

V. HERBARIA, GARDENS, ORGANIZATIONS

(continued from page 124)

The ARBEC (ASEAN Review of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation) Research & Development Team has compiled a comprehensive weblink of all ten ASEAN countries (i.e., Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam). These links will provide more organized accessibility and hence promote better understanding on 'who's doing what and where' in the effort to enhance biodiversity research and environmental conservation in the region.

The links are categorized for each country as follows:

1. Organization
2. Resources/Studies
3. Map
4. Environmental Acts
5. General

the ARBEC website: <http://www.cyberct.com.my/arbec>

the weblink site: <http://www.cyberct.com.my/arbec/index9.htm>

The first circular about the **Flora of Thailand Meeting** in Leiden from 11–14 May 1999 has been distributed. Papers and posters related to the Flora of Thailand and/or Indochina are welcomed. A second circular will be mailed to those who respond to: Dr. M. C. Roos, Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus, P.O. Box 9514, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands, e-mail: roos@rulrhb.leidenuniv.nl; or Dr. K. Chayamarit, Forest Herbarium, Pahonyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand (e-mail: kchayama@mozart.inet.co.th).

For Malesian localities the **Geonet Gazetteer** can be of great help. It can be accessed at <http://164.214.2.59/gns/html/index.html>

Dr. K. Mat-Salleh (UKMB) has put a number of **Herbarium UKMB Databases** on line. Sites offered are:

- Herbarium UKMB ONLINE: <http://biodiversity.ukm.my/catalog/ukmb/>
- Ethnobotany of Malaysian Plants: <http://biodiversity.ukm.my/ethno/>
- Native Edible Plants of Sabah: <http://biodiversity.ukm.my/catalog/nep/>
- Plant Systematics Reference Online:
<http://biodiversity.ukm.my/catalog/ukmb/biblio.html>
- Fraser's Hill Flora: <http://biodiversity.ukm.my/fraserh/>
- Wildlife DNA Bank Databases: <http://www.fsh.ukm.my/fsh/dna/ukmdna.htm>
- Species Plantarum Palaeotropicae: <http://biodiversity.ukm.my/catalog/splantarum>

Financial support is provided by the Malaysia IRPA Project 08-02-02-0009, with server support from the Malaysia-Japan Tropical BioResources Program. Several databases can be searched, namely: a species checklist, a species listing in general, or by family, by locality, by collector, by specific collection, and by bibliographic collection, while collection statistics are also offered. Moreover, there are ethnobotany databases with the ethnobotany of Malaysian plants and the native edible plants of Sabah (NEP). Certainly worth some browsing!

The **Index Herbariorum** is now available for searching by institution, city, acronym, staff member, correspondent, and research speciality, and also includes telephone and fax numbers, as well as e-mail and URL addresses:

<http://www.nybg.org/bsci/ih/ih.html>

At present (September 1998) only 21 countries have been included, none Malesian, but others are to be added as they come in.

Dr. E. Colijn (edcolijn@bart.nl) has developed the Internet based **Indonesian Nature Conservation Database** (INCD) and the list server **Indonesian Nature Conservation List** (INCL).

The INCD describes most protected areas in Indonesia and has full checklists of all Indonesian birds and mammals. Currently, he is compiling reptile and amphibia checklists for the site.

Protected Areas:

The website describes not only the National Parks but also Nature Reserves, Wildlife Reserves, Grand Forest Parks, Protection Forests, and Recreation Parks. The site is divided by major island and each opening file has a WCMC map with the locations of the protected areas. Each record has the following info:

- General (area, habitats, location, etc.)
- Access
- Accommodation
- Addresses
- Trekking
- Occurring Flora and Fauna (Common Names)
- References
- Other Websites

The INCL is a weekly digest bringing news about and related to nature conservation in Indonesia, Borneo, Papua New Guinea plus member contributions. Members of the list, currently 170, are people from all major conservation organizations like WWF, Conservation International, etc., people from the World Bank and ADB, NGO's, scientists, and private persons.

The list is open to professionals and the seriously interested only, and is not publicly advertised. New members are added through introduction by other members or by invitation. If you are interested, please send a short introduction about yourself and your organization to add to the list. Member list, an introduction to the list, and all back-issues are available at <http://www.bart.nl/~edcolijn/incl.html>

International Symposium on the Biogeography of SE Asia 2000 — The Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, the Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus (both in Leiden) and the Netherlands Research School of Sedimentary Geology (NSG), Amsterdam, are organizing an international symposium on the biogeography of SE Asia, to be held 4–9 June, 2000, in Leiden, The Netherlands.

Southeast Asia has received much attention in recent years, both from earth scientists and biologists. It is a region where several lithospheric plates are colliding and this process of ongoing mountain building has resulted in a very complicated biotic history. It comprises major hotspots of global biodiversity.

However, the natural environment is much under threat and increased attempts are made to study and to preserve what is left. It has become clear in recent years that the abiotic and biotic developments can only be understood if they are studied in an integrated way. Therefore, an interdisciplinary symposium programme has been developed to give a comprehensive summary of the knowledge at the start of the new millennium. The congress will cover all aspects of historical biogeography of the area, including geological developments, paleoclimatology, marine and terrestrial life, plants as well as animals.

In addition, attention will be paid to methodology, and to 'applied biogeography' and conservation. Special themes may include monitoring of Global Climatic Change and Biodiversity assessments. The texts of the lectures will be published shortly after the congress.

The meeting will consist of invited presentations, contributed lectures and posters, and workshops such as on computer applications and on multidisciplinary research themes. One day has been planned for excursions and leisure.

For further information and for inclusion in the mailing list for the 2nd announcement, please contact: Dr. Rienk de Jong, Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Department of Entomology, P.O. Box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands:

tel.: +31 71 516 26 52; fax: +31 71 513 33 44; e-mail: jong@nmm.nl

The School of Biological Sciences of the Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore has changed its name to Plant Systematics Laboratory. Dr. B.C. Tan has succeeded Dr. H.T.W. Tan as Curator of the Herbarium (SINU) on 14 May 1998.

Taxonewsia is the newsletter of the East Asian Network for taxonomy and biodiversity conservation (EANetTBC) founded after the International Conference for Taxonomy and Biodiversity in East Asia, held in Seoul on 12–14 June 1997. For more information write to its Secretary: Dr. Kim Mu-Yeol, Korean Institute for Biodiversity Research (KIBIO), Chonbuk National University, Deogjin-dong, Chonju, 561-756, Republic of Korea:

tel.: +82.652.70-3447; fax: +82.652.70-3448; e-mail: mykim@moak.chonbuk.ac.kr

During the past years the **collections of known types at the Herbaria of Amsterdam (AMD), Leiden (L), Utrecht (U), and Wageningen (WAG)** have been digitized. On 29 September the full database, including over 30,000 images, was launched onto the Internet [see also *Fl. Males. Bull.* 11/8 (1997) 505]. It can be accessed from a click-down from the Rijksherbarium's URL (see frontispiece). About 50,000 specimens have been included. It is hoped that this will be of great advantage to taxonomists worldwide, not only those dealing with Malesian taxa. Mr. L.P. Willemse (L) and his assistants have to be congratulated for this work of great importance.

The project was funded by NWO, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research. During the festive launch it was announced that NWO will further stimulate digital registration of the Dutch Herbarium Collections with a subsidy of NLG 1,200,000.