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TERRITORY.

EDITED for the Committee by the Honorary Secretary.

The Committee accepts no responsibility for the accuracy
of statements made or opinions expressed in contributed
articles or letters.

All communications should be addressed to the
Honorary Secretary.

AUSTRALASIAN HERBARIUM NEWS

A journal for the interchange of ideas among
the systematic botanists of Australia and New
Zealand.

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C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Systematic Botany Committee Meeting at Brisbane	1
The Wellington Botanical Society	3
Australian Rain Forest Trees, 2nd. Ed	4
Some Current Publications on the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature	5
"Taxon"	8
Eighth Pacific Science Congress	9
News and Notes on Current Activities	10
Recent Publications of Interest	14

SYSTEMATIC BOTANY COMMITTEE MEETING AT BRISBANE

The Committee held two evening sessions during the A.N.Z.A.S. Conference in May. It was unfortunate that only a few members of the Committee were in Brisbane, though most States were represented. Several visitors joined in the discussions. Those present were: Mr. S.T. Blake (who took the chair in the absence of Dr. Patton), Messrs. S.L. Everist, L.S. Smith and Trevor Hunt (Brisbane); L.A.S. Johnston (Sydney - representing Miss Vickery and the staff of the N.S.W. National Herbarium); Miss C.M. Eardley and Mr. N. Lothian (Adelaide); Mr. P.F. Morris (Melbourne - representing Mr. A.W. Jessep); Mr. J.S. Womensley (New Guinea); Mr. H.E. Connor (New Zealand); Dr. N.H. Brittain (Perth) and Miss Burbidge (Canberra).

Among the various matters discussed were the following:

(1) Decapitalization of Specific Epithets: This matter was raised in a letter to the Committee from Mr. R.H. Anderson (Sydney) which reported that his staff were divided in their opinions on the subject.

Miss Burbidge reported that at Canberra the practice was to decapitalize in publications from the Division of Plant Industry. Mr. Blake stated that Brisbane had decided some months ago to follow Kew's lead and decapitalize. He also pointed out that we were bound to follow the recommendation passed at the Stockholm Congress. The meeting then passed a motion favouring decapitalization to which there was one dissenting vote. Mr. Johnston (Sydney) then proposed a rider that in the case of synonyms epithets should be quoted as originally published. After some discussion this was accepted also.

(2) Robert Brown's Manuscripts at the British Museum (Natural History)

Miss Burbidge reported that arrangements had been made through the Scientific Liaison Office in London for the photographing of the smaller items included in Brown's manuscript material. It is hoped that these will be available in Australia later this year.

The large manuscript "Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae" has been inspected by the Chief Scientific Liaison Officer and by Miss Tindale who has been working at Kew. They report that it requires a considerable amount of editing and selecting of relevant sections and that some pages have faded and will require special treatment for photographing. Since all those present agreed that the microfilming of this manuscript was highly important the following resolution was passed and later, without the reference to State Governments, was approved by the General Council of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science:

"That, further to the resolution passed at the Hobart Conference regarding the microfilming of Robert Brown's manuscript "Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae", the Commonwealth and State Governments of Australia be informed that the matter, which fundamental to scientific research on the native flora and connected with primary industries, has proved more complex than anticipated and that to complete this important project a competent Australian botanist should be sent to London to edit the manuscript and supervise the microfilming at the British Museum."

