

III. Study on the Flora of Thailand, an appreciation.

The second and third instalments of the series "Studies in the Flora of Thailand" edited by *Kai Larsen* of Copenhagen has been published on August 16, 1962 in the *Dansk Botanisk Arkiv*, Bind 20, Nr. 2. p. 115-204, and on June 20, 1963 in the same publication Nr. 3. p. 211-275, are indeed very welcome.

The second instalment is devoted to the taxonomical work and besides the editor, who is dealing with the *Coniferae* and various monocotyledonous families, 7 contributors are collaborated namely, Dr. *F. Markgraf* of Zurich (*Gnetaceae*), Dr. *N.L. Bor* of Kew (*Graminae*), Dr. *A.K. Skvortsov* of Moscow (*Salicaceae*), Dr. *R.D. Hoogland* of Canberra (*Dilleniaceae*), *L.L. Forman* of Kew (*Menispermaceae*), Dr. *M. Hiroe* of Kyoto (*Umbelliferae*), Dr. *E.C. Barnett* of Aberdeen (*Gesneraceae*), and *Bertil Hansen* of Copenhagen (a correction).

Dr. *Markgraf* gives the distribution of *Gnetum montanum* Mkr. in Southeast Asia with an observation that the leaves are very characteristic in not becoming completely black when they are being dried, and the venation is rather distinct.

Mr. *Larsen* records 7 coniferous species with the opinion that the *Cephalotaxus* from Doi Chiangdao is likely to be new to science. Twenty seven species of 13 monocotyledonous families are being treated, and the followings are new records:— *Blyxa echinosperma* (Clarke) Hk. f. (*Hydrocharitaceae*), *Tenagocharis latifolia* (Don) Buchan. (*Butomaceae*), *Alisma plantago-aquatica* Linn. (*Alismataceae*), *Aponogeton monostachys* Linn. f. (*Aponogetonaceae*), *Pomatogeton crispa* Linn., and *P. malayanus* Miq. (*Pomatogetonaceae*), and *Burmmania oblonga* Ridl. (*Burmmaniaceae*).

Dr. *Bor's* contribution forms the majority of this instalment, enumerating 196 species and 5 varieties, including 2 new species (*Coelachne oerensenii* Bor from Chantaburi, *Digitaria larsenii* Bor from Doi Suthep,) 3 new varieties, and 2 new combinations [*Coelorhachis cancellata* (Ridl.) Bor, *C. mollicoma* (Hance) Bor]. The following species are new records: *Erianthus longisetosa* Anders., *Pseudanthistiria burmanica* Hk. f., and *Spodiopogon lacei* Hole. Actually since the work of Prof. *W.G. Craib* in 1913 (*Aberdeen University Studies* No. 61), this is the first extensive study of Thai grasses during the lapse of 50 years,

In his treatment of 11 species Dr. *Hiroe* makes a new combination, *Trachydium cambodgianum* (H. Boiss.) Hiroe, based on *Pimpinella cambodgianum* H. Boiss., and credits a new variety to *Franz Floto*, a Danish botanical student, the collector, *Trachydium cambodgianum* (H. Boiss.) Hiroe, var. *flotoi* Hiroe from Phu Krading.

Dr. *Barnett* gives an account of 18 species, 2 of which are described as new: *Didymocarpus siamensis* Barnett from Phu Krading, and *Paraboea tomentosa* Barnett from Doi Chiengdao.

As the taxon, *Sphagnum personatum* Boiv. antedates *S. personatum* Hansen, the author renames his new find as *Sphagnum thailandicum* Hansen.

The third instalment has been devoted to the cytological studies of vascular plants of Thailand by *Kai Larsen*. It is for the first time that an extensive study of the chromosome numbers of Thai plants has been achieved. In the present study 196 strains of Monocotyledones have been dealt with, comprising 119 taxa.

T. Smitinand, F.L.S.