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STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING FLORA MALESIANA

Introduction

Last year I have reported on the results of a first annual questionnaire sent out to all collaborators in the Flora Malesiana network early 1993, asking information on progress, possible bottlenecks, and the expected date of completion of the manuscript. The present report deals with the results of the second questionnaire, which was circulated early 1994. The response was somewhat lower compared to the first one (c. 80% and 85%, respectively).

Results

The commitments to Flora Malesiana so far cover almost 55% of the total amount of species. The increase since last year is due to especially colleagues from Australia who, after the visit of Dr. APRILANI SOEGIARTO, offered to be coordinating author for the treatment of a number of the remaining families and to try to set up teams.

The progress in most of the family treatments is still slow to moderate due to other commitments (e.g. other Flora projects, fieldwork) and lack of funds.

In several families hardly any notable progress has been made the last few years, a.o. *Arecaceae* (full start from 1995 onwards), *Asclepiadaceae*, *Polygonaceae*, and *Cunoniaceae*. The latter treatment will get a major push with the appointment of Dr. H.C. FORTUNE HOPKINS, a post-doctoral candidate within the Human Capital and Mobility network 'Botanical Diversity of the Indo-Pacific Region'. We very much regret the sudden death of Dr. B.C. STONE and have to reconsider what can be done to work out the information he has accumulated and how to complete the *Pandanaceae* and *Rutaceae*. Dr. K. U. KRAMER's demise has brought the work on *Pteris* to a halt.

Table 1. Overview of the state of affairs of Flora Malesiana; a comparison between the situation in 1993 and in 1994.

	1994		1993	
	no. spec.	%	no. spec.	%
total	35200	100	35100	100
published	6300	1884	6150	18
under review	19000	54	18100	52
not allotted	9900	28	10850	31

Table 2. A comparison between the expectations resulting from the 1993 questionnaire and the expectations resulting from the 1994 questionnaire plus the manuscripts received meanwhile.

	1994		1993	
Series I				
received	11	950	expected 1993	13 1385
expected 1994	10	920	expected 1994	10 630
total	21	1870		23 2015
Series II				
received	5	47		
expected 1994	4	46		
total	9	93	received/expected	8 136

Table 3. As Table 2, but listing the families.

Families 1993/1994

	1994 (* = also mentioned in 1993)		1993 (expected but no recent confirmation, or delayed)
received	Boraginaceae*	Azollaceae*	Costaceae
	Caesalpiniaceae*	Davalliaceae*	Eriocaulaceae
	Corsiaceae	Matoniaceae*	Heliconiaceae
	Cymodoceaceae*		Musaceae
	Gentianaceae		Strelitziaceae
	Meliaceae*		Viscaceae
	Philesiaceae		Xanthorrhoeaceae
	Potamogetonaceae*		
	Rafflesiaceae*		Dipteridaceae
	Sapindaceae*		Ophioglossaceae
	Zosteraceae*		Salviniaceae
expected	Cycadaceae*	Marattiaceae*	
	Hernandiaceae*		
	Illiciaceae*		
	Loranthaceae*		
	Lowiaceae*		
	Myristicaceae*		
	Nymphaeaceae*		
	Oleaceae*		
	Rubiaceae-Naucleaeae*		
	Vitaceae*		

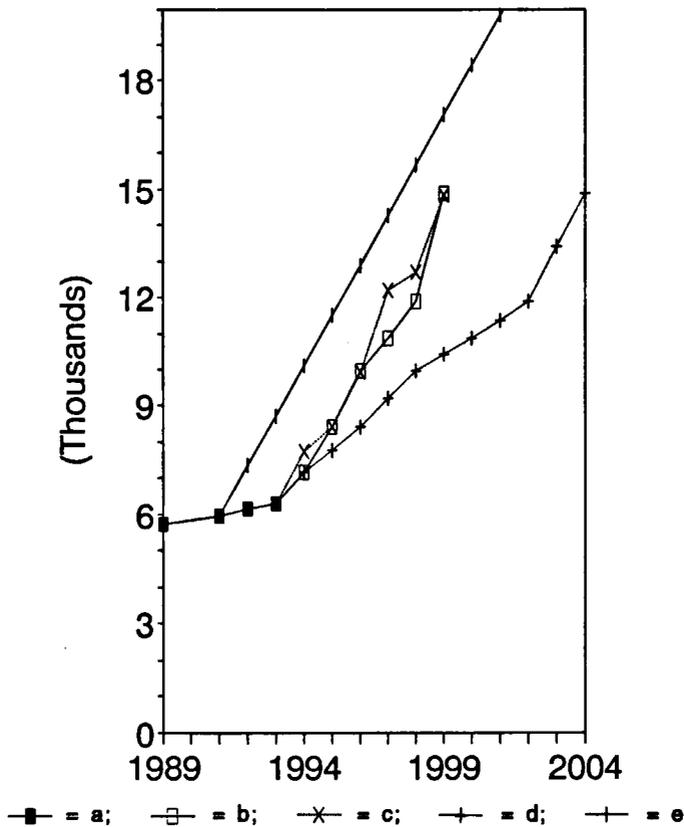


Figure 1. The number of species published (a), received in manuscript and expected according to the 1994 questionnaire (b), expected according to the 1993 questionnaire (c), expected according to a more realistic interpretation of the 1993 questionnaire (d; i.e. half the speed of c), compared to the target figure of the Action Plan (e; i.e. completion of Flora Malesiana in 2012).