- (3) New Zealand Correspondent: The Secretary expressed her regret that Australasian Herbarium News had carried so little New Zealand information. Mr. Connor suggested that Mr. Druce of the Wellington Botanical Society might be willing to act on our behalf. The Committee gratefully accepted his offer to refer the matter to Mr. Druce. (see News and Notes).
- (4) Common Names of Weeds and Native Plants: The Committee discussed a letter from Mr. A.W. Jessep which referred to the difficulties in applying Noxious Weeds Acts when there were different common names employed in adjacent States. After discussing the impossibility of enforcing the standardization of "Common Names" the opinion was expressed that proceedings under such Acts should not be taken except on the basis of proper identification under the scientific name. It was also considered unwise to enforce the use of "prefabricated names" especially in the case of native species and Professor J.B. Cleland's phrase (used at the Adelaide meeting in 1946) was re-iterated: "Common names are names developed by the Common People."
- (5) Quotation of Ferdinand von Mueller's name: Melbourne also requested the Committee to reconsider the use of "F.v.M." instead of "F.Muell." since Mueller had himself used it on so many of his sheets now preserved in the Melbourne Herbarium. The Committee refused to consent to this change both because the case is used as an example under a proposal by Sprague (cf. Lanjouw: Synopsis of Proposals....submitted to the 7th International Botanical Congress p. 132) and because of the confusion which could arise concerning specimens described by Mueller as new species prior to the granting of his title.
- (6) Type Specimens: It was decided that the establishment of a card index to the type specimens and other important material held in Australian Herbaria should be commenced. Such an index would cover sheets which belonged to various "type" categories but would also include specimens which would be of special interest to those undertaking revisory studies. This is regarded as a very long term project and plans for its commencement are in the hands of Miss Burbidge. Members of the staffs of the various Australian Herbaria were requested to forward to Canberra any details concerning such specimens which they may encounter during routine work.

NANCY T. BURBIDGE
 Honorary Secretary,
 Systematic Botany Committee.

THE WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY

The Wellington Botanical Society has as its President, Dr. W.R.B. Oliver, whose work on New Zealand and Pacific area plants is well known. The Hon. Secretary is Miss A. Lush, C/- Dominion Museum, Buckle Street, Wellington. The aims and objects of the Society are to "encourage the study of botany in all its branches and the New Zealand flora in particular; to create an interest in and foster an appreciation of the native plants....and encourage the cultivation of the native plants."

The Society publishes its Bulletin twice yearly at 2/- (N.Z.) per copy. The Bulletin includes articles on local ecology, taxonomy, new records and notes on field trips etc. The most recent number (April 1951) has a note on Typha in New Zealand, an article on the effect of forest fires in the Southern Tararua Mountains as well as some shorter items. Each number publishes requests for material on behalf of botanists working on particular genera or species.

The Hon. Editor of the Bulletin, Mr.A.P. Druce has suggested that Australasian Herbarium News should also publish these requests and we are pleased to do so. The following cover those which have appeared in recent issues of the Bulletin:

- Cotula Mr.G. Simpson (165 Crawford St., Dunedin) would like live pieces of as many different kinds as possible for cultivation and study. As some have unisexual heads, a number of pieces of each species or variety should be collected.
- Craspedia Mr.A.P. Druce (Pinhaven Rd., Heretaunga) desires live plants from different parts of the country, especially the South Island. He would also be glad to have seeds from Australian sources.
- Wahlenbergia Miss J.A. Hay (7 Elm St., Upper Hutt) would like to have live plants for cultivation or freshly dried plants from which seeds can be obtained. She is particularly interested in the W. gracilis, W. albomarginata and W. flexilis groups.
- Typha Miss R. Mason and Mr.N.T. Moar (Botany Division, 8 The Terrace, Wellington) desire specimens of raupo from all parts of New Zealand.

AUSTRALIAN RAIN FOREST TREES 2nd. Ed.

W.D.Francis, Government Botanist, Queensland;
publ. Forestry & Timber Bureau, Australia 1951
pp.469. £3/3/-.

For a long time the first edition of this admirable work has been unavailable and the new revised edition will supply this need. Foresters and botanists who are in any way concerned with the rain forest will welcome the new supply. The publication of the second edition was undertaken by the Director General of the Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra. The major departure from the previous edition is the inclusion of a section on tropical species as well as the addition of several new extra-tropical ones.

