

Afgekia sericea and *Jasminum rex* will stimulate the desire for a due appreciation of the flora of Siam.

A. M.

Florae Siamensis Enumeratio. A list of the Plants known from Siam with Records of their occurrence. By W. G. Craib. Volume I, Part 4. Bangkok, 1931

The fourth part of Volume I of this work has now appeared. This part completes the first volume, and contains a title page and generic index. It deals with the families Rosaceae to Cornaceae, in the Bentham and Hooker arrangement. The number of species listed in the above families is 623, of which 159, or about 25 %, are, so far, known only from Siam. The largest family dealt with is Melastomaceae, with 113 species, then come Myrtaceae with 94 species, Rosaceae and Cucurbitaceae with 52 each and Combretaceae with 51. Of the individual genera, *Eugenia*, with 80 species, is by far the largest, after it come *Begonia* with 46 species, *Memecylon* with 29, *Sonerila* with 23, *Combretum* with 21 and *Terminalia* with 20.

As usual, the synonymy is very fully given, with ample references to works dealing with the flora of the eastern tropics, as well as to original sources. These references alone must have entailed an enormous amount of work. Very useful notes are supplied for critical species. Though no new species is described in the work, a number of new varieties are made and their distinguishing features given.

A number of local names are included, but it will be difficult to make full use of these till an index of them is published.

A. K.

Contributions to the Flora of Siam. Additamenta XXIX, XXX and XXXI. Kew Bull. Misc. Inform. 1930, pp. 405-427, 1931, pp. 206-221 and 275-280.

In the 29th Additamentum of this series, 36 new species are described. These species belong to the following genera:—*Casearia* (3), *Adenia* (3), *Alsomitra* (2), *Begonia* (15), *Peucedanum* (1), *Heracleium* (1), *Schefflera* (3), *Brassaiopsis* (1), *Arthrophyllum* (3), *Trevesia* (2), *Scheffleropsis* (1), and *Alangium* (1). All of these are included in Part 4 of the Enumeratio, reviewed above. It is interesting to note that several of the new species of *Begonia* were described from living plants, which Professor Craib raised from seed sent from Siam. *Scheffleropsis* is a genus of araliaceous plants, of which only one species was known hitherto. Professor Craib has now added another, *Scheffleropsis subintegra*, a small tree from Kao Sung in Trang Province.

The 30th list contains the description of 26 new species, all except three of which belong to the family Rubiaceae. The following are the genera to which these species belong:—*Gilibertia* (1),

Viburnum (2), *Nauclea* (1), *Adina* (2), *Uncaria* (1), *Wendlandia* (1), *Greena* (2), *Argostemma* (6), and *Hedyotis* (9). *Argostemma* is a genus of herbs with graceful, white flowers, quite striking when massed together, as they often are in nature. Most of the other genera have rather inconspicuous flowers.

In the same number of the Kew Bulletin (No. 4 of 1931) a new species of smut, *Sphacelotheca Sclerachnes*, is described from a Bangkok grass by Miss Wakefield.

Additamentum XXXI continues the description of new species belonging to the family Rubiaceae, with 6 species of *Hedyotis* and 3 of *Chasalia*.

With the exception of a few, where Miss Geddes is the author, all the species in the above lists are described by Professor Craib.

A. K.

Les Nids d'Hirondelles: Les Salanganes et leurs nids comestibles. By Dr. A. Sallet. Pp. 77, 12 plates, 2 maps. Imprimerie d'Extreme Orient, Hanoi. N. D.

The information in this work, dealing with edible nests and the birds which build them, is chiefly concerned with their occurrence in French Indo-China, but something is also said about their habitats in Java.

One of the illustrations is taken from a design on a bronze vessel, the 7th dynastic urn, in the Imperial Palace at Hué and represents a cave with nests and birds. Most of the other plates are of scenes on the Culao-Cham, a group of islands off the coast of Annam, an important centre for the collection of these nests.

The work is divided into 14 sections, the headings of which give a fair idea of its scope. These headings are:—1. The Bird. 2. The Nest. 3. Habitat and Geographical Distribution. 4. The Nests in Indo-China. 5. Exploitation of Nests. 6. Collection of Nests. 7. Varieties of Nests. 8. Value. 9. Frauds. 10. Esteem of the nests in the Orient. 11. Culinary uses. 12. The Nests in the Therapeutics of the Far East. 13. Ceremonies at the time of collection. 14. Folklore.

The author quotes very freely from other writers, ancient and modern, occidental and oriental. It is evident that he has done a great deal of research in the literature of the subject; though he apparently has not seen the paper by Dunlap, 'Edible Birds Nest Islands of Siam' (J. S. S., Vol. IV, pt. 3, p. 1). He has also visited some of the caves where nests are collected.

Delacour and Labouille are quoted as having identified the swifts making edible nests in Indo-China as *Collocalia francica germaini* Oust. With regard to this country: Robinson and Kloss, Journal N. H. S. S., Vol. V, p. 144, record this species from Kaw Samui and Kaw Pa-ngan in the Bay of Bandawn, but make no remarks about its nesting. In 'Birds of the Malay Peninsula', Vol. I, p. 128,