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Shorter Note

PYRROSIA PRINCEPS, A FERN NEW TO CULTIVATION.—I have recently received for identification from Mr. J. W. Peterson an unidentified fern that is being cultivated in Longwood Gardens from material collected by R. G. Wilson in New Guinea and Bougainville (*Peterson J-1087*, collected Jan. 12, 1970). It proves to represent a species previously unknown in cultivation and very restricted in its natural distribution:

PYRROSIA **princeps** (Mett.) Morton, comb. nov.

Polypodium princeps Mett. *Ann. Lugd. Bat.* **2**: 232. 1866. TYPE: New Guinea, *Zippel* (holotype L, Morton photograph 833).

Cyclophorus princeps (Mett.) C. Chr. *Ind. Fil.* 200. 1905.

This is a characteristic species, known to me from only three collections (aside from the type) from New Guinea: Auga River, in clumps among rocks near river, alt. 580 m., Papua, Sept.-Nov., 1933, *Brass 5492*; terrestrial in edge of forest on riverbanks, Biniguni Camp, Gwariu River, Milne Bay District, Papua, July 30, 1953, *Brass 23703*; on limestone cliffs, Biak Island, December 2, 1945, *Grether & Wagner 4220*. From the data on the label of the cultivated plant it appears that the species may occur also on Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands.

In habit this species is quite different from the commonly cultivated *Pyrrosia lingua* (Thunb.) Farwell, which has long-stalked fronds scattered along an elongate, creeping rhizome. The rhizome is compact and larger in *P. princeps*, and the fronds are fasciculate. The fronds are probably the largest in the genus *Pyrrosia*, reaching more than a meter in length and 10 cm. in

width. The fronds are essentially exstipitate, which distinguishes them from such species as *P. grandissima* (Hayata) Ching. The Indian *Pyrrosia costata* (K. B. Presl) Iwatsuki and the Philippine *P. splendens* (K. B. Presl) Ching are similar in the frond outline, but the indument is quite different, the scales being dimorphous, the layer of peltate scales being underlain by white, dissected scales with elongate frizzy arms. In *P. princeps* the scales of the lower surface are monomorphous, all like, with numerous, short spreading arms.—C. V. MORTON, *National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. 20560.*

Recent Fern Literature

A COMMENTARY ON SOME TYPE SPECIMENS OF FERNS IN THE HERBARIUM OF K. B. PRESL, by R. E. Holttum. *Nov. Bot. Inst. Univ. Carol. Prag.* 1968:3-57. June, 1969.—The study of fern types has in some respects only begun. Original specimens were to a certain extent neglected until the twentieth century. The earliest paper that I recall specifically on fern types is that of Christensen in 1910 on some of the types of Swartz. Probably no others were published until 1936, when Weatherby wrote a most valuable paper on the American types of Desvaux, and 1937, when Christensen wrote on the types of Cavanilles and Cesati. In 1954 I began a general study of fern types, which has continued up to the present time. This is a gigantic task I shall never finish, for I estimate that there are in excess of 50,000 fern types to be located and studied. The Czech botanist K. B. Presl described many species between 1825 and 1851. His types have been in Prague ever since but they have almost never been consulted, which is unfortunate since some of his species, although rather fully described for his day, have remained dubious. Dr. Holttum has remedied this by journeying to Prague to locate the Malaysian types, which are among the most important, for most of Presl's new species were based on the Philippine Island collections of Thaddeus Haenke and Hugh Cuming. Presl's herbarium was still unmounted and just as Presl left it when Underwood visited it in 1905, but it is now mounted and filed, partly in the general herbarium of the Bo-