



MONTANE FOREST OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The west wing of the Curvilinear range is dominated by a species collection of rhododendrons of the section **vireya** from south-east Asia. They were donated to the Gardens by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1995. The display is divided into distinct ecological groupings – Tree fern forest or savanna [C]; Sub-alpine [D]; Upper montane forest [E]; and Lower montane forest [F]. The peak period of flowering is from January to May.

POLLINATION

Flower colour and shape in *Rhododendron* has evolved to suit different pollinators, including birds, bats, moths and butterflies. These adaptations are explained on the sheet to bed D (CL(w)D.pdf)

Associated plants include orchids, pitcher plants and several unusual gymnosperm members, including *Phyllocladus*, *Podocarpus* and *Agathis*. Artificial trees are made by wrapping the bark of the cork oak on steel frames. This provides an ideal habitat for mosses, ferns, orchids and small rhododendron species. Plants that grow naturally on the branches of trees are known as **epiphytes**. They are not parasitic and seldom harm the host plant.

In the corridor bed [A] and the edge planters [B] is a collection of cultivars derived from the artificial hybridization and selection of wild species.

