

NOTES

Distributional Extensions of Marine Spermatophytes

A small collection of sea-grasses was recently made by Alastair Birtles in the southwest Pacific and presented by him for identification. Most of the specimens represent substantial range extensions. The plants came from three localities: on the southeast coast of Upolu, Western Samoa; Malassa Village, on the northeast coast, and Mosso Islet off the northwest coast, of Efate (Vate) Island, New Hebrides.

Den Hartog, in his monograph of the sea-grasses of the world (1972) does not list any species as occurring in the New Hebrides. The 8 Birtles specimens include 6 species in 5 genera. They are listed below along with 3 specimens of one of them from the Marshall Islands, collected by me many years ago, and from the Gilberts, one collected by René Catala and one by Edwin Moul, also some years back. Herbaria where specimens are deposited are indicated by Lanjouw system symbols in parentheses after the citations.

Potamogetonaceae

Halodule uninervis (Forsk.) Aschers.

New Hebrides: Efate Island: Mosso Islet, *Birtles 4* (US); Malassa, *Birtles 5* (US).

Cymodocea rotundata Ehrenb. & Hempr. ex Aschers.

New Hebrides: Efate Island: Mosso Islet, *Birtles 1* (US).

Syringodium isoetifolium (Aschers.) Dandy

Western Samoa: Upolu Island: Aleipata Distr., opposite Malaela Village, *Birtles 8* (US).

Hydrocharitaceae

Halophila minor (Zoll.) d. Hart.

New Hebrides: Efate Island: Mosso Islet, *Birtles 2* (US); Malassa Village, *Birtles 6* (US).

Halophila ovalis (R. Br.) Hook. f.

Western Samoa: Upolu Island: Aleipata Distr., opp. Malaela Village, *Birtles 7* (US).

Thalassia hemprichii (Ehrenb.) Aschers.

New Hebrides: Efate Island: Mosso Islet, *Birtles 3* (US).

Marshall Islands: Ujelang Atoll, Ujelang Islet, east end, lagoon beach, forming a dense sod at about low tide level, *Fosberg 34189* (US, BISH, L); Ailinglapalap

Atoll, Airik Islet, in outlet of small mangrove swamp, about low tide level, *Fosberg 26880* (US, BISH, GUAM, NY). Jaluit Atoll: Pinglap Islet, bottom of lagoon, *Fosberg 39467* (US).

Gilbert Islands: Tarawa Atoll, *Catala 157* (P). Onotoa Atoll, north Islet, *Moul 8188* (US, BISH).

These records of *Thalassia hemprichii*, along with those from New Caledonia and the Ryukyu Islands cited by den Hartog and by Stone (1971: 102) from Guam define the known limits of *Thalassia* in the Pacific as the Ryukyu Islands and Guam on the north, Ujelang, Ailinglapalap, and Jaluit in the Marshall group, Tarawa and Onotoa in the Gilberts, Efate in the New Hebrides and New Caledonia, in Melanesia. There seems to be every reason to believe that the known details of the distribution of this species are very poorly known, through lack of adequate collecting. The general geographical limits in the Pacific, however, are probably well delimited in the above statement. The record from Guam is a very doubtful one, apparently not based on a specimen.

Literature Cited

den Hartog, C. 1970. *The Sea-grasses of the World*. Amsterdam. 275 p.

Stone, B. C. 1971. *The flora of Guam*. *Micronesica* 6. 659 p.

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