

# FORUM BOTANICUM

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

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S.A.A.B. ANNUAL CONGRESS, 1976: The second annual congress to be organised by our Association will be held from 30th January to 2nd February next year at the University of Cape Town. The theme of the Congress is a vitally important one - **ECOPHYSIOLOGY IN SOUTH AFRICA**, present and future. Circulars have already been sent out to all S.A.A.B. members regarding possible attendance, accommodation requirements, excursions and papers to be delivered. Please return these to the Congress Secretary, Botany Department, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700, before the end of July.

The dates have been carefully chosen so as not to clash with the Grassland Society's Annual Congress in Port Elizabeth ending on 29th January and the Royal Society's Symposium at Saldanha on 3rd February. It is proposed that registration followed by a cheese and wine party will commence on Friday, 30th January. Saturday and Monday will be reserved for papers and discussion and Sunday for an excursion.

A special excursion to look at marine algae is being arranged by the Seaweed Research Laboratory of the State Division of Sea Fisheries. The Laboratory is housed in the University of Cape Town Department of Botany. This excursion will be on Friday, 30th January if there is sufficient demand. Arrangements can also be made for a limited number of participants to "scuba" dive to study the algae at close quarters.

PRESENTING PAPERS: With the next S.A.A.B. Congress in mind those members who intend presenting papers could well read and digest the contents of a paper entitled "Organizing and Presenting a Technical Paper" in **FEATURE**, the Journal of Hortscience 4(3) 1069. It was written by Prof. E.C. Maxie of the Department of Pomology, University of California, Davis.

Many of the points brought up by Prof. Maxie are so true of many of our members. Some points are worth quoting here.

Improved performance in presenting scientific papers cannot be legislated - unfortunately. Unless pride in profession, institute and self is strong enough to motivate excellence, not much can be done to insure competence. The first require-

ment for a good paper is that the speaker must have something worth presenting. A technical paper has only one purpose and that is to inform!

Regardless of the speaker's capabilities, an absolutely and essential step is REHEARSAL. Never apologize for anything concerning the paper or the performance. If it is bad, the audience will know it. To admit coming with something that requires an apology insults your audience.

Avoid distracting mannerisms - vocal and physical - that may draw attention away from the speech. Hands are often the worst offenders. They can be counted on not to disappear if allowed to hang naturally at one's sides!

Speak to your audience at all times. If rehearsal has been adequate and slides properly prepared, only a glance is needed to identify a particular illustration.

Do not end by saying "thank you". This is a form of apology!

S.A.A.B. COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE: The Council met in Pretoria on 23 and 24 January during the Congress when Prof. Lewis, Prof. Cresswell, Prof. Grobbelaar, Prof. Lütjeharms, Prof. Papendorf, Prof. Van der Schijff and Prof. Downing, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Eicker, Dr. De Winter and Dr. Getliffe were present.

A second meeting was held in Bloemfontein on 12 April attended by Prof. Lewis, Prof. Cresswell, Dr. De Winter, Dr. Eicker, Prof. Eloff, Dr. Getliffe, Prof. Grobbelaar, Dr. Jacot-Guillarmod, Prof. Van der Schijff and Prof. Downing.

On 8 March the Executive consisting of Prof. Lewis, Prof. Cresswell, Prof. De Bruyn, Dr. De Winter, Dr. Jacot-Guillarmod and Prof. Downing met in Cape Town. It also met in Bloemfontein prior to the Council meeting.

A wide range of subjects were dealt with by Council and Executive such as:

1. Funds for S.A.A.B. and Forum: The Dept. National Education is being approached for a subsidy.
2. National Journal: A sub-committee of Prof. Cresswell, Prof. Van der Schijff and Prof. Papendorf is to finalise the journal as a matter of urgency.
3. Election of Hon. Members: In future a committee of three experts in the same field as the proposed Hon. Member will be nominated by Council to make recommendations to Council on the candidate's suitability for the honour.
4. Emblem: A design based on *Protea cynaroides* submitted by Dr. De Winter has been accepted subject to minor alterations.

