

R E V I E W

Flora of Thailand Volume 4, Part 1, 1984. The Forest Herbarium, Royal Forest Department, Bangkok, Thailand. 129 pp. U.S. \$11.00.

The previously published parts of Volumes 2 (seed plants) and 3 (ferns and fern allies) of the Flora of Thailand dealt with small or medium-sized families; thus each part usually contains a number of families. The first part of Volume 4 is entirely devoted to the subfamily Caesalpinoideae of Leguminosae which, together with Orchidaceae, Rubiaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Gramineae, constitute the 5 largest families of flowering plants in Thailand.

This volume is the result of a coordinated effort of Professor and Mrs. Kai Larsen (who dealt with 14 genera) of Aarhus and Dr. Jules E. Vidal (who dealt with 6 genera) of Paris. For years, the Larsens spent a considerable amount of time in studying the morphology, cytology and palynology of *Bauhinia* which has 37 species in Thailand, by far the largest genus among the 20 caesalpinaceous genera revised. *Bauhinia*, therefore, covers nearly one-third of the present issue.

The format adheres closely to the previously published parts. Thirty-one full-page figures of line drawings illustrate one to several species of all the native genera. Four colour plates, each containing four smaller pictures, are added apparently for the first time. It is always a difficult thing to decide, within the limited budget, whether it is desirable to have fewer large pictures or to have more smaller ones. With the exception of Plate 3A, they have turned out nicely.

It is to be hoped that the two remaining subfamilies (Mimosoideae and Papilionatae) of this large and economically important family will come out shortly to fill the gap of our knowledge and to fulfill the urgent need for this region.

Hsuan Keng

Department of Botany

National University of Singapore

Kent Ridge

Singapore 0511