Discussion: Series I and II

For reasons set forth in last year's report, I will discuss the results pertaining to Series I and II, leaving out the *Orchidaceae*. Of the c. 35,000 species, some 6300 have been published so far. The manuscripts of the revisions of 11 families comprising some 950 species in total (Series I) and 5 families with 47 species (Series II) are now in the hands of the editors. Of 10 families comprising some 900 species (Series I) and 4 families with 46 species (Series II) the manuscripts are expected this year. This is some 400 species less than expected on the basis of the first questionnaire (= c. 20%), but it also means that within a year and a half over 20% of the species will be covered. Whereas this progress is still less than the mean annual increase required for a timely completion of Flora Malesiana Series I and II in 20 years (i.e. in 2012), it is exactly according to the more realistic scheme I discussed last year, i.e. realization of the expectations 10 instead of 5 years and consequently a coverage of 1/3 of the Flora by the turn of the century and completion around the year 2040 (see Figure 1).

Remaining families

Although as said a number of specialists have opted to coordinate one of the remaining families, the remaining families not allotted to a (coordinating) author still include a number of complex families like the *Gesneriaceae* and *Lauraceae*, which may cause serious problems in the long run for continuous progress towards a completed Flora. Furthermore, although Dr. C. F. PUTTOCK (CANB) has taken up the challenge to coordinate the treatment of the *Rubiaceae*, whole regiments of collaborators are needed for a timely completion of the treatment of this family, of course.

Chapter II of this Bulletin lists some of the most important families for which collaborators are needed.

Conclusions

1. I am still optimistic about further acceleration of the FM-project. A completion in 45 years time appears realistic.
2. Even in the case of almost finished manuscripts, the final check of material and the finishing touch usually takes more time than expected. Hofstadter's Law: It always takes longer than you expect even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law.
3. More collaborators are urgently needed to strengthen existing working teams, but especially to form working teams on the remaining complex families.
4. Fund-raising efforts have been partly successful, but must and will continue unconditionally. The recent initiatives of our Australian colleagues to increase their efforts to treat Malesian taxa is much appreciated. It is gratifying that even without additional funding substantial acceleration of the progress of Flora Malesiana can be achieved.

VISIT OF PROF. APRILANI SOEGIARTO TO LEIDEN

On June 3 1994 Dr. APRILANI SOEGIARTO visited Leiden and had a meeting with Dr. P. BAAS and Dr. M. C. ROOS. They discussed the progress of the Flora Malesiana project and evaluated the promising increase in Australian contributors so that at the moment 5 teams are coordinated by Australian colleagues. Most of them want to set up teams including programmes for Ph.D. students from the Malesian countries at Australian universities.

An important item discussed was fund-raising. Large-scale funding of the FM project appears to be unlikely. The Indonesian GEF project may be a possible source of funds for taxonomic projects. Fund-raising needs much preparation, but Prof. Aprilani Soegiarto will be very happy to lobby in and submit proposals to international agencies. He mentioned that ITTO is very positive about the Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak project. This should be used to inquire about the possibilities for FM to get an ITTO grant.

The Board agrees that FM should contribute to worldwide initiatives like IOPI and SPP. For the checklist project the IOPI format has been adopted already. In case SPP really gets started, we should consider to adopt that format for our Flora treatments. To discuss a further simplified FM-format will be a good issue for a specialized workshop during the 3rd Flora Malesiana Symposium next year. Furthermore, we should aim at producing FM on CD-ROM as well.

In the framework of the EU HCM network Botanical Diversity in the Indo-Pacific Region Dr. S. DRESSLER, Dr. P. HOFFMAN, Dr. H.C. FORTUNE HOPKINS, Mr. R. P. J. DE KOK, Dr. D.J. MIDDLETON, and Ms. J. SCHNEIDT have been appointed (see Chapter II).

Vacancies for post-graduate positions still exist in AAU [*Kaempferia* (*Zingiberaceae*) in Southeast Asia], RDG (Molecular evolution of *Nepenthes* in the Indo-Pacific region).

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE FOUNDATION FLORA MALESIANA

The capital of the Foundation Flora Malesiana has increased in 1993 thanks to the sales of Flora Malesiana copies. Therefore, in 1994–1995 c. Dfl. 20,000 will be available for supporting Flora Malesiana collaborators to visit foreign herbaria or to attend the Flora Malesiana III Symposium.