

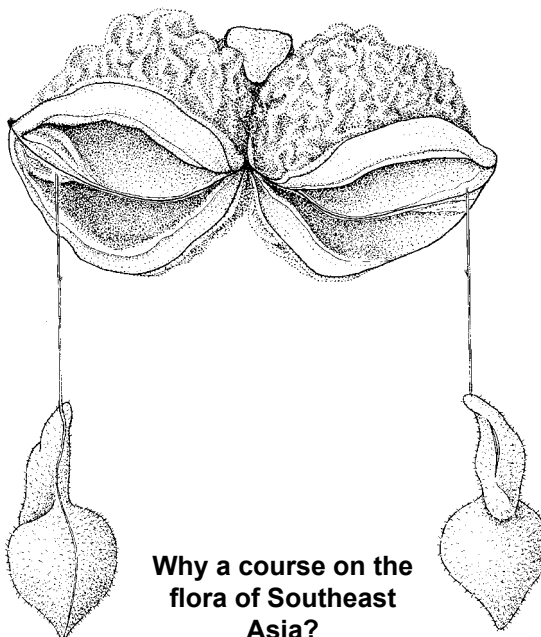
Course on Plant Families of Southeast Asia

with special emphasis on
non-timber forest products

January 12 – 30
2009



This folder is to inform you about the two-yearly 'Plant Families of Southeast Asia' course at the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Universiteit Leiden branch. It provides information for biologists and interested persons without a botanical background about the programme, data, costs, exam and contact persons.



**Why a course on the
flora of Southeast
Asia?**

Southeast Asia is one of the hotspots of global biodiversity: it contains more than 40,000 vascular plant species with a density 10 times higher than the European flora. The region is home to many well known and economically important plant taxa, like yam, nutmeg, rattan, bananas, rambutan, meranti and jambos.

The botanical diversity of Southeast Asia is being documented in an international project, coordinated by the NHN-L: Flora Malesiana. One of the aims of the Flora Malesiana project is the knowledge transfer of plant diversity. That is why this course has been set up.

Target group

The recognition of many plant taxa in the field is often problematic, i.e. during collection expeditions, when doing ecological inventories, for studies on animal behaviour, ethno-botanical research and for pollination and dispersal studies. Species diversity is high, only few plants are flowering and good floras are often not yet available.

This course is initiated for undergraduate and post-graduate students interested in the botanical wealth of Southeast Asia. You will learn how to make good plant collections, how to describe field characters and how to recognize some of the important plant families. You can get help with the identification of previously collected material too.

At the beginning of the course the necessary botanical terms will be explained. Therefore, anthropologists and environmentalists, as well as biologists will also be able to follow the course. If foreign participants are present, the course will be given in English.





Duration, period and location of the course

The course is given once every two years and lasts for 3 weeks, fulltime (120 credit hours – 5 EC).

The next course will be given:

January 12 – 30, 2009

Lectures and practicals will be given at the NHN-L, Van Steenis Building, Einsteinweg 2, Leiden, The Netherlands. This location is c. 15 minutes walking distance from Leiden Central Station.

Costs

The costs of the course are 25 Euro (syllabus) for students of the Dutch Research Schools Biodiversity and Functional Ecology, and 660 Euro for others (costs for accommodation and air fare are not included).

Accommodation

Information on accommodation can be obtained from the following websites:

www.universityguesthouse.leidenuniv.nl

www.booking.com/Leiden

www.hotels.nl/leiden

Exam

The course will end with a recognition exam. The participants will be expected to identify 30 selected collections to the genus level. All participants who pass the exam will receive a certificate of the Dutch Research School Biodiversity.



Programme

The participants will learn to recognize a selection of economically and ecologically important plant families with the help of generative (flower and fruit) and vegetative (leaf and bark) characters.

Generally, two to three plant families will be treated per day. Specialists working at the NHN-L will give lectures with ample illustrations about plant families of that day and some important genera. In addition to the traditional Floras, participants will also learn to use internet keys and several CD-ROMs (interactive keys to Malesian plants).

During the practical the participants will be able to examine living, herbarium and alcohol preserved material. During excursions to the tropical greenhouses of the Leiden Botanical Garden attention will be paid to collection techniques and field characteristics.

More information and subscription

The number of participants is limited to a maximum of 25 due to the limited amount of practical material.

For more information please contact:

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