Most of the photos of the previous edition have been reproduced but often in a greyer tone and this has sometimes meant less detail is visible. Plates of the tropical species are not so good, on the whole, as those of the extra-tropical. In some too much trunk is shown and a general picture only is produced, the important details being lacking. Fig. 262 shows what is of greater use. In forestry utilization today, apart from a few weed species, practically everything is taken from the rain forest and for the purposes of royalty are graded into four or five classes. In reconnaissance and estimation it is essential to be able to tally species by observing bark and form, buttresses, flutings, fissures and the invaluable character of the detailed blaze; the head of the tree is often a blurred image and the flowers and fruit are rarely available. A keen and practised observer will rarely need to crick his neck or look higher than six or eight feet and it is suggested that these features since they are of great importance in identification should form in detail the first part of each species description, with perhaps the botanical characters in small type. The knowledge required is available but the work of assembly is considerable and it may be argued that it would add to the length of the book. But quite an amount could be omitted as unnecessary in a work on rainforest trees. Photographs on wood structure and on the minute structure of bark are better left for adequate treatment in separate publications; the discussion on flange formation and tree form may require, also, a good deal more time and investigation. The three pages on the minute structure of the Queensland Nut could have been omitted.

It is good to see the new edition coming into line and avoiding the use of the capital letter for all species names but why capitals for common names? A map of Australia showing the rainforest areas with their approximate acreage would have been a useful addition. The usual crop of new names appears so that knowledge of old friends is continually being revoked - Polyscias for Panax, Vesselowskya for Geiossois. Where there are important or at least marketable species

being used whose identification is uncertain great help might have been given in a field key. What a problem the Eugenias are or the ubiquitous Sapindaceae! A few variations in spelling occur - Annonaceae, Araucaria bidwillii, Clerodendrum. The latter now departs from both greek and latin.

The book is well printed on a good grade of paper and a reasonably tough cloth binding. It is assured of a place among the Good Companions.

C.E.C.

SOME CURRENT PUBLICATIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL

RULES OF BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

The sixth International Botanical Congress was held at Amsterdam in 1935 and the seventh should have followed five years later, however war intervened and it was not held until July 1950, in Stockholm. The sessions on Nomenclature at these Congresses are the only occasions on which the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature can be altered, so that in the absence of Congresses, the Rules tend to become conservative. The Congresses and their Rules are, as J.H. Maiden said in 1906 "a tribunal which no botanist may afford to disregard" and a valuable force towards uniformity of practice and designation. Zoologists have a similar Code of Rules. The first attempt to achieve International Rules for Botany was in 1867 when the International Botanical Congress held at Paris adopted the "Lois" of Alphonse de Candolle; since then, various modified versions have been adopted and published, the current official edition (1935) being the third of those edited by Briquet.

The last four or five years have seen great activity centred on the Rules, owing to the stimulus of the seventh International Botanical Congress in 1950 and the necessity to prepare for the section on Nomenclature. One result of this preparation is the report of proceedings of a small international symposium on problems of botanical nomenclature and taxonomy held at Utrecht in 1948 ("Botanical Nomenclature and Taxonomy" Chron.Bot. 1950), edited by J. Lanjouw who is Professor of Systematic Botany in Utrecht and at the centre of international activity on the subject. Besides the report, the book contains two shorter sections; the first of them deals with (a) the improvement of the machinery for conducting the international work on plant taxonomy and (b) the personnel of a number of Special Committees for Nomenclature. Hitherto, the international work has been conducted by International Commissions which are now being replaced or co-ordinated by a new International Association for Plant Taxonomy, open to all taxonomists individually and also to institutions, this is expected to improve the finances and the co-operation of the work. (See A.H.N. No. 8, March 1951). The final section of the volume contains Sprague's long-awaited official account of changes made to the International

Rules of Botanical Nomenclature at the sixth International Botanical Congress in Amsterdam, 1935, now published for the first time (apart from the distinct mimeographed edition issued in 1948 for the Utrecht delegates). There are also appropriate illustrations, title page facsimiles of previous editions of the Rules and an index to plant names appearing as examples to the Rules or as nomina conservanda.

