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

S.A.G.P. JAARVERGADERING: Reëlings vir die kongres tydens die Jaarvergadering vorder volgens beplanning. Daar sal uitstappies na die Rustenburg-natuurreservaat op die kruine van die Magaliesberge en die mynhoop in die omgewing van Johannesburg onderneem word. Hierdie uitstappies word onder andere gedeeltelik deur T & C Scientific Supplies geborg. Saambou Nasionale Bouvereniging bied saam met 'n uitstalling van botaniese en amateur kunswerke, 'n kaas-en-wyn onthaal aan. Daarbenewens sal alle kongresgangers tydens 'n dinee die gaste van die S.A.G.P. Noord-Transvaal Afdeling wees. Die Universiteit van Pretoria het ook ingestem om 'n ligte middagete aan die kongresgangers aan te bied.

Ongeveer 100 lede het tot dusver reeds bevestig dat hulle die kongres, waartydens daar 24 navorsingsreferate gelewer sal word, gaan bywoon. Die titel van die simposium is "Plantkunde in Suid-Afrika: Quo Vadis". Reëlings met betrekking tot die simposium, wat op Vrydag 25 Januarie 1975 plaasvind, vorder, alhoewel die reaksie van plantkundiges in Suid-Afrika op die omsendbriewe nie na wense was nie.

Daar word weer 'n beroep op alle plantkundiges in Suid-Afrika gedoen om die kongres vanaf 23-25 Januarie 1975 in Pretoria by te woon, aangesien dit ons eerste onafhanklike kongres sedert die stigting van S.A.G.P. in 1968 is. Vir enige inligting kontak asseblief mej. E. Retief, Sekretaresse S.A.G.P. Kongres Reëlingskomitee, Privaatsak X101, Pretoria, 0001, of tele. 766635, 765580 of 764946 x 58.

Dr. J.P. JESSOP until recently lecturer in Botany at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, left South Africa at the end of November to take up the post of Curator of the Herbarium in the Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, Australia. In July he returned from a year's study leave spent at the Rijksherbarium, Leiden, Holland, where among other things, he completed revisionary work on the Liliaceae for the Flora Malesiana. Before joining the staff at Rhodes University, Dr. Jessop was on the staff of the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria. He was cofounder and for many years an editor of Forum Botanicum.

SOME RECENT VISITORS: Miss H.I. Aston of the Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium, Melbourne, Australia, spent a few days at the Botanical Research Institute

in Pretoria in order to meet members of the staff, see over the new building and acquaint herself with the organisation of the Institute.

Dr. M.D. Tindale of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Australia, also visited the Institute recently to discuss problems within the genus *Acacia* with Dr. J.H. Ross. From Pretoria Dr. Tindale went on to see Prof. D.G. Roux at the University of O.F.S. in Bloemfontein and Miss K.M. Nixon at the Wattle Research Institute in Pietermaritzburg.

Prof. W. Horn of the Institute for Applied Genetics in the University of Hanover, West Germany, paid a private visit to Stellenbosch. In the 60's he was attached to the Fruit and Food Research Institute in Stellenbosch for 5 years when he was mainly occupied with the breeding of indigenous flora. He is still engaged on breeding programmes with *Sparaxis*, *Ixia* and *Watsonia* trying to produce "bigger and better" flowers by doubling chromosome complements. He has had success so far with *Sparaxis*.

MR. M.C. RUTHERFORD of the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria and recipient of a British Council award, has recently returned from Britain after making a two month study of methods of measuring production rates above and below ground, over short intervals. Particular attention was given to methods used for woody species.

Based at Edinburgh (Institute for Tree Biology - Dr. Ford's group) and spending some time at the University of Aberdeen (Dr. Jarvis' group), participation in the current summer's field programmes, at Rivox and Fetterresso respectively, provided valuable experience in tree growth and CO₂ exchange measurement techniques. Shorter visits were made to the Universities of Nottingham (Prof. Monteith), Bristol (Dr. Landsberg) and London (Dr. Muller) as well as the research stations of Rothamsted, Hurley, Merlewood and the Hydrological Institute's field station site near Thetford.

Attention was focussed on methods of determining and evaluating the significance of (i) CO₂ exchange in relation to dry matter production; (ii) root production rates in woody species, (iii) carbon balance of plant systems, (iv) tree growth recording and automation; (v) micrometeorological interpretation of woody species growth and (vi) organisation and layout at intensive-study tree production sites.

Specific impressions gained included an appreciation of: the current importance of CO₂ exchange measurements in the field; the limitations of traditional root growth measurement techniques; the use of the carbon balance as a conceptual device for understanding and modelling the plant system; the great loss of data without use of automatic recording systems; the valuelessness of growth data

without a minimum number of concurrent and properly measured environmental factors; good organisation on field sites and the disciplined way in which some field work is carried out in contrast to the less critical atmosphere sometimes associated with outdoor activities; the tremendous contribution which the incorporation of applied physicists in biological work teams can make in the field of eco-physiology.

FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES:

1. Eighth World Orchid Congress will be held from 10-17 April 1975 in the Palmengarten, Frankfurt, West Germany. For information write to:
WOK Vorbereitungsausschuss
6 Frankfurt a Main 1
Siesmayerstrasse 61
Palmengarten.
2. Third International Symposium on Tropical Ecology will be held in Lubumbashi, Zaire in April 1975, and is organised by ISTE (International Society for Tropical Ecology) INTECOL & UNESCO. Contact:
Prof. F. Malaisse
Université Nationale de Zaire
Campus de Lubumbashi
BP 1825
Lubumbashi
Zaire.
3. Joint International Symposium on Variation, Breeding and Conservation of Tropical Forest Trees will be held in the Department of Zoology, Oxford University, from 17-20 April 1975. It is organised by the Linnaean Society of London, the Int. Union of Forestry Research Organisations and the Commonwealth Forestry Institute in Oxford. Contact: Dr. J. Burley
Commonwealth Forestry Institute
South Parks Road
Oxford, England.

NEW MEMBERS OF SAAB:

- Mrs. P. Fairall, 48 Exmouth Road, Plumstead, 7800.
Mr. O. Makunga, Botany Department, University of Fort Hare, Private Bag 314, Alice, 5700.
Mr. C. Stirton, Botany Department, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, 3200.
Mr. A.J. Tew, Botany Department, University of the Witwatersrand, Jan Smuts Avenue, Johannesburg, 2001.

VACANCIES FOR TECHNICIANS: There are vacancies for two or three Technicians in the Botanical Survey Section of the Institute, with headquarters in Pretoria.

Applicants with a 3-year degree with Botany as a major start at R3 480 per annum (or higher if they have suitable extra qualifications or experience) and progress by R.180 to R5 100 - R5 340. Students who have been unable to complete their degree

may also apply. Their starting salary will be lower.

The Institute needs people (both males and females) who can work reliably and accurately on their own. Males will assist in survey projects in all stages - both field and office. Promising candidates may be given projects of their own. Females do laboratory and maproom work; for the latter a Geography B.Sc. is also suitable.

Apply to the Director, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria, 0001.

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