Orchidaceae; they started April 1968. They procured some 2000 living plants of Rhododendron. At the University of St. Andrews, outside Edinburgh, a greenhouse is built to house tropical Rhododendrons. This will obviously become an important centre.

Also Japanese and Australians are becoming sensitive to the virtues and advantages which may be found with Papuan Rhododendrons.

Biological Bulletin, Tunghai University, Taiwan. This journal contains several botanical papers on the Flora of Taiwan, amongst others on mosses. For exchange write to the Librarian, Department of Biology, College of Science, Tunghai University, Taiwan.

Early Agriculture in the Papuan Highlands. Near Mt Hagen pre-historic agricultural systems were found burried under peat, dating to c. 350 B. C., showing that the recent techniques and tools were there already before the advent of sweet potato. The research is done by the Research School of Pacific Studies of the University of Australia at Canberra.

Grasses of Australia. A proposal is being considered to embark on a grass flora of Australia in which Mr. M. Lazari-des, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, would contribute the tropical genera, for which he has advanced MSS on Chlorideae and Eriachne, and preliminary drafts on Sorghum and a number of smaller genera.

Contributions from the Queensland Herbarium. Together with Queensland Herbarium itself also the way of publication of botanical papers by staff members was innovated. The first of these contributions, issued 27 May 1968, contains the revision of *Melaleuca leucadendron* and its allies, a work long expected in print, by Dr. S.T. Blake. It is full of information and species are keyed out and described, with their precise synonymy. This has undergone quite some change and finer distinctions and improved typification have been possible; 18 species are distinguished in this complex. An important outcome for Malesia is that *M. leucadendron* is confined to some Moluccan Islands, New Guinea, and N. Australia, while the form of the Sunda shelf and Indochinese Peninsula must be called *M. cajuputi*; it occurs also in E. Malesia and N. Australia. In New Guinea there are 4 other *Melaleucas* of this affinity. The work printed on glossy paper and with photographs and maps is certainly a great asset for this group.

b) Herbaria, Gardens, and Organisations:

Organisation for Tropical Studies Inc. This organisation, which is sponsored by many member institutions in North America and Hawaii, has changed the address of its office which is now: Post Office Box 8092, University of Miami Branch, Coral Gables, Florida 33124, U.S.A.

Südasiens-Institut, Heidelberg. Erected in 1962. A very large institute building is now being built. It is primarily a research institute, but lecturing and seminars are freely given and students can specialize. There are various divisions, for agriculture, ethnology, geography, hygiene, commerce, history, sociology, laws, arts, Indology, etc.; there will probably be also one for botany.

University of the South Pacific. This new University has just been established and its first degree course will begin in Febr. 1970. For the building up of its Library the librarian holds himself agreeable for any supply of material which will help to facilitate study and consultation, for complementary copies, serials, and reprints. The address is: The Library, University of the South Pacific, P.O. Box 1168, Suva, Fiji.

University of Malaya, School of Biological Sciences, Kuala Lumpur. This is distinctly getting on its feet, with expanding facilities. It has a field research centre at Ulu Gombak, 20 miles from Kuala Lumpur, in a forest area adjacent to virgin rain-forest. A sister relationship is held with the University of Aberdeen and faculty/student exchange is in effect. Total student population of the University is 4000. The staff of the Biological School counts already 25 members and additional lecturers were advertised for Animal Genetics, Cryptogams (Pteridology or Bryology) and experimental (or quantitative) plant ecology.

Herbarium of Krakau, Poland. Due to a recent reorganisation two separate herbaria are now, since Jan. 1, 1968, housed at the same address: ul Lubioz 46, Kraków, viz the Herbarium Universitatis Jagellonicae Cracoviensis and that of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

National Museum, Manila. Dr. Galo Ocampo retired as Director of the National Museum, Manila. He was succeeded by Mrs. Gemma Cruz-Araneta (née Gemma Guerrero Cruz), onwards from Jan. 1, 1969. A five-year plan has been drawn by each division of the Museum, starting from 1970. The plan proposed by the Botanical Department as far as exploration is concerned includes the following projects: 1970 Southern Samar; 1971/72 Sierra Madre mountains in East Luzon; 1973 Central Highlands of Luzon; 1974 Southern Palawan.

