

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

(Obituaries, personal news, etc. — continued from page 43)

DR. R. KIEW (SING) has been awarded the National Tropical Botanical's David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration, see I. Sharp, Ruth Kiew, "Holistic botanist", explorer and communicator. *Plant Talk* 27 (January 2002) 7, portr.

RUMPHIUS, GEORG EVERHARD (1627–1702).

W. Buijze, *Rumphius' reis naar Portugal 1645–1648. Een onderzoek*. 133 pp., illus. Private publication. ISBN 90-804527-2-6. — A study on Rumphius' stay in Portugal and annotated translation of the autobiographic poem in the Herbarium Amboinense; with a background of Portuguese and Dutch history.

Dr. E.M. Beekman is translating the Herbarium Amboinense from the Dutch version into English. He reports:

The Herbarium Amboinense is not only a beautiful description of Indonesian plants in words and picture, but Rumphius included the names of each plant in Malay, Ambonese (distinguishing between the Ambonese spoken in Hitu and in Leitimor), Maccassarese, Dutch, his own Latin, and often Javanese, Chinese, Bandanese, and other languages as well, their provenance, and their medical and economic uses. This large floral panorama is therefore not only a botanical text of great historical interest, but also the first ethnobotanical, ethnographic, and anthropological text of the Indonesian archipelago. Beyond these accomplishments, Rumphius should also be praised as a writer, economist, historian, memorialist, biogeographer, a descriptive ecologist and as a practical botanist who cultivated plants for experimental purposes in a small plot of tropical soil on the island of Ambon.

Rumphius had no collaborators. He asked local herbalists about medicinal uses, hence his observations are based on what today would be called 'field work'. Before he became blind (1670) he had drawn the illustrations himself in colour, but these were destroyed. A series of draughtsmen then drew a new set of illustrations on orders of the colonial government in Batavia (Jakarta).

Besides personal field observations between 1654 and 1670, Rumphius constantly agitated for information about plants from other sources. Hence, though called "Amboinese", the herbal includes descriptions of plants from Java, Celebes (incl. Buton), Ceram, the Lesser Sunda Islands, the Moluccas proper (Bacan, Buru, Halmaheira, Ternate, Tidore), the Banda Islands, the Philippines, Borneo, Sumatra, the Sula Islands, Ambon's neighbouring islands (such as the Uliassers, Manipa, Boano), the Aru Islands, Kei Islands, New Guinea. Beyond Indonesia he makes references to China, Japan, India, and Sri Lanka.

The Ambonese Herbal was written in Dutch and published with a contemporary Latin translation (by Burman) printed in a parallel text. It has never been translated into any modern language, not ever republished. At the moment Beekman is working on an annotated version of the entire Herbal. He has finished the first volume and is now working on the second. He hopes to finish the project in five to six years.

The project was able to begin because of support from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation in New York. It is now sponsored by the National Tropical Botanical Garden (in Hawaii and Florida) and at the moment there is a tentative (depending on funding) agreement that Yale University Press (who published Beekman's English version of Rumphius's other classical text, the Ambonese Curiosity Cabinet (1999)) will publish the multi-volume work in tandem with the same National Tropical Botanical Garden.

The aim is to make one of the greatest texts in the history of the biological sciences available to the world at large in a translation that is close as possible to the original text.

SEIDENFADEN, GUNNAR (Bornholm, 24 February 1908 — Borsholmgard, 9 February 2001)

I. Friis, *Gunnar Seidenfaden (1908–2001): Arctic explorer, ambassador and orchidologist*. *Taxon* 51 (2002) 405–411, portr.

K. Larsen, *Thai For. Bull., Bot.* 29 (2001) 188–189, portr.

SMYTHIES, BERTRAM EVELYN ('BILL') (Naini Thal, India, 1912 — 27 June 1999)

Fl. Males. I, 5 (1958) cccxxii; 8 (1974) xcii;

E.F. Bruenig, Borneo Res. Bull. 30 (1999) 7–10. Forest Officer in Brunei and Sarawak; well-known for his *Annotated checklist of the birds of Borneo* (1957), *Birds of Borneo* (1960, 1968, 1981, 1996), *Common Sarawak trees* (1965), and *Fieldguide to non-dipterocarp trees of Sarawak* (1965).

