

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

## No. I. A little-known Orchid.

(*Dendrobium Friedrichsianum*).

This fine orchid was collected by Murton at Kao Petchakūt, near Chantabun, in February 1882. Murton sent a dried specimen to Kew, but, not being in very good condition, it remained for the time without a name. Later, living plants were sent to England by Roebelen, and from one of these Professor Reichenbach described the species, under the above name, in "The Gardeners' Chronicle" of November 26th. 1887. The only part of the plant preserved in the Reichenbach herbarium is a single lip. On the same sheet, however, is a sketch of part of the stem with an inflorescence and, with colours washed in, of a single flower. This material, in conjunction with Reichenbach's description, is sufficient to establish the identity of Murton's plant. In describing this plant Reichenbach remarks "This is a Siamese discovery, or at least it was received from Mr. Roebelen who requests it to be named *D. Friedrichsianum* in honour of a Bangkokian orchid lover." I learned from Mr. Roebelen himself that he obtained his original plants from one of the islands off the Chantabun coast.

The species apparently remained in cultivation in England a few years after this, for at least two cultivated specimens were sent to Kew for identification: one in December 1889 by Commdr. Shuttleworth, who says "Dendrobium from Siam, from Mr. Roebelen"; the other in March 1891 by Mr. J. O'Brien. It is probable that both these were from Roebelen's importation.

Mrs. Collins of Sriracha has had plants of this species, obtained from the neighbouring forest, in cultivation for many years, and it is also to be seen in some Bangkok gardens. Mrs. Collins' plants show how variable in colour the flowers of *Dendrobium Friedrichsianum* may be. The sepals and petals, which have a somewhat glossy surface, vary from a pale yellow to yellow with a distinct bronze tint. The colouring and markings of the lip are also variable, the variations chiefly depending on the presence or absence of two dark, reddish-brown patches at the entrance to the throat, and of red lines on each side within the throat. The form in which the two dark patches coalesce into a single, kidney-shaped blotch, I have not seen in living plants. This was the form of Reichenbach's type. Such colour variations are not uncommon in nearly related species, like *D. Hildebrandii* and *D. tortile*.

H.R.H. Prince Nagara Svarga, in his book on orchids\*, gives some interesting information about this species, and draws attention to the variation in colour; mentioning that there may be either two dark reddish-brown patches at the throat, or only one, the latter, no doubt, the form described by Reichenbach. His Royal

\* ตำนานกล้วยไม้

Highness tells us that the orchid was named after a Mr. Friedrichs in the employ of B. Grimm & Co., and that it is usually known as the Chantabun Yellow “เหลืองจันทบุรุษ.”

A. KERR.

Bangkok, August 5th 1926.

### No. II. Defoliation of Teak trees.

In the year 1907 the teak trees in the Mûang Yûam and Mè Hawng Sawng districts were severely defoliated by the larvae of a moth, *Pyrausta machoeralis*. Entire defoliation, resulting from the skeletonizing of the leaves, was general; but some trees were less severely attacked and retained their leaves. In very few places were the trees little affected.

The area of the attacked trees was probably very extensive. They were noted on the road north of Mûang Yûam, up to and in the Mè Lā Noi, in the Mè Salieng, Mè Kaw, Mè Ngé and Mè Sakôp. Defoliated trees were also noticed in the Mè Hawng Sawng district. The trees on the Burmah bank of the Salween were also attacked, the brown leaves showing plainly on the hillside.

Such attacks must be very uncommon; for Foresters and Karens living in the district generally expressed surprise, and stated they had never seen the trees so attacked before.

With the larvae of *Pyrausta* were associated some other defoliators, including the larvae of *Hybloea puera* and of a Looper.

Mr. Stebbing considers that the probable causes of increased numbers of the insects are:—

(1) A sufficiency of food material and its collection together in pure blocks.

(2) A damp humid climate with early Spring rains.

Teak in the area under consideration is scattered mainly along the waterways, and perhaps nowhere occurs in anything like pure blocks; but the climate is humid and the year was marked by particularly heavy rain in May, which probably led to a large increase in the earlier generation.

H. B. G. GARRETT.

Chiengmai, May 19th 1927.

### REVIEWS.

**Monograph of the Sea-snakes (Hydrophiidae).** BY MALCOLM SMITH. Pp. XVII+130+2 plates+35 text-figures. (LONDON: The Trustees of The British Museum, 1926.)

We are very glad to welcome the appearance of Dr. Malcolm Smith's Monograph of the Sea-snakes, published last November. The Monograph is doubly interesting to residents in this country; both from Dr. Smith's long residence here and close association with