

## Preface

In 1977, a special issue of *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* was published with the title '*Tropical Botany: Essays presented to E. J. H. Corner for his seventieth birthday, 1976*'. The editors were David Mabberley of Oxford University and Chang Kiaw Lan of Singapore Botanic Gardens, both former students of Corner. The collection, written by his students and peers, included an eclectic mix of essays reflecting the wide range of interests of E. J. H. Corner. As well as editing the volume, David Mabberley was also an author of three of the included papers.

In 2018, David Mabberley celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and it is our great honour, to come full circle, to dedicate to him this issue of *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* with a new series of essays written by his students (one might call them Corner's botanical grandchildren) and peers. This collection too reflects the wide range of David's interests and publications, and challenges us to question whether our own interests have become too narrow.

The Festschrift is published as a Supplement to *Gardens' Bulletin Singapore* and has been edited by Alistair Hay, one of Mabberley's earlier D.Phil. students and erstwhile Senior Research Scientist and Director, Botanic Gardens & Public Programs with The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust, Sydney, and Mark Large, one of his Postdoctoral Associates at Oxford on a Royal Society fellowship & currently Associate Professor, School of Animal and Environmental Sciences, Unitec, Auckland.

**David J. Middleton**  
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