

III. PERSONAL NEWS  
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Please notify the Editor of the FMBulletin of any change in address, which he will be glad to communicate here.

Dr. Peter S. Ashton of Harvard in June 1980 for three frantic weeks (re)named all Dipterocarpaceae in the BO-Herbarium and, thanks to great help from the staff, succeeded.

Dr. R. C. Bakhuizen van den Brink Jr. can hardly be called a junior when on 11 September 1981 he will reach the age of 70. Although kidney failure necessitates dialysis twice a week, he can be regularly seen (as far as smoke permits) at the Rijksherbarium, with great kindness and enthusiasm applying his great memory to pre-identification work.

Mr. Brian Laurence Burtt of Edinburgh, known for his work on gingers and gesneriads, has been awarded the Linnean Medal of the Linnean Society of London, May 28, 1981. Our warm congratulations with this so well deserved honour!

Botanist J. B. Clarkson was transferred in mid-1979 from the BRI-Herbarium to Dept. of Primary Industries, Box 149, Mareeba, Qld., Australia, to establish a new office in North Queensland.

Dr. Hj. Eichler retired on 31 March 1981 as Head of the Canberra Herbarium. A number of brief biographical notes (15 in all) by various colleagues illuminating his activities in various fields, including a list of these activities, membership of committees, and a complete bibliography are given in Newsletter 26 of the Australian Systematic Botany Society, in his honour (pp. 17-43, March 1981). He is succeeded by Dr. Bryan A. Barlow, hitherto Reader of Flinders University, Adelaide, and known for his work on Loranthaceae.

Dr. R. E. Holttum attended the Reunion Internacional de Pteridologia, organized at Algeciras on 11-14 October 1980 by Dr. Salvo Tierra of the University of Malaga. He presented a paper on the five European species of the fern family Thelypteridaceae (two of them only in Spain) in relation to the worldwide family of nearly one thousand species.

Mr. P. Hovenkamp was appointed on 1 May 1980 at the Ferns Department of the Rijksherbarium, in a temporary position. He set out to monograph Pyrrosia.

Dr. K. Iwatsuki of Kyoto visited Thailand in May 1980, for a joint project on mangrove productivity in 1981-1983. He collected some specimens, for KYO and BKF.

Dr. M. Jacobs in mid-1980 became a member of the IUCN Commission On Ecology. In December he attended a consultancy meeting, convened by FAO in Rome, on conservation of forest genetic resources, chaired by Professor M. E. D. Poore (Oxford) and Dr. F. S. P. Ng (Kepong).

Dr. A. J. G. H. Kostermans in October 1980 returned from Ceylon to Bogor. On 1 July 1981 he will reach age 75. Congratulations!

Professor Charles H. Lamouroux of Hawaii from August 1979 till August 1980 worked at Bogor on phenology, during a sabbatical.

Dr. Abdul Latiff Mohamed, curator of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Herbarium, has been promoted to Head of the Botany Department.

Ms. Dr. Lim Ah Lan, who completed a thesis on morphology and reproduction of Arthrophyllum (Araliaceae) at Kuala Lumpur, came for 5 months to Aberdeen for work with Dr. Kwiton Jong, early in 1981.

Mr. Luong Tan Tuoc, former lecturer in forest botany and silviculture at Saigon, came to Aberdeen for a year, in November 1980, for experimental work, with Drs. Kwiton Jong and Mike Swaine.

Dr. N o r a i n i Mohd. Tamin formerly at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia at Kuala Lumpur is now Head of Biology Dept., UKM at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Dr. H. O h a s h i and Mr. Y. T a t e i s h i moved from Tokyo University (TI) to Tohoku (TUS).

Dr. H. O k a d a of Kyoto worked in Bogor during September 1980 and March 1981, on cytobotany.

Mr. K. C. S a h n i retired from his post as Director of Biological Research at FRI Dehra Dun, to be succeeded by Forest Botanist Mr. K. M. V a i d . He took up a professorship in forestry at Himachal Agriculture University, Solan.

Dr. Thawatchai S a n t i s u k of BKF visited Japan late in 1980, to identify the collections made by the Thai-Japanese Botanical Expedition 1979; the material will go to KYO, SHIN, BKF, L, and other Herbaria. He has taken up Aceraceae (4 sp. plus prob. 1 new) and Lythraceae for the Flora of Thailand.

Professor Tem S m i t i n a n d, F.L.S., who fittingly celebrated his 60th birthday among assembled fellow-dipterocarpologists at Kepong, on 27 June 1980, as a consequence retired from his administrative post as Deputy Director General of the Royal Forest Department of Thailand on 30 September 1980, and resumed his botanical work at the BKF-Herbarium.

Born at Nakhon Sawon in central Thailand, son of a financial officer, he studied at the Phrae Forest School during 1937-1939, to enter the service of the RFD in 1940, where in 1950 he became Forest Botanist, until in 1978 he was promoted. He holds honorary Ph.D. degrees in forestry (Kasetsart University, Bangkok, where he also became an Affiliate Professor of Botany), and in biology.