Eponymy:

Myristica smythiesii J. Sincl. (Myristicaceae)

Parashorea smythiesii P.S. Ashton (Dipterocarpaceae).

STREIMANN, HEINAR

Anon., Heinar Streimann (1938–2001). Austr. Syst. Bot. Soc. Newsl. 109 (2001) 16, portr.

J.A. Elix & L.A. Craven, *Heinar Streimann (1938–2001): a quiet achiever in Papua-Australian botany*. Taxon 51 (2002) 413–414, portr.

Eponymy (as far as phanerogams are concerned):

Calophyllum streimannii P.F. Stevens (Clusiaceae)

Homalium streimannii Craven (Flacourtiaceae)

Kibara streimannii Philipson (Monimiaceae)

Psychotria streimannii Sohmer (Rubiaceae)

Ptychosperma streimannii Essig (Palmae)

Sloanea streimannii Coode (Elaeocarpaceae)

WHITMORE, TIMOTHY CHARLES (Ruislip, United Kingdom, 9 June 1935 — Cambridge, United Kingdom, 14 February 2002)

Fl. Males. I, 5 (1958) cccxxxii–cccxxxiii; 8 (1974) cv–cvii, portr.; many entries in the Fl. Males. Bull. (see indices).

Anon., Daily Telegraph, 4 March 2002, portr.

F.S.P. Ng, *Tim Whitmore and the Tree Flora of Malaya*. Tree Fl. Sabah & Sarawak 4 (2002) xi–xii, portr.

I.M. Turner, *T.C. Whitmore 1935–2002*. Fol. Malays. 3 (2002) 21–43, portr., Malaysian taxa described by him, eponymy, selected bibliography

Y.K. Wong, *My association with Tim Whitmore*. Fol. Malays. 3 (2002) 47–48.

The death of Tim Whitmore at the relatively young age of 66 is a sad loss to his family, many friends and colleagues and to tropical forest ecology. He spent many years studying Malesian and Pacific rain forest at first hand, acquiring a massive knowledge which was distilled into his prolific contributions to scientific journals and books. He is perhaps most widely known for his *Tropical rain forests of the Far East* (1975, 2nd ed. 1984) and *An introduction to tropical rain forest* (1990), but his wider interests spanned morphology, anatomy, taxonomy, biogeography, conservation forestry, horticulture, and apiculture.

He was born on June 9th 1935 and educated at the Friends School, Saffron Walden. After reading Natural Sciences at Cambridge and graduating in 1957, he spent three years in Malaya working for his PhD under the supervision of E.J.H. Corner. This study elucidated the developmental processes leading to different types of bark pattern, which

are so important for the field identification of trees. This research resulted in the award of a research fellowship at St. John's, Cambridge, and at this time he also took up the post of Lecturer in Botany at Southampton University.

In 1960 he made his first visit to a South American rain forest with an Oxford University Expedition studying the floristics and structure of lowland and montane forest in Amazonian Ecuador. In 1962 he was appointed Government Forest Botanist in the Solomon Islands, where he wrote the *Guide to the forests of the British Solomon Islands* (1966). He then moved to the Forest Research Institute, Kepong, Malaysia, where he spent the next seven years planning and preparing the *Tree Flora of Malaya* and training Malaysian counterparts in botany. Volumes 1 and 2 of the *Tree Flora* were published in 1972 and 1973 and were a ground-breaking multi-authored work, emphasising easily observed field characters of bark and leaves. The final volume of the *Flora* was published in 1989.

In 1974 he returned to England where he became joint-director of the Flora of Nepal Project at the Natural History Museum and also Senior Research Officer at the Oxford Forestry Institute, where he remained until 1989. This was a prolific period during which he published extensively on forest dynamics, initiated the *Tree Flora of Indonesia*, completed monographic studies of the genus *Agathis* and founded the *Oxford monographs on biogeography*, three volumes of which were edited or co-edited by him.

