

ROYAL
BOTANIC
GARDEN
EDINBURGH



Rennie Committee
Division of Biological Sciences
The University of Edinburgh
Michael Swann Building
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17th October 2001

Dear Committee,

I am enclosing a short report on my recent trip to Australia, primarily to attend the 5th International Flora Malesiana Symposium.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the award of £340 that you gave me towards my travel to Australia. As you will gather from my report, it was an extremely useful and enjoyable experience.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Bramley', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gemma Bramley

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JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST AWARD REPORT

My James Rennie Bequest award assisted in enabling me to travel to Australia in order to attend the 5th International Flora Malesiana Symposium in Sydney, 9th-14th September. I also took the opportunity, whilst in Australia, to visit the Australian National Herbarium in Canberra. Additionally, on my return from Australia, I was able to visit Bogor, Indonesia, and the Forest Research Institute, Malaysia (FRIM) near Kuala Lumpur.

From the 4th-7th September, I was able to work in the Australian National Herbarium in Canberra with the kind permission of Dr Judy West, Director of the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research. The herbarium held extensive collections of *Cyrtandra* that I examined. These collections included 457 sheets collected from Papua New Guinea. I made notes on all of these specimens and some interesting morphological differences from this region became obvious when compared to west Malesia.

There appeared to be two different floral structures in Papua New Guinea. The first type, occurring throughout the distribution of *Cyrtandra*, is a tubular corolla with five more or less even lobes at the mouth. The second type seems to arise somewhere within the range, perhaps in Sulawesi. Type two is a tubular corolla in which the upper lobes are fused and curve downwards and the lower lobes are much shorter and curl backwards. The reasons for the evolution of these floral types may prove very interesting. Perhaps molecular studies of species with the two different flower types may find examples of morphology driven clades within a particular region.

From the 9th-14th September I attended the 5th International Flora Malesiana Symposium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. This was an invaluable opportunity to meet many extremely knowledgeable botanists both from within and outside the Malesian region. I was able to make contact with staff from Herbarium Bogoriense where I would be visiting after the conference, and also at FRIM.

I attended many interesting and informative presentations on topics such as bioinformatics, taxonomy and systematics, ecology and biogeography, and ethnobotany. These were thought provoking and made me think about different aspects of *Cyrtandra* that I might investigate, and how I might go about doing this.

Furthermore, I presented a poster: 'The *Cyrtandra* flora of Mount Kerinci, Sumatera'. Many were interested in my work and the poster prompted many questions and suggestions.

My supervisor, Dr Cronk, gave a talk entitled 'The diversity, origin and relationships of the genus *Cyrtandra* in Sumatera' about our work on *Cyrtandra*.

After the conference I travelled to Bogor, Indonesia where I worked in the herbarium. I also visited BIOTROP where I was able to see the duplicates of the *Cyrtandra* specimens I have been working on, collected by Dr Cronk, and our Indonesian colleagues, Dr Sri Tjitrosoedirdjo and Radhiah Zakaria.

Finally I went to FRIM, near Kuala Lumpur, Peninsular Malaysia, and discussed the possibilities of working on the Peninsular Malaysia *Cyrtandra* as a further part of my PhD. In addition I examined the *Cyrtandra* collections in the herbarium and I made a voucher specimen and took material for DNA extraction from a living *Cyrtandra* collected from the local area.

To summarise, the trip was a great success, not only in the generation of new ideas and approaches to my work, but also in meeting the people who might help to make the fulfilment of these ideas possible, and in receiving comments about work that I have completed so far.