

IV. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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Aliens, a journal dedicated to the biology of weeds, is published by the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. ISSN 1173-5988. Ms. S. Lowe, ISSG, SEMS, University of Auckland (Tamaki Campus), Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand (e-mail: s.lowe@auckland.ac.nz).

Also on website: <http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/programs/invasives/issg/>

There is also a discussion group: send a message to ssc-mgr@indaba.iucn.org with as text: subscribe aliens-l

Another journal is **Biological Invasions**, edited by Dr. R. Mijs, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Spuiboulevard 50, 3311 GR Dordrecht, The Netherlands:

tel.: +31.78.639.2392; fax: +31.78.639.2254; e-mail: rene.mijs@wkap.nl

The first issue is planned for December 1998/January 1999. Ask for a free sample copy.

The **Flora Malesiana I, 1**, *Cyclopaedia of collectors*, commonly known as the *Green Bible*, is available as a reprint (1985) at DM 140.00 from Koeltz Scientific Books, D-61453 Königstein, Germany. Orders can be made through e-mail: koeltz@ibm.net

A workshop on **Gesneriaceae** was held during the 4th Flora Malesiana Symposium of which the results will be published in the Proceedings. In summary:

- Identification lists and keys are needed on a local level (possibly including distribution patterns observed) to encourage further collecting activities and to identify species of conservation concern.
- Lists of accepted names and accurately identified specimens should be regularly updated and made available through Internet. Financial support will be needed.
- Material and exchange of information between the different groups interested in the family in- and outside the region are of major importance, e.g., to avoid duplication of work.
- Abstracts of unpublished Master's or PhD theses should be given in the *Flora Malesiana Bulletin*.
- A network was proposed. Interested people can register by e-mail to Dr. M. Kiehn (WU): michael.kiehn@univie.ac.at. He will circulate and coordinate information.
- Many species of *Gesneriaceae* are vulnerable or potentially endangered. Conservation of such taxa and their potential as indicators for destruction of habitats could be used to seek funds for research work.
- A revision of the genus *Chirita* and its section (or separate genus) *Liebigia* for Malesia could be the subject of a thesis.

- *Cyrtandra*: local treatments are in special need. With its adaptation to the forest understorey, its patterns of speciation and adaptive radiation resulting in great diversity, its narrow species distribution, and the resulting implications for conservation could make it a flagship genus to obtain additional funding (including Master's or PhD theses).

A workshop on *Urticaceae* was held during the 4th Flora Malesiana Symposium of which the results will be published in the Proceedings. In summary:

Aims:

1. To identify the state of our taxonomic knowledge of the *Urticaceae* in the Malesian region.
2. To develop an appropriate methodology to prepare an adequate taxonomic account of the Malesian *Urticaceae*, in a timely manner, based on regional contributions.

Methodology:

The following principles were agreed to:

1. Systematic research into the family, together with a Flora Malesiana account, will be based on a team approach. The basic assumptions are:
 - The best quality taxonomic account of the family can be best achieved by a team of researchers;
 - On-going maintenance of our taxonomic knowledge of the family, over the longer term, requires a considerable contribution from regional botanists.
2. Since the study will be based on multi-authored accounts, a standardized botanical terminology for the description of taxa is required.
3. So that comprehension of taxonomic concepts will be understood by as wide an audience as possible, minimal technical terminology will be used, wherever possible.

Action Priorities:

Task	Completion Time
Preparation of standardized botanical terminology	December 1999
Web-based 'Urticaceae Plant Names' Database	January 1999
Preparation of Character-list for Interactive Key to Genera	March 1999
Development of <i>Procridaeae</i> Study Centre in Australia	On-going
Development of <i>Boehmerieae</i> Study Centre in UK	On-going
Develop collaboration with Malesian botanists	On-going
Develop Flora Malesiana <i>Urticaceae</i> Web-site	January 1999