

NOTES AND NEWS

I. Flora of Thailand

During 22nd-24th November, 1967 the meeting of the Editorial Board of the Flora of Thailand was held at the Rijksherbarium, Leiden, Holland, in order to reach a definite plan for the set-up and execution of the Flora. The following members participated :—

- Prof. C.G.G.J. van STEENIS, Leyden, Chairman
- Prof. K. LARSEN, Aarhus
- Mr. B.L. BURTT, Edinburgh
- Mr. L.L. FORMAN, Kew
- Mr. B. HANSEN, Copenhagen
- Dr. J. VIDAL, Paris
- Mr. T. SMITINAND, Bangkok
- Mr. C. PHENCKHILAI, Bangkok
- Dr. C.F. van BEUSEKOM, Leyden, Secretary.

The meeting was a success and concluded in an amiable atmosphere. The following facilities vital to the project were appreciated :—

1. The informal agreement of the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand with the composition, printing and issue of the Flora of Thailand.

2. A full-time collaborator is provided at the Rijksherbarium, Leyden, by the Dutch Ministry for International Technical Assistance. Similar procedures could be followed at other Key Herbaria, and the Thai Government is strongly urged to approach these Governments for Technical Assistance.

3. The Botanical Museum of the University in Copenhagen has officially agreed that Mr. B. HANSEN may act as an assistant editor.

4. The collaboration of the Rijksherbarium was generously approved by the Director with some reservation.

5. Lists of collaborators were circulated among the members. The meeting recommended that :—

1) Thai botanists should gain more field experience and be in the position to explore. In addition when a revision of a large-size

family of plants at Bangkok was achieved, they should proceed to the European Key Herbaria to check their provisional manuscript by examination of essential herbarium material and literature not available at Bangkok. Subsidiary funds should be provided either by the Thai Government or through the International Technical Assistance or other sources.

2) The distribution of recent collections at Bangkok should be done with less delay.

3) Intensive botanical exploration in neglected areas should be currently undertaken, especially in special areas where peculiar soils or terrain occur.

The meeting adopted the general set-up of the flora as follows:—

a) The "Flora of Tropical East Africa" was chosen as a general model owing to its concise and informative nature.

b) Revisions, after approval by the Editorial Board, will be printed in instalments covering some 100 pages without systematic sequence. Instalments are consecutively paged and bound in volumes with a full index. Each volume will contain about 300-500 pages.

c) The first volume will be introductory, containing general chapters on the Thai environment, a key to the families, etc.

d) The Flora will include the native, naturalized, and most commonly cultivated plants.

e) Full drawings should be given in preference to plants not illustrated before. Schematic drawings may be added where desirable, especially in addition to descriptions or keys.

T.S.

II. UNESCO Regional Seminar on the Ecology of Tropical Highlands.

The Regional Seminar on the Ecology of Tropical Highlands, sponsored under the joint auspices of the UNESCO Scientific Office for South Asia and H.M. Government of Nepal, was held during 8th-16th April, 1968 in Kathmandu, Nepal.