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

S.A.A.B. COUNCIL: The last Council Meeting was held in the Department of Botany, University of Cape Town, on 13th October. Present were Prof. C.F. Cresswell, the President, Prof. M.P. de Vos (S.W. Cape), Dr. A. Jacot-Guillarmod (E. Cape), Dr. A. Eicker (Hon. Sec. & N. Tvl.), Mrs. E.P. du Plessis, Dr. O.A. Leistner, Prof. O.A.M. Lewis, Mr. E.G.H. Oliver, Prof. J.G.C. Small and Prof. H.P. van der Schijff.

Matters discussed included the Joint Council, Plant Physiology Society, collecting permits, work opportunities for botanists (much discussion), fund for attending congresses, South African Medal for Botany, S₂A₃-S.A.A.B. relationship, poster to advertise S.A.A.B., post mortem on July meeting and dinner and opening of B.R.I. building, land weeds and invaders, mailing of correspondence to overseas members, Garden Route Freeway, conservation of rare and endangered plants and acceptance of new members.

The next meeting of Council is to take place on Saturday, 16th February, 1974, in the Department of Botany, University of Port Elizabeth.

ARBORETUM VIR DIE DEPARTEMENT ALGEMENE PLANTKUNDE, UNIVERSITEIT VAN

PRETORIA: As gevolg van die vinnige uitbreiding op die Universiteitskampus moes al meer dele van die Botaniese tuin van die Plantkunde Departement opgeoffer word vir die oprigting van geboue. Gedurende die begin van 1972 is 'n versoek deur die Departement aan die Universiteitsowerhede gerig om die Hartebeesspruit wat deur die Universiteitsproefplaas en sportgronde loop, en oop stukke grond aangrensend daaraan, te gebruik vir die vestiging van 'n Arboretum. Gelyktydig met die gedagte het die Registrateur, mnr. M. Smuts, ook daaraan begin dink om die betrokke gebied op te knap en as 'n groen strook te bewaar met die gevolg

dat daar kort daarna met die projek begin is.

Die projek is die verantwoordelikheid van 'n beheerkomitee onder leiding van die Registrateur (Finansies), en die hoof van die Departement Algemene Plantkunde. Die doel is om genoemde gebied te omskep in 'n arboretum waarin veral uitheemse, houtagtige plante aangeplant sal word. Die gebied lê digby die Botaniese tuin te Brummeria waar slegs inheemse plante aangeplant word en die gedagte is dus dat die arboretum van uitheemse plante die Brummeria tuin moet aanvul sodat 'n student met die twee tuine tot sy beskikking, 'n wye oorsig oor die hoër taksa van die planteryk sal kan kry.

Die primêre doel van die arboretum is dus opleiding van studente in Plantkunde. Daar die gebied egter aan die sportgronde van die Universiteit grens, is die ideaal om dit ook uit te bou en te ontwikkel in 'n plantkundige ontspanningsoord, waar aanvanklik personeel en studente, maar moontlik later ook die algemene publiek meer kan leer van die interessante plantsoorte wat daar groei.

Die dam wat in die gebied geleë is, is reeds vergroot sodat die lyne beter inskakel by die omgewing.

Danksy die milde skenkings van instansies soos die Suid-Afrikaanse Spoorweë, privaat kwekerie en ander, is daar reeds met die aanplant van bome begin. Dit word voorsien dat daar vinniger vordering met die projek gemaak sal word sodra die pos wat vir die doel geskep is, eers gevul kan word.

Indien daar enigiemand is wat in so 'n betrekking belangstel moet hy met die Hoof, Departement Algemene Plantkunde, Universiteit van Pretoria in verbinding tree.

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA, DEPARTEMENT ALGEMENE PLANTKUNDE: Tydens die April vakansie het personeel en studente van die Departement Algemene Plantkunde 'n toer onder leiding van prof. P.J. Robbertse na die Suidwestelike Kaap onderneem. Tydens die heenreis is onder andere die Bergkwagga Nasionale Park, Addo Olifant Nasionale Park en die Knysna woude besoek. Tydens die verblyf te Bettysbaai is opnames, wat deel vorm van 'n ondersoek om die invloed van brand op die plantegroei in dié omgewing te bepaal, gedoen.

Besoeke is ook gebring aan Kirstenbosch Botaniese tuin en die Karootuin te Worcester.

Mev. E. Steyn wat tans besig is met 'n embriologiese studie van *Greyia*, het aan die einde van April die Oos-Transvaal en Natal besoek om materiaal van *Greyia radlkoferi* en *G. sutherlandii* te versamel, wanneer die blaar- en bloeiwyse-primordia vir die komende groeiseisoen gevorm word. Die besoek aan Natal is aan die einde van Julie herhaal, omdat die kort rusperiode dan verby is en die gevormde primordia weer aktief begin groei.

Die volgende projekte is afgehandel:

Mnr. G.K. Theron: "'Ekologiese studie van die plantegroei van die Loskopdam-natuurreservaat".

Mej. I. von Teichman und Logischen: "'n Morfologiese ondersoek van die Transvaalse *Dioscorea*-soorte".