To return to the main part of the volume, the Minutes of the Utrecht Conference, they are the proceedings of the meetings of a group of about 20 international experts called together in response to the need to prepare some of the work on nomenclature for the guidance of the seventh International Botanical Congress in 1950 (delayed since 1940 by the war). Their task was to consider, under each article of the Rules, the proposals for alterations, both published and unpublished which had accumulated from international sources (groups or individuals) since 1935. There were several proposals for almost every one of the 74 articles. Among the botanists taking part were Dr. Skottsberg (Chairman), the retiring Rapporteur General, Dr. Sprague (formerly at Kew), his successor Dr. Lanjouw, a group of taxonomists from the large herbaria of Western Europe, including several Dutch workers, three from U.S.A., three from England and one each from India and Australia. The conference was smoothly organised and the delegates well-briefed beforehand with sets of the proposals for alterations; above all, there were available to them the recently mimeographed copies of Sprague's Supplement to the third edition of the Rules. This Supplement embodies the alterations made, before the war, at the sixth Botanical Congress 13 years earlier.

The value of these minutes to the reader, then, is that of being admitted to a select discussion about the shortcomings and improvement of the Rules. The recording is chiefly the work of the acknowledged authority, Mrs. M.L. Sprague, which is sufficient guarantee of accuracy.

Many of the proposals had been most carefully considered especially that from the large group of taxonomists in the U.S.A., presented by Dr. Rickett; other group proposals came from some Kew botanists, from the Dutch botanists and a personal contribution revising the Rules as a whole came from Hylander (Sweden) but there was nothing from Australia. (The next opportunity will be at the proposed eighth International Congress to be held in Paris, 1954).

The fate of the Utrecht recommendations arising from these discussions can be followed when the report of the section on nomenclature, 7th International Botanical Congress, becomes available. In the meantime, de Wit's prompt unofficial review of the changes at Stockholm is a very good substitute. The Rules are so technical that the present remarks will be confined to a few important principles and to matters within the experience of non-taxonomic botanists.

One of the most obvious effects of the Rules is the occasional change of the name, let us say, of an economic plant very familiar in some part of the globe to obey the rules of priority. Such a change may be highly inconvenient to many workers in applied botany who are the chief advocates for lists of names to be conserved against the strict working of the Rules. Lists of nomina generica conservanda are admitted - and added to with increasing reluctance at each Congress - but the conserving of specific names is a very different matter and would be the beginning of a colossal list. The principle of nomina specifica conservanda has been discussed at Congress after Congress and always defeated (including the 1950 Congress). It is an undermining of the Rules and recognised as such even by economic botanists, though there was active if cautious sympathy for it at Utrecht. Possibly stability can be attained in some better way. Nomenclature is a complicated historical problem and the successful utilization of its Rules requires patience and consistency.

Horticulturists encounter special difficulties when dealing with hybrids, clones, apomicts, artificial polyploids etc., and it was considered at Utrecht that the Rules applying to these needed complete redrafting in the light of modern knowledge of genetics. This was confirmed and authorized at Stockholm and should be ready for the next Congress. Such a move is a very heartening infusion of experimental body into the Rules. (Art. 14, Arts. 31-35 and Appendix VII.)

Typification(Art. 18 and Appendix I.) This important principle implies that the name of a plant is based on an original specimen or drawing. The wording of a definition without ambiguity is difficult and was left to a special Committee which reported at Stockholm.

The Utrecht meeting also voiced the need for more precise definition of terms like "valid", "correct" and "legitimate" and for a good index to the next edition of the Rules. It also produced a useful term "taxon" new a taxonomic group of any rank generally, which was at once accepted.

A minor point of general interest is whether botanists are going to join zoologists in accepting the decapitalization of specific epithets; the trend is to do so but the Stockholm Congress only reached the transition stage of countenancing both the old habit (using capitals in certain cases) and the new (using no initial capitals).

