

Botanisches Centralblatt.

REFERIRENDES ORGAN

für das Gesamtgebiet der Botanik des In- und Auslandes.

Herausgegeben

unter Mitwirkung zahlreicher Gelehrten

von

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in Cassel.

in Marburg.

Zugleich Organ

des

Botanischen Vereins in München, der Botaniska Sällskapet i Stockholm,
der Gesellschaft für Botanik zu Hamburg, der botanischen Section der
Schlesischen Gesellschaft für vaterländische Cultur zu Breslau, der
Botaniska Sektionen af Naturvetenskapliga Studentsällskapet i Upsala,
der k. k. zoologisch-botanischen Gesellschaft in Wien, des Botanischen
Vereins in Lund und der Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica in
Helsingfors.

Nr. 20.

Abonnement für das halbe Jahr (2 Bände) mit 14 M.
durch alle Buchhandlungen und Postanstalten.

1892.

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Note on Botanical Collections.

By

Baron **Ferdinand v. Mueller.**

P.H. and M.D.

The latest exploratory expeditions and administrative travels of
of Sir William Macgregor have again afforded material for aug-
menting our knowledge of the native vegetation of British New
Guinea, not only in reference to further systematic records of the
flora, but also as regards prospects for new utilitarian resources.
The circumspect extra exertions of His Honour the Administrator
in shedding more light on the plants of this new British Territorial
Possession are sure to be rewarded in time by initiating means for
acquiring there new rural and technic wealth, as well for the local
revenue as for private benefits. Thus, for instance, we learn from

the collections gathered that several Sapotaceous trees exist in British New Guinea, and therefore of the question arises whether special searches for new kinds of gutta-percha trees could be instituted, all of them belonging to the *Sapotaceae*. This might perhaps best be accomplished if the services of some one of the many experts were secured who are engaged in tapping and preparing the sap of the various gutta-percha trees in the Malay Peninsula or the Sunda Islands, to institute the needful methodic observations in the Papuan forests, guided by special previous experiences. Such a measure would be neither very expensive nor particularly difficult to carry out, the main gutta-percha localities being comparatively near. As another instance of trying to turn soon to practical account the scientific information gained might be mentioned the rubber industry. It seems quite within reach of possibility to find also among the numerous species of Papuan fig-trees one or more to provide rubber; but it may need an accustomed caoutchouc gatherer from Assam or some other Indian locality to enter on the search and tests in New Guinea, the sap of the particular fig-trees needing carefully correct treatment for converting it into the mercantile and industrial product. In connection with this it might be mentioned here at once, that one of the species of *Ficus* lately discovered by Sir William Macgregor is closely akin to our East Australian *Ficus macrophylla*. The number of kinds of grasses indigenous in New Guinea proves also much greater than anticipated, some of them, such as the *Panicums*, evidently of tender foliage and great nutritive value. As gradually so many Urticaceous trees and shrubs have come under notice from the Possession, new sources for fibre may also become opened up for large actual industries and commerce. Of the genus *Vitis*, now thirteen species are known from British New Guinea, with the possible prospects of some showing cultural capabilities as grape-vines. A *Spondias* there is closely akin to the famous *S. cytherea*. The great variety of timber-trees now already demonstrated to exist must sooner or later call forth special efforts of timber merchants to closely investigate the wood resources there beyond what already is shipped to our harbours, such as the red cedar. The *Ebenaceae* are represented, as we now learn, by several kinds in British New Guinea, and thus perhaps superior ebony-wood could be added to the exports. Some new resin plants may also become accessible, as from specimens with young fruit secured by Sir William Macgregor, a third species of Papuan *Araucarias* seems to exist, but in the highlands only although Kauri pines have not yet been found. Of special phyto-geographic interest is the fact that to the many Alpine plants recorded in a former report, now also a species of the New Zealandian and East Australian genus *Quintinia* (*Q. Macgregorii*) as well as *Coprosma repens*, *Geranium pilosum*, and an *Hydrocotyle*, with almost *Azorella* habit (*H. nuanaooides*) can be added, the two former showing further the extensive alliance of the Papuan highlands flora to that of our most elevated far southern regions. To these Australian types

should further be added a new very tall *Grevillea* from lower mountains. The rare *Rhododendron Macgregoriae* has, with the new *Aristotelia gaulteriacea* and *Ternstroemia Britteniana*, been described some months ago in „Britten's London Journal of Botany“ as got at the summit of Mount Yule, where the vegetation, particularly as regards the numerous *Ericae*, simulates that of the Owen Stanley Ranges in their higher though not in their highest parts, a new *Begonia* from the cool heights being among the novelties from there, so an additional *Quercus* from the middle region. The two last-mentioned genera, as well as *Impatiens* and *Gnetum*, have not yet been discovered in any part of Australia, but perhaps in North Queensland it may yet be possible to reveal also representatives of these for the Australian Flora, as *Medinilla*, *Rhododendron*, *Agapetes*, and *Roettlera* occur on the highest mountains of north-eastern Australia. The botanic collections more recently formed in British New Guinea show further a *Piper*, a *Myristica* with nutmegs 2 inches long but probably not aromatic, as additional, so also a *Biophytum*, a *Celosia*, *Glycine*, *Gouania*, two *Medinillas* (new.), *Loranthus*, *Nauclea*, two species of *Homalium* representing both sections of that genus, a *Fagraea*, an almost Alpine *Symplocos* of remarkable smallness, a *Scutellaria*, *Solanum*, *Petræovitea* (*P. Riedelii*), *Clerodendron*, *Gnetum* (*G. microcarpum*), and the large *Hombrowia Pandanus* (the *P. dubius* of some but not of all phytographers).

Of *Elaeocarpus* we have now eleven from British New Guinea. Several other leading genera occur, represented in similar proportions, often, however, the species identical with Malayan or other South-Asiatic congeners.

As might have been expected, Sir William Macgregor's collections are likewise particularly rich in *Gesneriaceae*, *Acanthaceae*, *Scitamineae*, *Orchideae*, and Ferns (one monogramme new) mostly of Sundaic affinities; but it is beyond the scope of this brief document to enter into detail on remarks concerning any of these showy plants, although they comprise many hitherto unknown treasures for future horticulture in any part of the world.

Botanische Ausstellungen und Congressse.

Bakteriologisches vom X. internationalen medizinischen Kongresse zu Berlin.

(Schluss.)

Wolff, Max (Berlin), Ueber Aktinomykose.

Wolff züchtete *Actinomyces*-Pilze in Gestalt von Kurzstäbchen auf Agar-Agar und von längeren Fäden auf Hühner- und Taubeneiern bei einem Wachsthumsoptimum von 35°—37°. Die kokkenartigen Gebilde, die sich in den Culturen einzustellen pflegen,

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Botanisches Centralblatt](#)

Jahr/Year: 1892

Band/Volume: [50](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): von Mueller Ferdinand

Artikel/Article: [Note on Botanical Collections. 193-195](#)