

# 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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S A A B CONGRESS 1976:- Preparations are underway for the holding of the 3-day congress at the University of Cape Town. A more detailed programme of events includes:

- (1) Friday 30th January at 9 a.m. - Seaweed Excursion.
- (2) Friday 30th January p.m. - Registration and booking in.
- (3) Friday 30th January p.m. - Tour of Kirstenbosch followed by Cheese & Wine party.
- (4) Saturday 31st January - invited papers on congress theme 'Eco-physiology in S.A. present and future'.
- (5) Saturday 31st January p.m. - S A A B Dinner at Smuts Hall, UCT.
- (6) Sunday 1st February - all day excursion to Hermanus Mountains.
- (7) Monday 2nd February - submitted papers in two parallel sessions followed by discussion and conclusion of congress.

Members who have indicated their intention to attend the congress will be receiving more detailed information individually.

COUNCIL MEETING:- The last meeting of Council was held at the University of Pretoria on 6 September. It was attended by Professors Lewis, Cresswell, Grobbelaar, Papendorf, Van der Schijff and Downing and Drr. Edwards, Eicker, De Winter, Getliffe and Jacot-Guillarmod.

The following matters were discussed:-

1. Congratulations went to Prof. Van der Schijff on his appointments as Dean of the Science Faculty, University of Pretoria, and as a member of the C S I R, and also on his being awarded the Senior Captain Scott Medal. Prof. N. Grobbelaar was congratulated on his appointment as Head of the Botany Department in succession to Prof. Van der Schijff.
2. National Journal required no further action due to various enquiries taking place.

3. Constitutional amendments concerning the election of Hon. Members, institutional delegates and exemption from tax were accepted.
4. Emblem. This was still being finalised.
5. Executive. The matter of centralising the executive committee was discussed and various proposals were accepted.
6. Leningrad Congress. Council had lodged a protest with I C S U on the failure of South African botanists to obtain visas to attend the Congress.
7. Joint Council of Scientific Societies: Our representative, Dr. De Winter, reported on the activities of the Council and would submit a summary for publication in Forum.
8. Ecology workshop in June was attended by 32 delegates.
9. Publicity: A sub-committee consisting of Dr. Getliffe (convenor), Prof. Grobbelaar and Prof. Cresswell will deal with the poster and publicity booklet to publicise S A A B and botany. The posters and booklet should, amongst other items, aim at encouraging school children to become botanists, and promote S A A B membership.
10. Congress 1978. It was decided to accept the invitation of the Grasslands Society to hold a joint Congress in January 1978.
11. Enquiry into National Botanic Gardens. A sub-committee consisting of Prof. Grobbelaar (convenor), Dr. Eicker and Dr. Getliffe was requested to submit a memorandum on behalf of S A A B to the Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry.
12. Visit of Prof. Thimann is planned for 3 weeks starting late in January as guest of the C S I R. He will be the main guest at the S A A B Congress. It was hoped to extend his visit.
13. Biology in Schools was discussed and it was resolved that the Executive consider the creation of a panel for the teaching of school biology.
14. Advisory Committee for Botanical Research had been set up by the Secretary for Agriculture with the following invited to represent S A A B: Professors Lewis, Van der Schijff, Cresswell, Grobbelaar, Schelpe and Papendorf.

The next meeting of the Executive will be held at Rhodes University on 17th November. The next meetings of Council will be held at the University of Cape Town at the time of the Congress: 29 January and 2 February.

BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE:- At the recent meeting of the International Botanical Congress (Nomenclature Session) held in Leningrad, Prof. E.A. Schelpe of the Bolus Herbarium was re-elected to the Committee on Pteridophyta. A new election was

that of Dr. D.J.B. Killick of the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, to the Committee on Spermatophyta.

DR. J.H. ROSS leaves South Africa this month to take up a research post in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Australia. Until recently he was Chief of the Flora Research Section of the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria. Dr. Ross, who received his training at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg, was originally stationed at the Research Unit of the Institute in Durban where he produced his recently published Flora of Natal. He then spent three years as Liaison Officer at Kew before taking up the post in Pretoria.

DR. M.R. LEVYNS, an honorary member of S A A B, recently celebrated her 85th birthday at her home in Rondebosch. The best wishes of Forum and all its readers go to her for the occasion.

PROF. H.G.W.J. SCHWEICKERDT was recently honoured by the University of Pretoria in having the university herbarium named after him. This in recognition of his long and outstanding services to botany at the university and his primary role in establishing the herbarium. In 1962 Prof. Schweickerdt was the winner of the Havenga Prize of the S.A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns and has also received the Senior Captain Scott Medal of the S.A. Biological Association. Prof. Schweickerdt who lives in Pretoria is an honorary member of S A A B.

PROF. D.J. STEYN was recently awarded the gold medal, top award of the South African Veterinary Association, in recognition of his lifetime study of poisonous plants. The medal was presented to him by Dr. D. H. Pappin, the association's president, at the official opening of the association's congress in Durban. Prof. Steyn, who is 77 years old, works on poisonous plants in the Economic Botany Section of the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria.

PROF. C.G.G.J. VAN STEENIS, well-known plant taxonomist from the Rijksherbarium, Leiden where he was for many years the director, is visiting South Africa from September through to November and is accompanied by his wife, an amateur botanist. Having visited Pretoria and the Kruger National Park they left for a tour to Namaqualand and the south-western Cape after which they travelled to Durban via the east coast. After a spell in the Natal Drakensberg they went to the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. They return to Pretoria via Swaziland and the eastern Transvaal. They were assisted in most areas by local botanists and members of the Botanical Research Institute.

PROF. R.H. WHITTAKER, plant ecologist from Cornell University, USA, visited South Africa from 17th to 27th October on his way to Australia. He has done studies in gradient analysis in vegetation and in species diversity in relation to various habitat factors. He came to obtain a series of vegetation samples with species lists, growth-forms and life-forms and coverage estimates for major species from the Cape fynbos. These samples will be used for a comparison of northern-southern hemisphere sclerophyll vegetation types, the Cape fynbos, Australian mallee, Californian chaparral and Israeli maquis. Mr. H.C. Taylor of the Botanical Research Institute accompanied Prof. Whittaker who gave lectures in Cape Town and Pretoria on the Evolution of Species Diversity.

S A A B PUBLICITY: Members of S A A B are invited to submit their ideas on posters and a publicity booklet for the Association to Dr. Fiona Getliffe, Department of Botany, University of the Witwatersrand. She is convenor of the Council sub-committee dealing with this aspect.

KIRSTENBOSCH JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: Applications are invited by the National Botanic Gardens for the Kirstenbosch Jubilee Fellowship to the value of R1 000 to enable a qualified person to undertake his or her study and/or research in any branch of botany or horticulture pertaining to the indigenous flora of South Africa. The closing date for applications is 30th November 1975. The prescribed application form is obtainable from The Director, National Botanic Gardens of South Africa, Kirstenbosch, Newlands 7700. (Telephone Cape Town 771166 and ask for Miss Olivier.)

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EDITORS/REDAKSIE

Mr. E.G.H. Oliver, Botanical Research Unit, Stellenbosch (Production)  
Miss, M. Welman, Mrs. S. Richter, BRI, Pretoria (News)

KORRESPONDENCE/KORRESPONDENSIE

The Editors  
Forum Botanicum  
BRI, Private Bag X101  
PRETORIA

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