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NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANISTS
NUUSBRIEF VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENOOTSAP VAN PLANTKUNDIGES

NAVORSINGSINSTITUUT VIR VRUGTE EN VRUGTETEGNOLOGIE, STELLENBOSCH,

(DEPARTEMENT LANDBOU-TEGNIJSE DIENSTE): Die Instituut bedien in hoofsaak produsente van sagtevrugte in die Wes-Kaap en Langkloof gebiede. Navorsing en vakvoorligting oor die verbouing, verwerking en bemarking van sagtevrugte is die hoofsaak van die Instituut. Aandag word ook aan die verbouing van inheemse gewasse wat by plaaslike vrugteboerdery in pas, gegee.

Navorsingsprojekte van 'n plantkundige aard wat tans aandag geniet omvat onder meer die volgende:

Dr. K.L.J. Blommaert onderneem ondersoek na die rywordingsprosesse van vrugte, die verbouing van Boegoe (*Agathosma betulina* en *A. crenulata*), Rooitee (*Aspalathus linearis*) en die Proteaceae.

'n Studie oor die seisoensopname van tien voedingselemente by jong appelbome met die oog op die verkryging van die Ph.D.-graad, is pas deur mnr. J.H. Terblanche voltooi.

Mnr. G.G. Rousseau ontvang eersdaags die Ph.D.-graad in Plantkunde aan die Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit op grond van 'n studie oor die opname en metabolisme van kalsium by die appelvrug met betrekking tot die voorkoms van bitterpit. Mnr. A.N. Hanekom onderneem tans 'n verwante ondersoek oor die invloed van grondvogpeile op die voorkoms van bitterpit by appels. Hy het ook onlangs 'n studie oor die seisoensopname van fosfaat en rubidium deur *Protea cynaroides*, afgehandel.

'n Infra-rooi gasanaliseerder wat onlangs in gebruik geneem is, word deur Dr. H. Tormann gebruik in studies oor die invloed van temperatuur en ligintensiteit op die fotosintetiese kapasiteit en transpirasietempo van appelblare.

Dr. F.J. Haasbroek ondersoek die invloed van gammastrale op die hou vermoë van Protea-blomme met die oog op sterilisasie teen insekbesmetting en dr. B.K. Nortjé die samestelling van boegoe-olie.

In studies oor die koelopberging van vrugte ondersoek mnr. H.J.P. Redelinghuys verandering in flavonole by pere tydens normale en beheerde atmosfeer opberging, terwyl die moontlike oorsake van sonbrandvlek by appels deur mnr. A.B. Daneel ondersoek word.

Die Ph.D.-graad is in Desember 1971 aan mevr. M. Vogts toegeken op grond van 'n proefskrif oor die geografie en geografiese variasie van *Protea cymaroides*.

MR. R.G. STREY, Curator of Natal Herbarium (the Botanical Research Institute's outstation at Durban) retired on the 28th April, 1972, after 17 years with the Institute. Dr. Codd, Director of the Institute, came down especially from Pretoria to bid Mr. Strey farewell. In a short talk on behalf of the staff Dr. Codd paid tribute to the loyal service Mr. Strey had given Botany and the Institute, and made mention of the valuable contribution Mr. Strey had made to the revitalization and re-organization of the Natal Herbarium. Of special note was the fact that Mr. Strey had paid particular attention to the collection of as wide a range as possible of plant material and that he had filled in many collecting gaps as well as tracking down many species that were previously known from only one or two specimens - eg. *Rhynchocalyx lawsonioides* and *Elephantorrhiza woodii*.

In reply Mr. Strey mentioned that he first became interested in Botany as a farmer in South West Africa who was anxious to know which plants were best for his stock and which plants were poisonous. He found that there was little literature available for purchase and that he had to refer to reference libraries and to question botanists themselves. In this way Mr. Strey met men like Dinter, Volk and Schoenfelder, and then while interned during the second world war there was ample opportunity to continue his botanical studies under Prof. O.H. Volk, Dr. S. Rehm and Dr. Müller Stoll.

During his internment the whole of Phillips Genera was translated into German and an index of South West African plants was made (this is now housed in the

National Herbarium, Pretoria). His farm Buellspoort is a well known locality for type specimens of plants and of insects. (Mr. Strey has several plants beetles and moths names after him), in fact "Bulls Mouth Pass" was first mentioned and pictured in the literature as early as 1838 by Sir James Alexander (Expedition of Discovery into the Interior of Africa done in 1834/35), who mentions that Lion, Rhino, Buffalo, Zebra, Kudu and Springbok occurred in the vicinity. In the years after the war, he organized all the expeditions of Abbe Breuil in South West Africa. Then ill-health made farming impossible and not long afterwards Mr. Strey joined the Institute - which in those days had a strong German element.