Increase in personnel is requested. An urgent plea is made for a new building, one that is auspicious and adequate for museum purpose.

Solomon Islands. From the Annual Report over 1966 of the Forestry Department, Honiara, it was learned that a new Herbarium building was completed and opened. A start was made by the Forest Herbarium Officer in laying out botanical gardens in the vicinity of the Herbarium; their function will be mainly scientific and educational, but should also serve as a valuable amenity for Honiara township. Excellent progress was reported for 1967.

New West Australian Herbarium. A new separate building is erected to house the State Herbarium in South Perth; within the compounds of the buildings of the Agricultural Department.

Commemoration 150th anniversary Botanic Gardens Bogor. This took place on 18 May, 1967, at which day there was a gathering at Bogor. Various contributions have been collected and issued in Bahasa Indonesia in the journal Berita M.I.P.I. vol. 11, numbers 3-4 (received May 1968). Amongst others there is a Bibliography of works assembled by Mrs. Sahertian-Bakhoven, librarian, all dealing with the Botanic Gardens, from 1850 up to 1966, with other lists following, on useful plants, garden catalogues, hints for collectors, nature protection, etc.

Queensland Herbarium. The new Herbarium was officially opened on Sept. 20, 1968, by the Premier, the Hon. J. Bjelke Petersen. An agreeable pamphlet with the program was printed containing a history and purpose of the Herbarium.

Peradeniya Herbarium. This belongs to the Division of Systematic Botany, of the Gardens. In connection with the project of the new Flora of Ceylon the strange decision has been made, over the head of the division, that no material can anymore be sent on loan to revisors. One should have expected the contrary, in order to promote international collaboration. Ceylon authorities should be aware that this most unusual measure works as a detergent to specialists who devote time in a disinterested way towards progress of Ceylonese botany.

c) Symposia, Congresses, Societies, and Meetings:

Speciation in the Tropics was the title of a joint symposium held by the Linnean Society of London and the Tropical group of the British Ecological Society, London, 31 Oct.- 1 Nov. 1968. The proceedings of this symposium will be printed in full in the new journal of the Linnean Society, as its first instalment, the Journal of Biology, which will be a continuation so to say of the Proceedings of the Society.

11th International Botanical Congress, Seattle, Aug. 24-Sept. 2, 1969. Amongst others there will be a Symposium on the History of Botany in the Tropics, organized by Prof. P. Richards, in which also Dr. Holttum will participate.

Pacific Bryology and Lichenology. A sub-committee for bryophytes and lichens has been formed under the Standing Committee on Botany of the Pacific Science Association. The sub-committee aims at presenting a report at the 1971 Pacific Science Congress. In the meantime, brief notes outlining projects under way relating to bryology and lichenology of the Pacific basin are solicited for circulation in a newsletter. Contributions may be sent either to Dr. Harvey A. Miller, Department of Botany, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99163, or to Dr. Mason E. Hale, U.S. National Herbarium, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

Seames. On the conference at Bandung, end 1968, the rehabilitation of the General Library, the Herbarium, and the Zoological Museum at Bogor received first priority. For the Library I.T.H. has set aside \$ 225.000 to which is added the same amount as 'matching fund' by the U.S.A.

Pacific Science Congress. From 5-9 May 1969 there will be held a Malaysian Inter-Congress meeting at Kuala Lumpur. Attendance will be by invitation only and limited to 100 attendants from outside Malaysia. Largely devoted to aquatic productivity and population problems. There will also be four symposia. Inquiries to be addressed to Pacific Science Association, B. P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The 12th Pacific Science Congress will be held at Canberra from 18-27 August 1971. Attendance will be limited. Inquiries to be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Australian Academy of Sciences, Gordon Street, Canberra City, A.C.T.

XIth International Grassland Congress. To be held at Surfers Paradise, Queensland, 13-23 April 1970. Secretary: 372 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3002.