

Vegetation of Koh Lom, A small rocky island west of Koh Chang.

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(TRANSLATION).

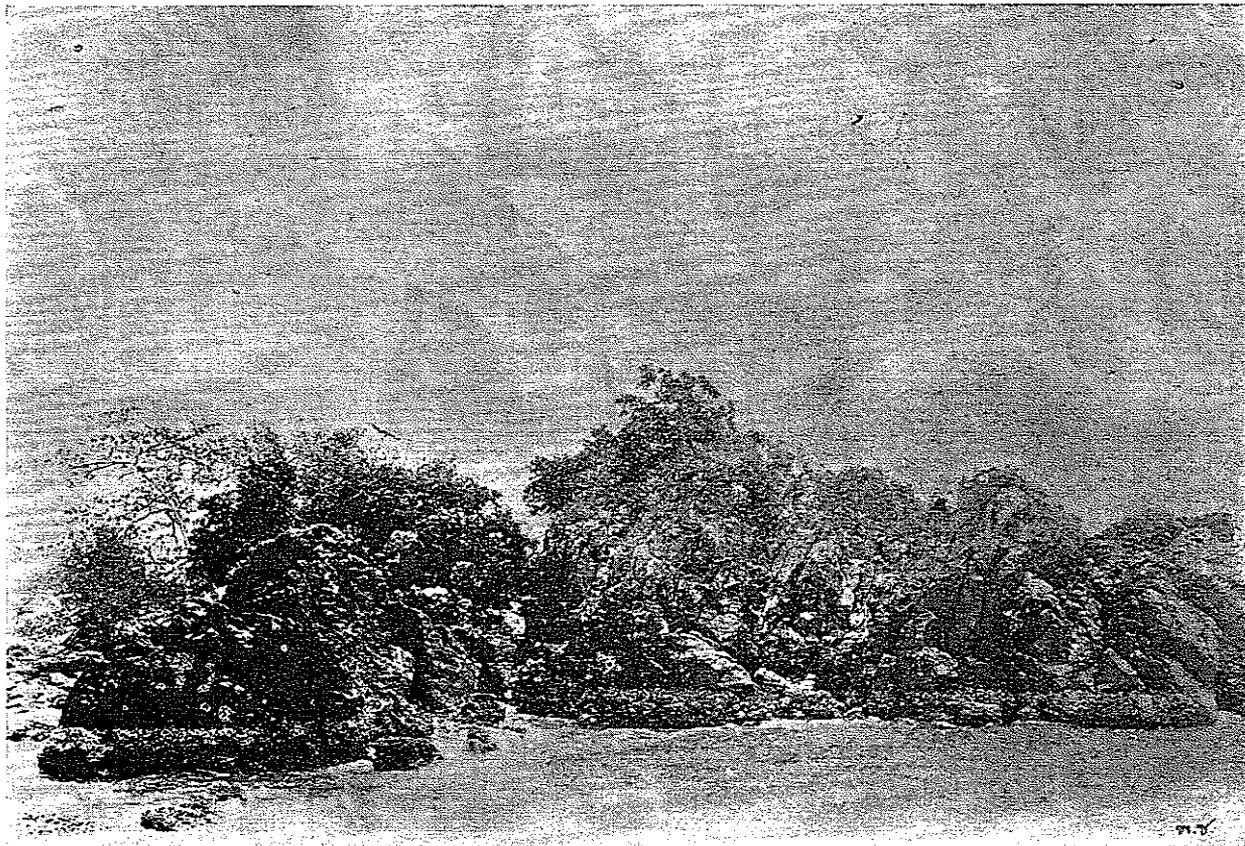
Facing the sea, towards the west, the rock falls straight down into the water, its rim here being fringed with oysters: on the side facing Koh Chang there is a strip of sandy beach where are found heaps of coral fragments; here, on the beach, there is, however, no vegetation by reason of the harshness of the waves and the monsoon.

I collected all the higher plants growing on the island. Curiously enough *Avicennia officinalis* L. is met with here, a specimen grows at the northern extremity of the island; its respiratory roots, usually tall and well developed, are here thin and shrivelled. *Terminalia katappa*, which rarely is missing on the coasts, grows also here, on a spot a little farther up than *Avicennia*. Still farther up on the rock one sees a large-leaved *Ficus* whose roots penetrate deeply into the cracks of the rock, on the top of which there grows a specimen of the small rubiaceous tree, *Morinda citrifolia* L. Several kinds of bushes are found such as *Colubrina asiatica* (L.) Brogn., with floating fruits, and another kind, *Premna integrifolia*, with thin, fresh green leaves which had quite recently appeared, also a small tree, *Guettarda speciosa* L., conspicuous by its naked branches bearing at their extremities diminutive leaves, just unfolding. The commonest plant of the island is probably *Ipomoea glaberrima* Boj. whose woody, and often very long, stems are seen crawling over the western side of the rock. Next comes a stiff-leaved fern, *Stenochluena palustris* (L.), which I have met with on sandy coasts elsewhere, and another crawling plant, *Merremia umbellata* Hallier, var. *orientalis* Hallier, with fresh-green leaves. A Cyperaceae with waxy leaves, *Mariscus albescens* Gaud., grows in the cracks of the rock where its roots form a black-brown matted mass that sucks up the water; if one tears up this matted mass

it comes away without leaving any trace of mould on the rock. The last, twelveth, of the higher plants is a grass, *Lepturus repens* Br., which has root-striking offshoots issuing from a solid central portion, its leaves are very small, waxy, competely folded up and with big compressed sheaths. Crustaceous lichens grow on the strongly heated surface of this rocky island as well as a single specimen of moss.

A sea-eagle has its nest on the island, besides that I did not see any other land animals except the common big red ants which were very aggressive.

Major E. Seidenfaden has very kindly translated the above note from Danish. It was written many years ago by Dr. Johs. Schmidt, now Director of the Carlsberg Laboratory, Copenhagen, who in 1899-1900 visited Koh Chang during the stay of the Danish Expedition in Siam. In a period of three months Dr. Johs. Schmidt made very extensive botanical collections on the island and in the surrounding sea, obtaining 1513 species of plants of which 194 were new to science. Even at that time Dr. Schmidt showed the bent for marine work which has since made his name famous, the plankton fora of the Gulf being well represented in his collections. The note on the vegetation of Koh Lom is valuable as it gives a complete list of of the higher plants of that islet and is, therefore, a record for comparison with any future investigation. Several of the plants mentioned can be recognized in the accompanying photograph.



Vegetation of Koh Lom in March 1900.

On the left side is *Terminalia Katappa*, in young leaf. On the central part of the island is *Morinda citrifolia*. The herbaceous plants are *Stenochlaena palustris*, *Ipomea glaberrima* and *Mariscus albescens*. The white belt at high water limit consists of oysters.

