

Lichen Collection Donated to Ramkhamhaeng University

Ramkhamhaeng University's Department of Biology, which has been developing into a center for lichen research under the leadership of Dr. Kansri Boonpragob, has recently been donated a large collection of lichen specimens by Prof. Philip Rundel of the University of California at Los Angeles. The collection includes about 8000 specimens from all over the world, including the Americas from Alaska to Argentina. They are now deposited in the herbarium of the Biology Department at Ramkhamhaeng. Also donated were several thousand items of books, journals and other documents.

This collection will be invaluable to lichen study in Thailand. Dr. Kansri is in the process of establishing an electronic database with lists of species, and preparing books and articles about lichens. Information about the collection, and about lichens in Thailand, will soon become available under the university web site.

Warren Y. Brockelman

Ecologists Discuss Long Term Ecological Research in Thailand

On August 23, a meeting was held at the Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University, to bring together ecologists and foresters to exchange information on Long Term Ecological Research Sites (known as LTERS) and to evaluate the need for further coordination and collaboration. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Utis Kutintara, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, who stressed to the 35 invited participants the importance of long term monitoring of forest ecosystems, and the use of permanent plots for monitoring ecosystem function and health, ecosystem research, and environmental impact analyses. The objectives of the workshop were (1) to review information from long term research in ecology in Thailand; (2) to exchange knowledge and experiences from long term research projects; and (3) determine if there are other locations for long term research plots in Thailand.

Representatives from many different long term research plots reported on their results and experiences, including Huai Kok Ma in Chiang Mai; Huai Kha Khaeng in Uthai Thani, Khao Banthat in Trang, Mo Singto/Khao Yai Park in Nakhon Nayok, Mangrove Forest Station in Ranong, Mae Khlong (mangrove) in Kanchanaburi, Sakaerat in Prachinburi, and Doi Inthanon montane forest in Chiang Mai. Mr. Bunchu Bunthawee of the Royal Forest Department's Technical Section discussed long term ecological research plans of the RFD. Finally, participants discussed the need for further coordination of LTERS projects, and the possible need for a secretariat or coordinating center. There are also several international and regional organizations now involved in promoting LTERS in the region, especially comparative studies.

One result of the workshop has been the initiative of the Biodiversity Research and Training Program in the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC) in sponsoring further meetings and workshops on various aspects of monitoring on permanent plots. The need for long term monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning is increasingly appreciated in Thailand, and much more activity is expected in this area.

Warren Y. Brockelman