Mnr. Theron het 'n D.Sc.- en mej. Von Teichman 'n M.Sc.-graad (met lof) ontvang tydens die gradeplegtigheid van die Universiteit van Pretoria in September 1973.

Mej. I. von Teichman het aan die einde van Julie na Australië vertrek. Sy het van 1 September tot 31 Oktober as navorsingsassistent onder dr. T.P. O'Brien in die Plantkunde Departement, Monash University, Clayton gewerk, en sal van 1 November tot 31 Desember as navorsingsassistent in die Plantkunde Departement, Australian National University, Canberra, onder dr. R.B. Knox werk.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: At the recent 18th General Assembly of the I.U.B.S. in Ustaoset, Norway the following were elected as the new Executive Committee:

President, Prof. Knut Faegri; Past President, Prof. D.S. Farner; Vice Presidents, Prof. Frans Stafleu and Dr. N. Oker-Blom (Finland); Sec. General, Dr. C.A. Wright (British Museum); Treasurer, Dr. K. Egle with the following divisional representatives: Botany - Dr. M.J. Guern (France) and Dr. S. Peterfi (Roumania); Zoology - Academician M.S. Ghilarov (USSR) and Dr. V. Landa (Czechoslovakia); Microbiology - Dr. G. Terui (Japan) and Prof. J.C. Senez (France); Functional and analytical - Dr. B.P. Pal (India) and Prof.

E. de Robertis (Argentina) or Dr. A. Brito da Cunha (Brazil); Environmental - Prof. L.C. Birch (Australia) and Prof. M. Michajlov (Poland).

MR. HANS HERRE, for many years Curator of the University Botanic Gardens, Stellenbosch, is being honoured by the University with the conferring of an honorary doctorate in March next year. This is in recognition of his outstanding services to the University and to Botany in South Africa during a life time of devotion to the succulent flora of the country, particularly the Mesembryanthemaceae about which he recently completed a mammoth tome.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF BOTANICAL ART: The Johannesburg Branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa and Mr. Everard Reed of Johannesburg made it possible for several centres in the Republic to view a remarkable collection of botanical paintings. They arranged for an exhibition by 74 botanical artists from South Africa and overseas to mark the 60th anniversary of the National Botanic Gardens, Kirstenbosch and of the Botanical Society. Paintings were loaned from numerous countries including Russia, Poland, Sweden, Chile, Argentina, Hong Kong, Japan and a large group exhibit from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The exhibition originally opened in Johannesburg in August and then went to Pietermaritzburg, the University of Durban-Westville and finally to Cape Town where it attracted a lot of attention.

The Botanical Society was very grateful to receive the co-operation of the South African Airways in providing free freightage thus allowing for a wider circulation of the exhibition.

Following on this exhibition in Cape Town, the South African Public Library will be holding an exhibition of contemporary illustrated botanical books from 7th - 21st December. Many of the works will contain paintings by the artists who exhibited in the art exhibition.

POST CONGRESS TOUR, 1974: The local branch of SAAB is arranging a series of excursions after the S₂A₃/SAAB Congress next July in Grahamstown. The dates of the one-day excursions will be 6-10 July with accommodation in the

Rhodes University hostels. In the past extensive 4 and 5 day excursions have been organised from the congress centres, but next year it has been decided to have day trips returning each night to Grahamstown. These trips will cover various aspects of the E. Cape vegetation from coastal forests, Fish River scrub to a marine algal excursion. Details will be given later.

DR. JAMES LÜCKHOFF, a former chairman of the South African Medical Council, died on 26th November in Cape Town, the day before his 98th birthday. Dr. Lückhoff collected succulents for many years and became wellknown for his discoveries of new and rare species in the Stapeliads. He passed on his love of plants to his elder son, the late Dr. Carl Lückhoff who produced a book on the Stapeliads. He is survived by a daughter and son Dr. Hilmar Lückhoff of the Department of Forestry.

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KIRSTENBOSCH: A dinner will be held on Wednesday, 5th December, at a hotel in Newlands, Cape, to mark the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Gardens by Prof. H.H.W. Pearson. The guest of honour will be Prof. R.H. Compton, Director of the Gardens from 1919 to 1953.

NEW MEMBERS: The following are welcomed as new members to SAAB.:-

Prof. J.A. de Bruyn, Departement Plantkunde, Stellenbosch Universiteit

Mrs. G.E. Gibbs Russel, Botany Department, University of Rhodesia

Mnr. C. v.d. Merwe, Natuurbewaring, Administrasie van Kaapprovinsie

Mnr. R.B. van der Merwe, Departement Plantkunde, Stellenbosch Universiteit

Dr. J.G. Smith, Departement Plantkunde, Stellenbosch Universiteit

Prof. D.K. Strydom, Tuinbou, Stellenbosch Universiteit

Mnr. L.J. van Lelyveld, Sitrus en Subtropiese Navorsingsinstituut, Nelspruit

Dr. B.N. Wolstenholme, Horticultural Science, Natal University.

THIRD RHODESIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS will be held at the University of Rhodesia in Salisbury from 2nd to 7th September 1974. The theme of the Congress will be "The Scientific Management of Resources", embracing four sections:

A) Agricultural Sciences under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.H. Saunder, Assistant