

English-speaking foresters searching for background material on Indonesian forestry will previously have been faced with the difficulty of finding all but the more general articles written in Dutch or Indonesian. In this book the standard of translation from Dutch is high although there are inevitably some awkward phrases and words that require a more comprehensive glossary.

Indonesian Forestry Abstracts will give a comprehensive indicative account of all the literature available in Dutch and will serve as an excellent source of references. Eighteen full-page photos are well chosen to give an impression of older methods of forest exploitation. These indicate the great amount of heavy labour previously required for most operations with manual haulage of logs along corduroy tracks in the 1930s. The vast Dipterocarp forests of Kalimantan and Sumatra were being opened to exploitation at this time. There are some references to discussions and trials on regeneration of rain forests after logging but little indication of their active management.

The Dutch foresters of the period covered appear to have concentrated on Java and on teak forests for more intensive forest management. Islands other than Java are included in the "Outer Provinces" and forests other than teak in Java are referred to as "non-teak" forests. However, any foresters or botanists who peruse these abstracts will get a kaleidoscopic view of the vegetation and earlier forest activities in one of the world's most fascinating and diverse regions, generally little known to New Zealanders. A recently published checklist of the tree flora of Sumatra includes 4000 tree species. The abstracts give a wide coverage of forest activities in Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Irian Jaya.

Present-day foresters still meet the language problem in that most forest literature on Indonesia of the past 30 years has been written in the Indonesian language. New Zealanders fluent in the Indonesian language are few and up-to-date material on Indonesian forestry, written in either Indonesian or English, is not readily available in New Zealand. Indonesian Forestry Abstracts give access to a vast amount of Dutch material in a splendidly presented volume.

A. E. Beveridge.

FOREST TREES IN AUSTRALIA

by D. J. Boland, M. I. H. Brooker, G. M. Chippendale, N. Hall,
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Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. Thomas Nelson, Melbourne. 1984.
687 pages. ISBN 0-17-066264-3.

This hard cover book has been thoroughly revised and enlarged. With twice the number of pages and thicker paper, it is three times the size of the previous edition and weighs over 2 kg making it very difficult to use as a field guide.

Two hundred and twenty-three important Australian trees, including 137 eucalypt species, are described and illustrated. The species were selected because of their

importance to the timber industry or because they are conspicuous in the landscape. With about 10 photographs of each species, this edition contains over 2000 new photographs including 60 colour plates.

Unfortunately, several species important ecologically in Tasmania are omitted – for example, *Eucalyptus coccifera* and *E. rodwayi* – and yet some rare species, for example, *E. rummeryi*, are included. Several of our common ornamental eucalypt species, e.g., *E. cinerea*, *E. nicholii*, and *E. ficifolia* are not included.

There is a well-written introduction with sections on the origin, variation, and adaptation of Australian trees. Some important Australian plant families are briefly described giving the main features of each family, its distribution, features of leaves, type of fruit and flower structure. Headings for each family would have helped here. A lucid, informative account of factors controlling the distribution of Australian tree species follows.

The bulk of the book contains description and illustrations of the species. The format is similar to previous editions with one page of photographs facing a page or more of description and a distribution map. The text includes information on habit, distribution, ecology, and associated species. A clear, concise, botanical description follows in smaller type under appropriate headings. The information on related species and distinctive features is particularly helpful.

The black and white photographs of tree habit and botanical features are, with few exceptions, of excellent quality. A few lack clarity, probably lost in the printing process. The 60 colour plates showing selected bark, flower, and habit features, and forest types, are of high quality but, unfortunately, have not been referred to in the main text, and some illustrate species not included in the descriptions. Photographs of *Acacia* leaves showing the positioning of the glands would have been useful.

Fill-in photos appear to have been used to solve layout problems, sometimes with little relevance to the adjacent text. The aboriginal art photographs on p. 396, for example, would be more appropriate placed near the text on *Araucaria bidwillii*.

Following the species descriptions there is an explanation of the abbreviations used, a good glossary, illustrations of some of the botanical terms, a list of selected references, and the index.

There are a few typing errors (p. 33 line 23 and p. xiv line 5) and other minor discrepancies, e.g., *Eucalyptus henryi* on p. 236 but *Eucalyptus henryana* on p. 235.

This book would be invaluable for foresters and botanists with an interest in Australian timber trees as it provides a very useful major reference. It is somewhat frustrating for identifying eucalypts in New Zealand in that it does not cover many of the common ornamental species. The species that are covered, however, are treated very fully.

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