In 1989 he returned to Cambridge as a visiting scholar and affiliated lecturer at the Geography Department, where he established (with two colleagues) a consultancy in forest ecology and management. Since the 1960s he had been interested in the taxonomy of *Macaranga* and he now decided to put together a prodromus of the whole genus, a formidable task which was nearing completion at the time of his death.

Tim was a highly disciplined and organised person with the drive and dedication to get through a huge amount of work and with the ability to evoke a brilliant synthesis of a large and complicated subject. His writing is always informative and highly readable.

He was a life-long Quaker and, in living his life according to their principles, believed in plain speaking and honesty in all his dealings. He could be scathing of arm-chair pundits on tropical forest, who were happy to ignore facts when it suited their agenda. However, he was always ready with advice or information for genuine students and others and was constantly consulted for his knowledge and with requests for lectures. Wherever possible he tried to involve local botanists in his work so that long term projects, such as the *Tree Flora of Malaya*, could be completed without his participation. Fieldwork with Tim was always an educational experience and often an hilarious one as he had a highly developed wry sense of humour. His large size, booming voice and forceful personality could come in useful, as on one occasion in the remote Amazon when the press drier had burnt down our host's newly built house. Tim, suitably dressed in smart suit and sola topee, successfully calmed the owner, negotiated compensation and avoided having us thrown out of the village, no mean achievement considering he didn't speak Spanish.

Throughout his career, he received unstinting support from his wife, Wendy. Often living under difficult conditions and bringing up a young family, she dealt with all his hand-written manuscripts and converted them into finished documents. That Tim was able to produce an almost complete account of *Macaranga* during his last illness is in no

small part due to Wendy. Their houses in Saffron Walden, Witney, and Cambridge were always places of friendship and laughter enjoyed by their many friends from around the world. — T.D. Pennington

Added note — He was awarded an honorary doctor's degree by the Enime University, Japan, the ScD degree from Cambridge, United Kingdom, and an honorary degree from Toulouse, France.

Eponymy:

Whitmorea Sleumer (Icacinaceae)

Allowoodsonia whitmorei Markgr. (Apocynaceae)

Anodendron whitmorei D.J. Middleton (Apocynaceae)

Aporusa whitmorei Airy Shaw (Euphorbiaceae)

Bridelia whitmorei Airy Shaw (Euphorbiaceae)

Calamus whitmorei J. Dransf. (Palmae)

Endiandra whitmorei Kosterm. (Lauraceae)

Freycinetia whitmorei B.C. Stone (Pandanaceae)

Heliciopsis whitmorei Kochummen (Proteaceae)

Horsfieldia whitmorei J. Sinclair (Myristicaceae)

Macaranga whitmorei Airy Shaw (Euphorbiaceae) Kew Bull. 23: 89 (1969).

Mangifera whitmorei Kochummen (Anacardiaceae)

Physokentia whitmorei H.E. Moore (Palmae)

Swintonia whitmorei (Kochummen) Kosterm. (Anacardiaceae).

Terminalia whitmorei Coode (Combretaceae)

Vaccinium whitmorei Ng (Ericaceae)

Orchid Genera of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam

André Schuiteman & Ed de Vogel

2000 — Local language section variable 72–109 pp + English section 118 pp., illus., colour plates.

ISBN 90-71236-44-7 (Thai/English); 90-71236-42-0 (Lao/English);

90-71236-43-9 (Khmer/English); 90-71236-41-2 (Vietnamese/English).

Price: EUR 23.00 (for orders from Southeast Asian countries EUR 11.50)

Published by the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Universiteit Leiden branch

The guide is a bilingual book in four different editions, funded by the CY 99 Environment Component of the World Bank / Netherlands Partnership Programme through the IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme for South and Southeast Asia. The contents are the same in all editions and the text is given in one of the local languages as well as in English. Aim is to increase awareness and appreciation of the local biodiversity in the four Southeast Asian countries.

Orders to be sent to: Publications Department
Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Universiteit Leiden branch
P. O. Box 9514, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands
e-mail: zoelen@nhn.leidenuniv.nl