

Editorial

On 27th September 2019, a supplement to *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* was published as a Festschrift to celebrate David Mabberley's 70th birthday, albeit a year after the actual event. David had been a student of E. J. H. Corner, who made such a great contribution to Singapore Botanic Gardens and the world of botany, and in 1977 edited the volume of *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* that likewise celebrated Corner's 70th birthday. Mabberley's Festschrift was guest-edited by Alistair Hay and Mark Large, who solicited papers from his students and peers. As Alistair and Mark noted in their introduction, David warned them that they may find it difficult to find enough contributions to fill a volume. As the papers rolled in, however, it became abundantly clear that nothing could have been further from the truth and eventually we had to make the difficult decision to close the Festschrift to any further papers so that it would not become too unwieldy. With 23 papers, plus a preface and an introduction, and at 538 pages in all, it contains works from botanists working in many different fields and stands as an enduring testament to the breadth of David Mabberley's scholarship.

As there were more contributions than could be accommodated within the supplement, it was agreed that those that we eventually decided must be deferred would nevertheless be published in issue 71(2) of *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore*. These are gathered together as the first four papers of this issue and we again dedicate them to David Mabberley. The fifth paper in the issue is an addendum to a paper in the Festschrift.

The other papers in the issue reflect the range of works that are usual for *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore*. Three volumes of the *Flora of Singapore* were published in October 2019 although the two papers in the *Flora of Singapore* precursor series in this issue highlight the fact that there are 11 volumes still to be published and research on the plant diversity of Singapore continues in earnest. There are also five papers on the Zingiberaceae, in part reflecting the legacy of the 8th Zingiberales Symposium held at Singapore Botanic Gardens in July 2018. The remaining papers demonstrate our long commitment to publishing research on the plant diversity of Asia in many plant groups.

David J. Middleton

Editor-in-chief

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