

I. FROM THE EDITORS

Hofstadter's Law: Things always take longer than you think, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law. [D. Hofstadter, *Gödel, Escher, Bach: an eternal golden braid* (1980) 152].

This certainly applies to the forthcoming issues of the *Flora Malesiana*. According to its editors the bottleneck this time appears to be not the lack of manuscripts, but the lengthy process of reviewing, updating, and final formatting.

This said, you'd better start saving for in September, 2000, **Flora Malesiana, Series I, Volume 14** with 632 pages on 334 taxa of Malesian *Myristicaceae* appeared. Dr. W.J.J.O. de Wilde is to be congratulated with this result of more than 25 years study.

Nepenthaceae, constituting Series I, Volume 15, is with the desk editor for the final layout. It will appear this year.

The volume with the *Caryophyllaceae* and the sea grasses (*Cymodoceaceae*, *Potamogetonaceae*, *Zosteraceae*, *Cunoniaceae*) will also appear in 2001.

The volume with the *Araceae* will probably consist of two parts and will appear in 2002.

Series II, Volume 4 with *Monachosoraceae* and *Ceratopterioideae* is awaiting receipt of the *Taenitiidae*.

Another project that is proceeding well is the **Tree Flora of Sabah and Sarawak** of which this year the third volume appeared. It contains 4 important families: *Fagaceae* (E. Soepadmo, S. Julia & R. Go), *Leguminosae-Caesalpinioideae* (Ding Hou), *Moraceae* (K.M. Kochummen & R. Go), and *Myristicaceae* (W.J.J.O. de Wilde).

Of use to W Malesian botanists may well be B.K. Sinha's **Flora of Great Nicobar Island** that appeared in 1999.

'Our' Dr. C.A. Backer next to his **Flora of Java** and Weed floras also compiled an unequalled data bank of explanations of scientific names of flowering plant, first for Malesia; later, after his retirement, also for the Dutch ones. Altogether he amassed a list of more than 22,500 items when his friends urged him to publish it, and this **Verklarend woordenboek (Explanatory dictionary)** appeared in 1936. For various reasons (Depression of the 1930s, War in the early 1940s, written in Dutch) this work has become exceedingly rare and it is therefore fortunate that an integral reprint has recently (2000) appeared (see Bibliography). For a biography of Backer, see Chapter VIII.

Another important publication is **The plants of the Singapore Botanic Gardens**, a welcome checklist for the c. 2700 species cultivated there (against c. 1700 in the list of 1995!).

Flora Malesiana Symposium 2001. The second circular went out somewhere this summer and the organizers are continuing their efforts to make the Symposium a resounding success. For the most recent information see the website: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.gov.au/fm/fm.html> and the e-mail address fmv@rbgsyd.gov.au for any queries.

[The views expressed in the *Flora Malesiana Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect those of the Herbarium Bogoriense, Bogor, or the National Herbarium of the Netherlands.]