5. Funds for International Congresses: A sub-committee of Dr. Eicker, Prof. Van der Schijff and Prof. Van Wyk is to investigate ways and means of establishing a Capital Fund for Education Purposes.
6. Constitution: Council accepted that the recent amendments, as circulated through Forum, did not necessitate printing new copies of the Constitution.
7. Archives: Any archives of S.A.A.B. are to be stored at the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, and will remain the property of S.A.A.B.
8. AETFAT: Council supported Prof. Van der Schijff's proposal that South Africa be the host for the AETFAT congress in 1982.
9. Congratulations: Council wished to congratulate Professors Seagrief (Rhodes), Pienaar (Western Cape) and Downing (Fort Hare) on their promotion.
10. Botanic Garden Johannesburg: Interested members are asked by Council to give advice about the proposed botanic garden and must contact either Prof. Cresswell or Dr. De Winter.
11. Noxious plants: Council approached the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Technical Services about the sale of noxious plants by nurseries.
12. Executive: Discussions were held concerning the centralisation of the S.A.A.B. Executive which at present has its members in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Alice, Grahamstown, Stellenbosch and Cape Town.
13. S.A. Postage Stamps: The alleged plagiarism of the work of some botanical artists and the latest definitive series of stamps by Ernst de Jongh was discussed. The Post Office was approached on the subject.
14. Nature Conservation Ordinances: Dr. Jacot-Guillarmod was named as the interim convenor of the working group which should meet immediately after the 1976 congress. The Ordinances of all the Provinces must be investigated thoroughly.
15. Image of Botany: Each S.A.A.B. region would be asked to appoint a publicity officer for collecting botanical news for dissemination to Forum and to the regional news media.
16. Next Council Election: The following six members of Council are due to retire in January, 1976:- Dr. A. Jacot-Guillarmod (E. Cape representative); Prof. C. Cresswell, Dr. C. Breen, Dr. A. Eicker (N. Transvaal representatives), Dr. F. Getliffe, Prof. J. Eloff (O.F.S. representative who replaced Prof. Roberts).
17. Next meetings: Council in Pretoria on 6 September and Executive in Port Elizabeth on 15 July.

S.A.A.B. PUBLICITY: Council is very pleased to announce that Prof. Kristo Pienaar has kindly accepted a request that he takes charge of radio publicity on behalf of S.A.A.B.

This represents a significant milestone in the efforts to promote the image of Botany in South Africa, to acquaint the public with the aims of S.A.A.B., and to demonstrate the necessity of employing professional Botanists.

Prof. Pienaar cannot fulfil his task unless he receives active support and help from individual members of S.A.A.B., who should provide him with information. Such information could, for example, consist of the following kinds of items amongst many others:

News on visiting Botanists,  
research being undertaken, and particularly  
recent research findings,  
botanical expeditions - something to excite the public interest!  
pest plants,  
environmental problems,  
prepared radio talks on any botanical topic, e.g. historical aspects; game  
reserve management; well-known botanical personalities of the past; the  
story of how a new species was discovered; plant invaders; plant nutrition;  
medicinal or toxic plants, etc.

Council has requested that each region of S.A.A.B. appoint a news representative who should provide Professor Pienaar with news at regular intervals.

In addition, Council has nominated the following specialists to prepare radio talks. These people should please endeavour to supply Professor Pienaar with material.

Prof. N. Grobbelaar (Physiology)  
Dr. F. Getliffe (Chemotaxonomy)  
Dr. D. Edwards (Remote Sensing)  
Prof. S. Seagrief (Algae)  
Prof. M. Papendorf (Fungi)  
Prof. E.M. van Zinderen Bakker (Palynology)  
Dr. J. Rourke (Taxonomy)  
Mr. C. Ward (Ecology)

Our publicity campaign will, however, only succeed if all members of S.A.A.B. have radio news sent to Professor K. Pienaar, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville, 7530. His telephone number is Cape Town 97-6161.

SOUTH-WESTERN CAPE BRANCH: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1974: The last A.G.M. of this section was held on 27th April, 1974 at the Hortus Botanicus, University of Stellenbosch. Eighteen members and 13 visitors attended. A cheese and wine supper and two films were included in the programme. The Committee remained as follows: Prof. W.J. Lütjeharms (Chairman), Mr. E.G.H. Oliver (Vice-Chairman), Mr. C. Boucher (Hon. Secretary/Treasurer) and Prof. M.P. de Vos as the additional member.

Two lectures were organized by this section namely:

Dr. J.W. Morris - Computerization of the National Herbarium

Prof. T.T. Barnard - Some collections of Cape Plants received by Linnaeus between 1755 and 1775.

Members were also notified through the branch of lectures by:

Mr. F. van der Meulen - Landscaping and its ecological implications

Dr. R. Groves - 1. Biological control of an Australian weed of Mediterranean origin. This was cancelled.