There are special committees to deal with the problems of various plant groups, e.g., Fungi, Algae, Bacteria. The needs of Paleobotany added a long new Appendix VIII. to the Rules after the 6th Congress. This is omitted from Sprague's Supplement as printed in Lanjouw's Utrecht Report but may be studied in his "Synopsis of Proposals...to 7th International Botanical Congress - New Appendix VIII." a constructive compilation with the editor's comments.

Between 1935 and 1947 there was a dearth of current literature on the Rules but in the last four years we have had the useful works quoted below.

- Camp, W.H., Rickett, H.W. & Weatherby, C.A. 1947. International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature. Brittonia 6(1). (reprinted Chronica Botanica 1948). An up-to-date but unofficial edition of the Rules.
- Camp, Rickett & Weatherby 1949. Proposed changes in the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature. Sponsored by a group of American Taxonomists. Brittonia 7(1).
- Lanjouw, J. 1950. Synopsis of Proposals concerning the International Rules.....submitted to the 7th Int.Bot.Congress, Stockholm. publ. Utrecht.
- Lanjouw, J. 1950. (Ed.) Botanical Nomenclature and Taxonomy. Chron. Bot. Waltham, Mass.
- de Wit, H.C.D. 1950. Changes in the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature made by the 7th Int.Bot. Congress at Stockholm. (Reprint from Flora) Malesiana Bull. No.7. Leiden. An unofficial review published within four months of the congress. Also corrections to it (l.c. No.8. 1951) concerning Fungi.
- Richter, R. 1948. Einführung in die Zoologische Nomenklatur durch Erläuterung der internationalen Regeln. 2nd. ed. Frankfurt a.M. (reviewed in Austral.J.Sci. April 1950, p.173).
- Schenk, E.T. & McMasters, J.H. 1948. Procedure in Taxonomy. Rev. ed. Stanford Univ.Press, California (cf. A.H.N.No.8).

"TAXON"

In "Australasian Herbarium News No. 8." we published a note on the new International Association for Plant Taxonomy in which reference was made to the proposed journal "Taxon". Miss Eardley has received from Dr. Lanjouw a short list covering the type of material which is required for the journal. For the information of readers it is reprinted below.

Kind of data required for "Taxon"

1. News about regional floras in preparation.

2. Important additions to herbaria.
3. Important changes in the staff of taxonomical institutes.
4. All important news about taxonomical institutes.
5. Important collecting trips.
6. News about monographical treatments or revisions in preparation.
7. Important new publications.
8. Important news about national Societies, Commissions etc.
9. International news relating to taxonomy.
10. Important questions relating to taxonomy and nomenclature about which the opinions of colleagues abroad are required.
11. Pleas for cooperation in taxonomical work.

Kind of short articles required for "Taxon"

1. Biographies of prominent taxonomists
2. Studies on the dates of publication of important taxonomical works.
3. Studies on the trips of botanical collectors.
4. Important questions relating to nomenclature.
5. Remarks on taxonomical methods.
6. Principles of general taxonomy.
7. Proposals for new classifications.

The above list is not only a guide for potential authors but also a valuable indication of the coverage of the journal and of its usefulness to all herbarium workers and botanists engaged in taxonomic studies.

N.T.B.

EIGHTH PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

A circular has been received from the Secretary of the Standing Committee on Pacific Plant Areas, Dr. Eduardo Quisumbing, concerning preparations for the Eighth Pacific Science Congress, to be held in Manila during 1953. Dr. Quisumbing quotes a request from Dr. W.R.B. Oliver, Chairman of the Standing Committee, that Government Departments and Universities should specially direct their work to the problems raised by the last Congress, in New Zealand. Among the recommendations forwarded by Dr. Quisumbing one states that the importance of making collections of plants in the Pacific area should be drawn to the notice of the governments of New Zealand, New South Wales and Queensland.

