

## I. EDITORIAL

The year 1991 is one of retrospect and prospect.

Retrospect, because it is 250 years ago that the first volume of the 'Herbarium amboinense' by G.E. Rumphius (1628–1702) finally appeared. Notwithstanding the many commentaries devoted to it, starting with Linnaeus through his student O. Stickman's Thesis (1754), Merrill's 'Interpretation' to De Wit's 'Checklist' (1959) it is still the only regional flora for the Moluccas. It were to be wished that a small team of botanists well-versed in the Malesian flora and local languages with the tomes in hand would spend some time searching for the Rumphian species, many of which have a doubtful identity, consulting the local dukuns before their lore is lost. A similar project for Rheede's 'Hortus malabaricus' by Nicolson, Suresh and Manilal [Regn. Veget. 119 (1988)] proved very successful.

Prospect, because a meeting was held at the Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus, Leiden, The Netherlands, to discuss further internationalization of Flora Malesiana as advocated during the workshop 'The Future of Flora Malesiana' in 1989. There it was decided to create a new Flora Malesiana Foundation, with an International Board and Executive Committee in which representatives of the local countries and those of the major institutes elsewhere actually working on the Flora Malesiana Project would be gathered with the aim to speed up the production of the Flora (see Chapter 5). Plans were discussed to increase world-wide cooperation and funding to attract qualified specialists to deal with the smaller and especially the larger families so that the Flora might be 'finished' within the foreseeable future. Kalkman gave a review of the present situation and prospects for completing family treatments (see Chapter 7). A manuscript of a 'Prospectus of Flora Malesiana' including an updated plan of action, which can be used for multi-targeted fund raising activities, is presently circulating through the Rijksherbarium, which by necessity will remain the pivot for the venture.

In view of their common goals in the study of Indonesian plants and the conservation of biodiversity in the Malesian region a Memorandum of agreement between the Kebun Raya (Bogor) and the Rijksherbarium was signed (see Chapter 5).

Do not forget that the *Flora Malesiana Symposium* will be held from 7–12 September 1992 in Jogyakarta, Indonesia! We will then see what has come of all good intentions and what we can do to increase their effectiveness. Your presence and opinions are important, too, so I hope to see you all there!

The views expressed in the Flora Malesiana Bulletin do not necessarily reflect those of the Rijksherbarium, Leiden.