

# FORUM BOTANICUM

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

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AETFAT (ASSOCIATION POUR L'ETUDE TAXONOMIQUE DE LA FLORE D'AFRIQUE

TROPICALE): The Eighth AETFAT Congress is due to be held early in September 1974 in Geneva. The subjects proposed for discussion are the following:-

Part 1: a) Progress made in the preparation and elaboration of the African floras since the last AETFAT meeting in 1969 at Munich.

b) Progress made in the botanical exploration of Africa.

c) Progress made in the elaboration and preparation of vegetational and floristics maps of Africa during the past period.

Part 2: 1) The genesis of the African and Madagascan floras and the phenomena of speciation.

2) The contribution from allied disciplines (cytology, palynology, chemistry, etc.) in the advancement of research in the field of systematics.

2.1) A lecture on numerical taxonomy and the use of a computer (1 hour and discussion).

2.2) Various papers by the participants.

3) The dispersal of species.

4) The introduction of cultivated and wild plants, ethnobotany.

5) The Pteridophyta.

6) Free papers.

7) Business meeting.

A day's excursion will be organised for participants. Communications regarding this congress should be sent to the AETFAT Secretariat, Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, 192 route de Lausanne, CH-1202 GENEVE, Suisse.

SAAB QUESTIONNAIRE ON CONGRESSES: 87 replies were received to this questionnaire and are summarised as follows:

1. Congress frequency: Annual - 59; Biennial - 28.

2. Length of congress:

<u>2 days</u>	<u>3 days</u>	<u>4 days</u>	<u>5 days</u>	<u>4 or 5 days</u>	<u>variable</u>
8	26	18	26	5	1

3. Attendance: Cape Town 1970 - 38  
Durban 1971 - 41  
Johannesburg 1972 - 41

4. Presidential addresses: Yes - 60; No - 27.

5. Type of presidential address: Survey New development Either  
21 30 24

6. Time allocation:

	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	60%	80%	100%
General symposia	33	8	32	1	8	0		
SAAB	3	5	54	1	17	0		
Research papers	1	2	6	-	29	41	2	1
Short ex	7	4	58	-	3	-		

7. Length of nodules: 20 minutes - 46; 30 minutes - 39.

8. Time of SAAB AGM: During congress - 34; Last day - 53.

9. Post congress tours: Yes - 60; No - 27.  
Duration: 2-3 days - 22; 4-5 days - 34.

10. S<sub>2</sub>A<sub>3</sub> members: Yes - 39; No. - 48.

FERTILIZER SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: The fertilizer industry, through the Society and in close collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Technical Services has embarked on a programme of intensification of pro-

duction from grasslands.

The main interest of the Society is in the higher rainfall areas but there are projects under way in other areas.

Half a dozen projects have been started in Natal. These consist in the application of fertiliser to veld, followed by the introduction of more desirable plants (grasses and/or legumes) using the oversowing or sod-seeder (Cedara) technique. The areas range from 25 ha to 90 ha in extent.

Two of the projects are being run by the Department of Agricultural Technical Services with the Fertiliser Society assisting. Three of the other sites are being run by the industry's technical officers with the Society in overall charge.

In the Eastern Cape the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, the Society and Industry have planned subtropical legume/grass combinations as well as fertised veld projects.

A start has been made in the Eastern O.F.S. on veld projects and in the Eastern Transvaal there are two projects on *Eragrostis curvula* utilization. The Society is also busy with a project in the Northern Cape in which *Cenchrus ciliaris* will be sown with a view to a system of using it to relieve pressure on the veld.

These schemes will demand a high level of management of both the grassland and the animals. Mr. G.F.S. Hyam has been seconded to the Society by A.E. & C.I. for this interesting set of programmes.

The second objective of the Society is to produce more red meat in South Africa. Mr. R. Kotze from the Vleissentraal has been seconded to the Fertilizer Society to join Mr. Hyam in organising the projects.

The Society greatly appreciates the close co-operation of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services whose professional officers collaborate on many of the field trips.

CAPE DEPARTMENT OF NATURE CONSERVATION: The following research activities of a botanical nature are being undertaken by this department based at the Andries Venter Research Station at Jonkershoek near Stellenbosch.

Mr. C. van der Merwe is at present collating data collected at the Goukamma Nature Reserve between George and Knysna. This will be used for an M.Sc. degree. The project includes a survey of the rest of the reserve and veld burning experiments. The results will be used for management purposes. Veld burning experiments are also being carried out at the de Hoop Wildlife Farm near Bredasdorp. Mr. van der Merwe has, in addition, been collecting data for a study of the autecology of a colony of *Oothismus zeyheri* (Proteaceae). It is hoped that the analysis of these data will provide information which will enable the species to be propagated artificially and to be protected more satisfactorily in its natural habitat.

Mr. J. Jooste has completed most of the basic work in his plant survey of the Oviston Nature Reserve on the banks of the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam. Bi-annual surveys will be undertaken in June and November for the next four years for management purposes. The collection of botanical specimens has been started at the Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve near Robertson. Mr. Jooste is at present on leave studying for an honours degree.

FLORA OF NATAL: (Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa, No. 39). This work by Dr. J.H. Ross of the Botanical Research Institute is now available at R4,25 post free from the Division of Agricultural Information, Department of Agricultural Services, Private Bag X144, Pretoria. The Flora runs to 418 pages (A 5 format) and contains keys to families and genera and an enumeration of species under each genus. 179 families, 1 233 genera and 4 818 species are accounted for.

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