It is also hoped that information will be collected concerning the causes of irregular distribution of introduced plants through the whole Pacific Area. So far as Northern Australia can be included in this inquiry, it would be interesting to know how many and what species have been introduced as a result of visits by early Malaysian or European voyages and following more recent activities.

Special reference is made to the need for closer study of the New Guinea flora. With the results of work done since the war and by the proposed survey party from C.S.I.R.O. (see under News and Notes) there should be some information both on the flora and on its ecology.

Other items for study include Cryptogams, Tertiary and Quaternary floras, cytotaxonomic investigations, the applicability of ecological terms developed in temperate regions for tropical vegetation and soil microbiology. There is also a recommendation regarding the need for palaeoecological research and studies in pollen analysis. While there has been considerable interest and activity in the latter subject among New Zealand botanists none of any wide significance has yet been done in Australia. The preliminary work here indicates that it will be necessary to develop special techniques. Not only is there a dearth of suitable deposits but, judging by the modern flora, few of the species of the immediate past are likely to have been great pollen producers. Also before a critical study can be attempted it will be necessary to investigate the distinctive characters of modern Australian plants which can be used for comparison and identification.

It is hoped that workers in Australia will give close consideration to the recommendations passed at the 7th Pacific Science Congress so that a fitting contribution can be made to the discussions during the Manila meeting.

N.T.B.

NEWS AND NOTES ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES

NEW ZEALAND

We are pleased to inform readers that Mr. A. P. Druce, Hon. Editor of the Bulletin of the Wellington Botanical Society, has kindly consented to report to Australasian Herbarium News regarding the progress of botanical research in New Zealand. It has always been a matter for regret that we have carried only the most meagre news about the work being done in our sister Dominion.

Mr. Druce reports that he is preparing a general list of the botanical research projects at present being carried out in New Zealand. This will be published in a forthcoming number of the Bulletin of the W.B.S. He suggests that extracts from this list should be given later in Australasian Herbarium News.

AUSTRALIAVictoria

Orchids of Australia The first part by the late Mr. W. H. Nicholls has been published and distributed to subscribers. There are to be 25 parts and it is expected that two parts will be issued annually. The late Mr. Nicholls was an authority on the Orchids of Australia and his untimely death before the publication of his great work is very much regretted. Mr. J. H. Willis has consented to carry on with the editing of the various parts.

Melbourne Herbarium Plans are in hand for the publication of a botanical journal.

Mr. A. W. Jessep and other enthusiasts are revising the nomenclature of the cultivated Camellias.

Mr. P. F. Morris has published further articles on the noxious weeds of Victoria in the local press. He has now written one hundred and three of these items.

Mr. J. H. Willis is continuing his work on the Handbook of the Plants of Victoria.

Miss C. Skewes has joined the permanent staff of the Herbarium.

Miss K. Kenna is acting as assistant librarian.

Apart from ordinary Herbarium and Gardens routine some nine thousand specimens have been named for the general public, during 1951. Specimens have been received from all States and from New Zealand. Material has been supplied on loan to monographers and books loaned to botanical workers.

Queensland

With the ANZAAS meeting in Brisbane in May, many botanists visited the herbarium and some of them remained to work for a time after the general sessions had been completed.

Enclosing the verandah has helped to ease the congestion but the building is still overcrowded. An effort is being made to rid the herbarium of insect pests by painting the insides of all boxes with a mixture of DDT and Gammexane and treating all the folders with paradichlorobenzene and naphthalene.

A named collection of plants from Mt. Buffalo was presented by Mr. H. C. Stewart of Melbourne. Mr. Trevor Hunt presented a small collection of orchids.

The second edition of "Australian Rain Forest Trees" by Mr. W. D. Francis appeared in May.

