

IV. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

(continued from page 233)

A checklist of the flora of Brunei Darussalam — A collaborative agreement between the Forestry Department of Brunei Darussalam (BRUN) and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, was signed on 30 March, 1990. Preliminary work on the Project, however, began in June, 1989, with field work in Brunei carried out jointly by the staff of BRUN and K. In August, 1989, a systematic search began at K for all the Brunei specimens filed there and a computerized data base was started to record the label-data.

Mr. L.L. FORMAN (K) is co-ordinator of the Project, while Dr. J. DRANSFIELD is responsible for the liaison with BRUN. In addition three students are employed by K. In succession each spends one year assisting with building up the database and general processing of the material.

Work on the Project falls in four main areas:

- 1) Collaborative field work. The principal aim is to build up a representative collection as a base for the List. The total number of past collections may number about 3,000, most of which are represented in BRUN and K (In L there are perhaps more than 4,000! JFV). Since the flora is thought to number around 4,000 species, many have not been collected yet. Moreover, for a more precise identification and data on distribution, habitat, and ecology several specimens from different localities are needed. Thus, the Project will require over 20,000 collections.
Joint field work has been carried out during four periods, each of one month, so far. About 2,100 numbers have been collected, whenever possible in 8–10-fold. They are deposited in BRUN, while duplicates will be distributed from K, e.g. to A, AAU, C, L, etc. Mr. K.M. WONG, Forest Botanist of BRUN, and his colleagues have collected another 2,100 numbers since 1988.

- 1–29 June 1989 to Bukit Batu Patam, Kuala Belalong in Temburong, and Sungai Liang. 567 numbers.
 - 9 October – 8 November, 1989, to Batang Duri on the Temburong River, up the Belait River to Melilas, and Sungai Liang. 517 numbers.
 - 23 March – 22 April, 1990, to Belabau on the Tutong River, and Temburong River near Ulu Wong. 587 numbers, and very many colour photographs were made (more than 500 in BRUN).
 - 3 November–3 December, 1990, to Selapon, Temburong, and Sungai Liang. 441 numbers.
- 2) Identification of specimens. Many specialists at K are involved, while those of other institutes (A, AAU, C, L, etc.) will be asked to assist. Numerous genera and species are being recorded for Brunei for the first time, confirming the great riches of the Brunei flora and the scientific value of the Project.
 - 3) Recording of data from Brunei specimens in K. The search of the holdings at K have turned up 1,950 specimens so far, a few more than a century old. It will be completed in 1992. All field data have been entered into a database, which will eventually also be available in BRUN.
 - 4) Writing the checklist. The main product of the Project will be an annotated list of all ferns and flowering plants of Brunei Darussalam arranged by family. Where possible there will be identification keys, brief notes, e.g. on habitat, ecology, uses, local names, specimen lists, distribution, and literature references. At this stage not enough collections are available for the final writing of the text with the exception of the Dipterocarpaceae, as these were extensively collected and described by Dr. P.S. ASHTON during his period in Brunei.

Progress has been most satisfactory and now that new collections are accumulating and identifications proceeding, the essential material and data for the Checklist are building up. However, Mr. L.L. FORMAN, who has devoted much of his time to this work, has been retired in mid-1991. Other staff members at K are under considerable pressure of different work, it is therefore hoped that suitable funding can be found to allow FORMAN to carry on.

Brunei Rain Forest Research Opportunities — The Royal Geographic Society (RGS), in association with the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD), invites applications from rain forest geographers, biologists, and others seeking to take part in a 14-month expedition, to be led by LORD CRANBROOK, to pristine lowland tropical forests in the Temburong District, Brunei, commencing January 1991. The Project will be based at the new UBD Field Studies Centre at Kuala Belalong.

The research programme will be agreed by a joint UBD/RGS committee. A core team of graduate students will be working on fundamental studies of the rain forest environment. Integrated with these studies, shorter projects (6 weeks minimum) will be undertaken to cover other topics important in establishing base-line environmental data. The opportunity to participate is offered to geographers and other scientists, especially those who have had previous field experience in the tropics and have facilities for writing up their research. The funding required will be £20–27 per day (depending on local support staff needed) plus flight and freight costs.

The Project especially wants botanists who are able to concentrate on the lower plants and/or are interested in the autecology of any of the plants of the region.

Applicants should write now to NIGEL WINSER, Assistant Director, Royal Geographic Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, U.K., with a CV, a synopsis of the research they wish to undertake (approx. 500 words), and details of the likely permanent contribution to base-line information that their work would yield.

Ecology of the Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Islands — Dr. K. A. MONK would like to hear from anyone who has worked in these areas. She is co-authoring a book on the ecology for the Canadian-Indonesian Project EMDI, which will give basic descriptions, 73 inventory data, and an explanation of the natural and human ecological processes which make this the most diverse, most productive, and least degraded set of island systems remaining on Earth. Contributions will be acknowledged, considerable contributions may warrant joint authorship of specific chapters: Proyek EMDI, Kantor Menteri Negara KLH, Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat 15, Jakarta 10110, fax (62) 21/3802183, or Dr. B. INGRAM (Senior author), Dept. Plant Sciences & Forest Resources Management, 344-2357 Mail Mall, University of British Columbia, Vancouver (BC) - V6T 2A2, Canada, Fax (1) 604/2286394.

Flora Malesiana Symposium — Summary of fern session in I.A.P. News 5 (1990) 3 by E. Hennipman.

The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** is funding a project to promote the development of humane resources. Its purpose is to achieve conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in the Asia-Pacific region. A regular newsletter 'ITTO Tropical Forest Management Update' will present information on management innovations, approaches to conservation, and training opportunities for managers. Correspondence should be directed to ANUTECH Pty Ltd, GPO Box 4, Canberra (A.C.T.) 2601, Australia.

The National Museum, Manila, has started a new journal, the **National Museum Papers**, in which scientific data, cultural information, ongoing researches, educational activities, etc. will be published. The first issue contains papers on agents of biodeterioration of ethnographic materials (S.S.R. Naranjo), on the archeology of the Luna and Torralba sites (A.P. BAUTISYA), on 25 effective and common medicinal plants (W.F. VENDEVIL), and new records of polychaetous annelids (V.S. PALPAL-LATOC).

NOVON is a new journal published by the Missouri Botanical Garden. 'Novon' (plural: 'nova') is a neologism for any nomenclatural entity at its first publication, reminiscent of 'taxon' for any taxonomic entity regardless of rank. It will be devoted to the establishment of new nomenclatural entities and new taxonomic synonymy, e.g. descriptions and names of new taxa, new combinations, new names, restricted to vascular plants and bryophytes. For the time being NOVON will be automatically distributed quarterly to all who receive the Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden and will not be available as a separate subscription or exchange. The Annals will exclude articles devoted to nova. In NOVON such nova will be published more rapidly.

Page costs are US\$ 60.00 per page, reductions are possible. Authors should submit manuscripts as two printed double- or triple-spaced copies with the text on either 3.5- or 5-inch diskettes, preferably as WordStar document files. Other wordprocessing formats can be converted, including DEC WPS PLUS (DX), Display Write, Microsoft Word, MultiMate, Word Perfect, Wordstar 2000. Please without any formatting! Copies of the original basionyms or replaced names must be included. More detailed instructions must be asked from NOVON, Dept. 11, Missouri Botanical Garden, POB 299, St. Louis, Missouri-63166.