

## XVII. REVIEW

(continued from vol. 12, page 404)

BUIJZE, W. 2001. **De generale Lant-beschrijvinge van het Ambonse Gouvernement, ofwel De Ambonsche Lant-beschrijvinge door G.E. Rumphius.** xlvii + 336 pp., illus. ISBN 90-8045272-6, NUGI 606.641.645.646 (pbk). Privately published by W. Buijze. Price NLG 47.95. Distributed by Boekhandel A. Houtschild, Papestraat 13, 2513 AV Den Haag, The Netherlands.

Admirers, myself included, of the great naturalist Georg Everhard Rumpf, better known as Georgius Everhardus Rumphius (1627–1702) will be pleased to see in print this thorough study. It is a collation and transcription of three copies of an hitherto unpublished manuscript dating from 1678 and forms one of the major works of Rumphius.

An interesting chapter is the new biography of Rumphius, based on extensive research by Buijze which took him to Indonesia, Germany, Portugal, and South Africa to study various archives. [For another biography, based on this and other sources, see Chapter II. Ed.]

The transcription comprise 162 pages written in 17th century Dutch, which makes it difficult to read even for native speakers. The notes consist of descriptions of Ambon and surrounding islands and, as his famous Herbarium Amboinense, were written when the author was completely blind.

Fortunately Buijze has added 344 sometimes very extensive and eminently interesting notes (p. 177–260), a fair number of illustrations, a glossary, bibliographies, and an index to personal names.

Although the book contains little botanical information, it is valuable for the numerous place names mentioned that are no longer to be found on modern maps and atlases. A few remarks for the botanically interested readers have to be made:

'Indische vijg' is not *Ficus* (Moraceae) but *Opuntia* (Cactaceae), p. xvi.

'Ulassi' (*Ulasium mas* of Rumphius) is *Adinauclea fagifolia* (Rubiaceae), p. xxi, 234.

*Arenga pinnata* (*A. saccharifera*) (Palmae) produces sap from both male and female inflorescences, p. 283, 300.

'Damar' or resin is obtained mainly from *Agathis* (Araucariaceae). The Moluccan damar producing dipterocarps are species of *Shorea*, not *Hopea*, p. 287.

'Petola' is *Luffa* (not *Leiffa*) *aegyptiaca* (Cucurbitaceae) and is cultivated all over the tropics not only in Ambon.

My main reason for reviewing this book is to highlight another facet of the extraordinarily gifted man that Rumphius was and whose death 300 years ago (15 June 1702) should not pass unnoticed. Buijze is to be complimented and thanked to make the 'Lant-beschrijvinge' available. — M.M.J. van Balgooy