A man with an outlook broad enough to encompass both oriental and western values, he made the BKF-Herbarium a genuine centre. He organized collecting on a large scale, set up cooperation programs with Danish, Dutch and Japanese botanists, including the Flora of Thailand. Besides his papers on taxonomy and vegetation, all listed in FM Bulletin issues, he is the author of Wild Flowers of Thailand, 228 p., richly illustrated in colour (1975). We wish him many productive years, and hope to meet him again before long — for he's a jolly good fellow!

For some more biographical facts, see the back flap of his Manual for the Dipterocarpaceae of Thailand (1980, issued on his birthday).

Professor and Mrs. v a n S t e e n i s were invited by the director of Lembaga Biologi Nasional, Bogor, Mrs. Dr. Setijati Sastrapradja, to attend the 163rd anniversary as guests of L.B.N. (National Biological Institute), 17 May 1980, a fine gesture for a most pleasant reunion after 30 years. The occasion was enhanced by the preceding annual meeting of the Departments of L.I.P.I., among which L.B.N. is the largest, and festival meeting on May 19 with the official opening of the 7-storey new Central Office and Laboratories. In the morning several speeches were

delivered, among which an admirable, exhaustive overview of the history of L.B.N. by Prof. Bachtiar Rivai, Director General of L.I.P.I., on work performed at L.B.N. by Mrs. Dr. Setijati Sastrapradja; Prof. van Steenis conveyed the congratulations of the Rijksherbarium, stressed the importance of international cooperation by which the Gardens got their scientific fame, and emphasized conservation programmes of lowland forests in Kalimantan and Sumatera. In the afternoon he gave a seminar on *Rheophytes*, an interesting ecological class of plants.

Prof. and Mrs. van Steenis spent most of their time in Java in revisiting sites which they knew so well before the war: Dungus Iwul, 20/5 (with Mr. G. Hambali and Dr. I.G.M. Tantra), Talaga Warna, Cibodas-Cibeureum, 22-24/5, Mt Papandajan, 26-29/5 (all cleverly guided by Greg Hambali), and Kuripan (with Dr. R. Becking). In spite of alarming rumours about destructions they found to their pleasure that all sites visited had hardly deteriorated as compared with 30 years ago, the gardens at Cibodas and Bogor being in good condition. A disappointment was the clearing of the limestone hill G. Cibodas (near Leuwiliang) which before the war was of very modest dimension, now serving for a big cement mill. The forest on that hill contained a rather unique limestone vegetation; clearing began probably already during the Japanese occupation. The alarming increase of population, bringing along great building activity, will bring massive problems; Dr. Setijati does not fail to stress in public that family planning is in Java the only way to provide tolerable living conditions for all people. Another disappointment was to hear that the small but rich former Nature Reserve at Depok, between Jakarta and Bogor, is gone.

From 31 May to 8 June a trip was made to the Batak Lands, in NE. Sumatra, including visits to the Bohorok urang-utan rehabilitation centre, Sibolangit, Lau Debuk<sup>2</sup>, Aek na Uli, Piso<sup>2</sup>, Perapat, all diligently guided by Mr. K.S. Depari, former Head of Forests in the area, and now very active in conservation activities. Starting from Pamatang Siantar a special search was made for *Aristolochia* to Dolok Ulu and Laut Tador and contact was made with Dr. Diehl, surgeon-entomologist. As far as known from literature the hill forests are still well intact, but again the lowland forest is unfortunately fastly disappearing, to make place for the botanically barren oilpalm and rubber estates.

Though the weather during the stay was not favourable through an oppressive heat wave all over SE. Asia, without rain and wind, and with heavy cloud covers, the personal contacts were extremely refreshing and Prof. and Mrs. van Steenis wish to express their warm feelings of gratitude for the welcome and hispitality of all staff members of L.B.N. It meant an unforgettable experience!

Benito (Selaginella) C. T a n took his Ph.D. degree on 7 November 1980, at the University of British Columbia, Canada, on a thesis about the local moss flora. He thereupon returned to Dept. of Botany, University of the Philippines, Los Banos, College, Laguna, Philippines.

After 2½ years of field work in Pasoh F. R. on reproductive biology of Macaranga, Ms. Charlotte Tayl o r returned to Aberdeen to write up the results.

Mr. Th. P. M. van de Water on 11 March 1980 received the biennial Professor Lam-award, for his work A taxonomic revision of the genus Sabia (Sabiaceae), published in Blumea 26 (1980) 1-64, 9 fig. Felicitas!

\* Dr. L. J. Webb, rain forest ecologist, has been appointed Honorary Fellow, School of Australian Environmental Studies, Griffith University, Nathan, Brisbane, Qld. 4111, Australia.

Dr. Marinus J. W. Wergler, appointed Professor of vegetation science at Utrecht, on 19 June 1980 delivered an inaugural address on changing concepts about plant-vegetation relations. In August he taught a course at Pajajaran University, Bandung, with field work in the Jati-luhur area.

Mr. Wong Khoon Meng, a gifted young worker, was appointed Forest Botanist at the KEP-Herbarium. His main assignment is a study of bamboos in Malaya.

Professor T. Yamazaki of Tokyo is going to retire at the end of March 1981.