

FORUM BOTANICUM

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

EDITORIAL: Readers will note that this issue of Forum Botanicum comes out as No. 1 & 2 of Vol. 12. This is due mainly to the lack of news and information which is always experienced at the beginning of each year. However, the editors do not have a constant flow of material coming in for inclusion in Forum and have to send out numerous reminders to individuals and institutes. We, therefore, appeal to readers to be more forthcoming in providing us with news, notes and information.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY.

First International Plant Physiology Congress: After considerable difficulties, tentative arrangements and cancellations, the first meeting of the International Association of Plant Physiology (IAPP) has now been arranged for the 23rd to 28th September 1974, in Würzburg, Federal Republic of Germany. The theme of the meeting will be: "Physiology and structure of plants". Sessions will be introduced by a few invited lectures and critical reports. Papers on work in progress will concern more particularly: macromolecular structure of membranes and functions; transport and structures; photosynthesis and chloroplasts; respiration and mitochondria; and growth and cell walls. Besides this a special session is planned about Plant physiology and water relations to activate this subject and to set up a working group in order to prepare a symposium at one of the next IAPP meetings.

The official language of the meeting will be English. The number of participants will of necessity have to be restricted to 250.

Preregistration will have to be made no later than March 1, 1974. Everyone wishing to present a contribution is requested to submit an abstract (200 words). Notices as to their acceptance will be sent by April 15, 1974.

All correspondence should be addressed to: Prof. P.E. Pilet, Secretary-General of IAPP, Institut de Biologie et de Physiologie végétales, Place de la Riponne, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland, or to: Prof. W. Simonis, President of the Organizing Committee, Botanisches Institut 1, D-8700 Würzburg (BRD), Mittlerer Dallenbergweg 64.

For special session on Water Relations, correspondence is to be sent to:
Prof. O.L. Lange, Botanisches Institut II, D-8700 Würzburg (BRD), Mittlerer
Dallenbergweg 64.

(A second circular, containing more detailed information about the meeting,
including the preliminary program and the registration form (fee: \$10), will be
sent to pre-registered participants in May 1974.)

IAPP Announcements of Meetings: The following scientific meetings have been
brought to our attention by the IAPP:

July 21-26, 1974: Leicester, U.K. - 3rd International Congress of Plant Tissue
and Cell Culture. (For information write to Prof. H.E. Street, School of
Biological Sciences, Adrian Building, University of Leicester, University Road.)

July 1-5, 1974: Paris, France. - Facteurs et régulation de la maturation des
fruits (CNRS International Symposium). (For information: Prof. R. Ulrich,
CNRS Laboratoire de Physiologie des Organes Végétaux après Récolte, 4 ter, route
des Gardes, 92190 Meudon, France.)

August 18-29, 1974: Banff, Alberta, Canada. - Advanced Study Institute on
Phloem Transport. (Information from: Dr. S. Aronoff, Dean of Science, Simon
Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada.)

September 8-14, 1974: Amsterdam, Netherlands. - 1st International Congress of
Ecology on Structure, Function and Management of Ecosystems. (Information from:
International Congress of Ecology, c/o Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences and
Letters, Kloveniersburgwal 29, Amsterdam.)

DR. J.J.A. VAN DER WALT, Senior Lecturer in the Botany Department, University of
Stellenbosch, left at the end of November with his family, for a year's study
leave in Europe. He will be based at the Rijksherbarium in Leiden where he hopes
to complete his revision of the South West African species of Commiphora. His
revision of the South African species recently appeared in the new format
Bothalia. In connection with his work he plans to visit various herbaria in-
cluding Kew, Paris, Geneva, Zurich and Lisbon. Another South African working
at Leiden is Dr. J.P. Jessop of Rhodes University who has been there since
July.

While overseas Dr. Van der Walt hopes to study aspects of the teaching of
botany at various universities. He plans to attend the AETFAT Congress to
be held this year in September in Geneva.

MR. H.C. TAYLOR formerly of the Botanical Research Unit in Stellenbosch, has been transferred to Head Office in the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, to take charge of the Botanical Survey Section. Mr. E.G.H. Oliver succeeds him as Officer-in-charge of the Unit in Stellenbosch.

DR. BRIAN DOWNING, formerly of the Natal Parks Board, has recently taken up a lectureship at the University of Fort Hare, Alice, Cape.

NATAL PARKS BOARD (GAME AND FISH PRESERVATION): The Board has 4 professional posts for botanists, of which one is at present (November) vacant. The work concerns the management of conservation areas and the protection of flora throughout the Province of Natal. Within conservation areas important aspects of the work include soil mapping and advice to management staff on erosion reclamation measures, the production of plant checklists and vegetation maps, long-term monitoring of vegetation trends, advice on burning programmes and the recording of the results of burns, and assessment of grazing pressures and hence the need to control herbivore populations. Studies of the feeding habits of individual animal species, and of their effects on vegetation, are also in progress.

Other important botanical work includes the maintenance of a herbarium at the Hluhluwe Game Reserve, covering the flora of Zululand, and the revision of Natal's Wild Flower Conservation Ordinance. Finally, the production of management plans for each conservation area is regarded as being a very high priority for the Board's scientific staff.

ALOE 75, Rhodesia's first International Succulent Congress, will be held from 14th to 20th July, 1975 in Salisbury.

Aloes are to Africa what Cactuses are to the Americas: the outstanding flowering succulent of the Continent. The emphasis of Aloe 75, therefore, will be on the genus Aloe. Accordingly, although the Congress will pay attention to Euphorbias, Stapelias and other succulents, it will be primarily devoted to Aloes and thus may be regarded as the world's first Aloe congress.

The Congress will be of interest to gardeners and "collectors of rare species", as well as to professional botanists and horticulturists. Indeed, the aim is to attract a balanced cross-section of enthusiastic delegates.

Rhodesia has some of Africa's most striking species of Aloes. Some unusually interesting small species, from the rugged Eastern Highlands, have only been

identified within the last decade. Hybridization is opening up great new possibilities: plants that are more floriferous and have more magnificent form, combined with the incredible hardiness of the true xerophyte.

Delegates will be offered a choice of activities that will be arranged around the nucleus of a formal programme. Events will include lectures and demonstrations, slide shows, the Society's Annual Show, national photographic and art competitions, a banquet, an ox-braai vleis, visits to the greatest Aloe gardens in the World, and, finally, a unique feature will be conducted photo-safaris to outstanding wild colonies of different species growing on their native veld.

Aloe 75 is being organised by the Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Rhodesia, P.O. Box 8514, Causeway, Salisbury.

SURVEY OF ECOLOGISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA: Mr. J.W. Morris would like to remind all botanists who have an interest in some ecological field to forward to him at the Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria 0001, details of their principal and secondary interests together with their full name, title and address before the 15th February 1974, for inclusion within this survey.

RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES SURVEY; CSIR GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS:

Applications are invited from graduates in Botany to fill two posts as Graduate Assistants, to serve under Dr. A.V. Hall in the Bolus Herbarium at the University of Cape Town, in a project for the study of rare and endangered plant species in the fynbos vegetation of the south-western Cape Province. An Honours Degree in Botany is preferred, together with firm interests in plant ecology, taxonomy and conservation. The posts are tenable for one year, with a possibility for renewal for a further two years in the south-western Cape. The salary for both posts will be on the scale R3150 x 150 - 4800 per annum.

The closing date for applications is 15th January, 1974. The applications should be addressed to: The Registrar, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700, and should be marked "Urgent - plant survey".

Unfortunately this item became available after universities closed last year and difficulty was experienced in advertising the post sufficiently widely in order to obtain first class applicants.

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