On his transfer to Natal he saw at once that before Bews's Flora could be revised a great deal of collecting was necessary, particularly in southern Natal, and this he set about to do with great energy. He also paid great attention to the early history of the Herbarium and the various curators of the past, the best known being John Medley Wood. Finally Mr. Strey thanked all his colleagues and friends for all their assistance and co-operation during his botanical career, and for their good wishes to him on his retirement which he hoped would be an active one, with possible re-employment by the Institute in the near future. (E.J. Moll).

DR. R.E. GAUNT who has recently joined the staff of the Department of Botany and Microbiology at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and his wife, Mrs. D.E. Gaunt (at present assisting in the same department), are from Britain. Both took their first degrees at Bangor University, North Wales. Dr. Gaunt continued his studies at Southampton University training as a physiological pathologist with special interest in the Physiology of association between organisms such as fungi and their hosts. Mrs. Gaunt went to Oxford University and then lectured at Wolverhampton in economic botany. Her main interest is in translocation in fungi.

DR. D. WIENS of the University of Utah, U.S.A., is presently visiting South Africa with his family while on long study leave. In a newly acquired Land Rover he has been touring down Africa collecting and studying members of the Loranthaceae especially in their pollination ecology and cytology.

He stationed himself in Kenya for several months and then travelled south through Tanzania, Zambia, Rhodesia, Botswana and South West Africa to Cape Town where he has based himself for the last month. In June he intends travelling around the eastern parts of the country before going to Madagascar in July and on to Australia in August.

While in Cape Town Dr. Wiens gave several lectures one of which was on the Galapagos Islands which he was very fortunate in being able to visit while living in Ecuador.

NATIONAL LIST OF TREES: The attaching of numbers to trees in nature reserves and along our main highways has become a popular means of identifying trees.

The first edition of the National List of Trees was included in "Sixty-six Transvaal Trees" a volume published in 1966 on the occasion of the Republic Festival, and now out of print. A need therefore arose for a separate revised reprint of the list.

For convenience the format was reduced to pocket size. The list consists of two sections, the first arranged numerically and containing only the currently used names and their numbers. The second is a general index containing all names in current use as well as the names given in the major works on trees but no longer in use. These synonyms are printed in italics and the number given refers to the presently used valid name.

The right to add to this list is reserved by the Botanical Research Institute. Comments on and suggestions for new inclusions are very welcome, but the latter must be supported by specimens with field notes to show that inclusion of the species is merited.

It is extremely difficult to provide a definition of a tree which will meet with general approval. For convenience, the following criteria were chosen: woody plants exceeding (sometimes only rarely) 3 m high with a trunk-diameter of 15 cm and over. These criteria were not always strictly applied. The chief aim was to make the list as useful as possible.

The final editing of the list was undertaken by Dr. B. de Winter and Mr. J. Vahrmeijer of the Institute and the booklet is published by Van Schaik of

Pretoria. (Dimensions: 8 x 13 cm)

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA: The Natal Branch of the Wildlife Protection and Conservation Society of South Africa is at present undertaking the publication of a book embracing all the epiphytic orchids of Southern Africa specifically written for the layman but also an invaluable reference to the botanist.

This Field Guide, written by E.R. Harrison, the well-known Zululand naturalist, described the 42 known indigenous epiphytic species, each being illustrated by the author with line drawings.

For rapid identification in the field a simplified analytical key precedes the descriptive text. The differences between species with a superficial resemblance are analysed and localities are given at which individual species have been recorded.

The book will be of companion size to "The Acacia Species of Natal" by Dr. J.H. Ross also published by the Branch; it will be available in a soft cover (approx. R1,00) and in a hard cover (approx. R2,00) and will be about 120 pages.

To assist the Society in raising the necessary funds an appeal is made to all interested parties to subscribe towards the publication. A list of subscribers will be included in the book. Subscribers (R5,00 or more) will receive an autographed hard-covered book and sponsors (R25,00 or more) an autographed leather-covered book. Publication is expected late in August 1972. (Enquiries to the Secretary, Natal Branch of the Wildlife Society, P.O. Box 2985, Durban).

POSTS ADVERTISED:

SECOND CHAIR IN BOTANY, WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY: A new Chair in Botany has been created in the field of Plant Ecology. Preference will be given to applicants who have research interests in the following aspects of Plant Ecology: ecodynamics, productivity studies and systems models. The incumbent will be required to assist the Head of the Department with departmental administration.

Salary scale: R7 500 x 300 - R9 000.

Applications to the Registrar by 7th July, 1972

JUNIOR LECTURER/LECTURER, RHODES UNIVERSITY: Preference will be given to applicants with a special qualification in whole plant physiology. A Junior lecturer is appointed for a maximum period of 3 years with the possibility of promotion to a permanent post of lecturer.

Salary scale: Junior Lecturer R3 600 x 150 - R4 500

Lecturer R4 800 x 300 - R6 900

Applications to the Registrar by 15th July 1972

(NOTE: It would be appreciated if Heads of Departments could send details of posts vacant to the Forum Botanicum. Present these have to be extracted from newspapers usually too late to be of use to readers or the departments concerned - Editor).

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