In April, Mr.S.L. Everists supervised the serial spraying of 30 acres of Brigalow with mixed rates of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T in the Yuleba district. In June he visited the Springsure-Peak Downs area to study native plants with a view to their possible use in crop rotation. Mr. Everist completed a manuscript on important weeds of Queensland to be published as a handbook by the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

Mr.S.T. Blake sorted all the material of Paspalidium in the herbarium and prepared descriptions of all species. In an advisory capacity he accompanied an officer of the Bureau of Investigation, on a land use survey of the eastern Darling Downs. In August, Mr. Blake joined a party from the National Parks Association on an exploration of the Herbert River Gorge and Hinchinbrook Island.

The appointment of Mr.J.M. Clancy as Temporary Botanist was terminated on 30th June when he was transferred to the Central Library of the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

Mr.R.W. Johnston was appointed Assistant to Botanist as from February, but for the whole year has been working in the Agricultural Chemist's Laboratory. He is expected to return to the herbarium at the end of this year.

Attention is drawn to a typographical error in A.H.N. for March 1951. Our new Assistant is Miss Claire Gillam, not Mr. Gillam as stated.

South Australia

Mr.J.M. Black reports that he has made considerable progress on the revision of Part III. of his Handbook to the Flora of South Australia. Its publication is awaited with interest.

Mr.R. Specht has made further progress in the determination of the specimens collected in Arnhem Land (A.H.N. No.2, March 1948).

Western Australia

Mr.R.D. Royce reports that work has commenced on a study of Kennedya. It is hoped that breeding experiments may result in the development of a useful form of one of the native species. The project is under the direction of Mr.A.J. Millington, Institute of Agriculture, University of W.A. and the cytology of the plants will be investigated by Dr.N.H. Brittain of the Department of Botany.

During August these workers visited the Norseman area and obtained material of Kennedya prorepens which had been previously collected near Lake Cowan in 1947 by Miss Burbidge. A number of young plants were found which will be used in the experiments.

Australian Capital Territory

Miss Burbidge attended the Brisbane A.N.Z.A.A.S. Conference in May when a paper entitled "Some Effects of the Arid Period on Distribution Pattern in the Australian Flora". She has also prepared an item "The significance of the Mallee Habit in Eucalyptus for the O.T. White Memorial volume of the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland. She has commenced a study of certain Australian Amarantaceae, particularly Philoxerus(Gomphrena) and Ptilotus.

Mr.R.J. Williams, who has recently joined the staff on the Plant Introduction section, Division of Plant Industry, is engaged on the compilation of a vegetation map of Australia. This map is being prepared in response to a request from the Department of National Development. Although planned on vegetation structure rather than pasture type it will to some extent replace the Pasture Map issued with C.S.I.R. Bull. 99., now out of print.

The Land Utilization and Regional Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., under the command of Mr.C.S. Christian, has undertaken the survey of parts of New Guinea. Applications for the positions thus created have been called for. The officers required are a leader with experience in pedology, botany or geology; an ecologist and a geomorphologist. It is intended that the work will follow the same general lines as those used for the surveys already carried out in Northern Australia in the Katherine-Darwin, Barkly Tableland and Victoria River-Ord River areas.

New Guinea

Mr.J.S. Womersley attended the Brisbane A.N.Z.A.A.S. Conference and delivered a paper entitled "Some Manifestations of Climate on the Flora of New Guinea" dealing with the occurrence of a number of plants with marked Australian affinities in the highlands of the Wahgi area.

General

We note with pleasure that, in No. 1. of the Kew Bulletin for 1951, Dr.R. Melville has been appointed a Principal Scientific Officer in charge of the Australasian section of the Herbarium. The area dealt with under this section includes Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea.

In a personal communication to Miss Burbidge, Dr.C.G.G.J.van Steenis mentions that he will be publishing a note on the occurrence of a species of Macadamia in the Celebes. It will appear in "Reinwardtia".

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- N.B. Readers are also referred to "Australian Science Abstracts" published as a regular supplement to the Australian Journal of Science.
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