2. The physio-ecology of *Themeda australis* in South East Australia.

3. The growth and nutrition of fynbos type vegetation in Australia.

4. The productivity and dynamics of *Themeda australis* grassland in South Eastern Australia.

An excursion was organised to Mrs. Powrie's farm, Silver Streams, in the Riviersonderend Mountains. This was attended by 20 people.

A series of topics for lectures to schools by members was compiled and forwarded to the Provincial authorities for approval.

The section was represented on the Co-ordinating Council for Nature Conservation in the Cape by the Hon. Secretary.

OOS-KAAP AFDELING : VERSLAG VIR 1974: Die totale ledetal is tans 21: Mnr. D. Ferreira van Fort Hare het die tak gedurende Junie verlaat en is tans verbonde aan die Universiteitskollege van Zoeloeland.

Die komitee is as volg saamgestel: Prof. J.G.C. Small (Voorsitter), Dr. M.C. Olivier (Eresekretaresse/Tes.), Dr. A. Jacot-Guillarmod en mej. S. Troughton.

Mnr. Ferreira se plek op die komitee is nog nie gevul nie.

Sedert die algemene jaarvergadering op 18 Mei 1974 is geen formele vergadering gehou

nie. Die afdeling het wel opgetree as gashere tydens 'n baie geslaagde plantkundige toer na die S<sub>2</sub>A<sub>3</sub> kongres in Grahamstad (Forum 12,9).

ORANJE-VRYSTAAT AFDELING, VERSLAG VIR 1974: Die tak was sonder 'n voorsitter en ondervoorsitter vir 'n tyd. Prof. B. Roberts het bedank as voorsitter weens sy vertrek na Australië en prof. J.N. Eloff, die ondervoorsitter, was in Israel.

Die tak het gedurende die laaste semester van 1973 in samewerking met die plaaslike tak van die Limmologiese Vereniging, 'n aantal lesingsaande aangebied. Gedurende 1974 is geen lesings aangebied nie omdat die plaaslike Instituut vir Omgewingswetenskappe maandeliks voordragte aangebied het waarby ook die lede van die S.A.G.P. betrek is. Op die plantkundige front was die plaaslike plantkundiges dus heeltemal aktief.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: This large society of 6 500 members has as its main object the support of the National Botanic Gardens Kirstenbosch and its regional gardens. With its headquarters at Kirstenbosch it is administered by a Council of 15 members. The following botanists are office bearers and members of Council:- Prof. R.H. Compton, Prof. H.B. Rycroft and Dr. L.E. Codd (Vice-Presidents), Prof. O.A.M. Lewis and Prof. E.A. Schelpe.

The main botanical activities of the Society are carried out by its Flora Conservation Committee, formerly Wild Flower Protection Committee. The following appointed persons are serving on the Committee for 1975/76:- Mr. E.G.H. Oliver (Botanical Research Institute) as Chairman; Lt.Cdr. R. Geary-Cooke as Vice-Chairman; Mr. Brent (Department of Parks & Forests, Cape Town City Council); Dr. M.C. Botha (President of Botanical Society); Mr. D. Heesom (Chairman of Botanical Society Council); Dr. D. Hey (Department of Nature Conservation, Cape Province); Dr. H.L. Lückhoff and Mr. G.N. Wagener (State Department of Forestry); Mr. G.J.E. Matthaei (Landscape Section, Cape Provincial Roads Department); Mr. W.J. Middelman (S.A. Wildflower Growers Association); Mrs. G. Ordman, Prof. H.B. Rycroft (Kirstenbosch) and Mr. D.H. Woods (Wildlife Society, Cape Branch).

S.A. AKADEMIE: Die Afdeling Biologie (Tak Stellenbosch), hou van tyd tot tyd vergaderings. By die laaste vergadering, gehou op 7 Mei in die Departement Plantkunde, het dr. K.L.J. Blommaert oor die Verbouing van rooibostee gepraat en dr. P.G. Marais oor die Geskiedenis van die vrugtebedryf.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES: The following congresses and meetings will be held within the next few months:-

12th International Botanical Congress in Leningrad from 3rd to 10th July. Several South African botanists are planning to attend. A report will appear in the August issue of Forum.

International Association of Botanic Gardens. The sessions of this Association will be held in Moscow from 30th June to 1st July.

Aloe 1975, the world's first Aloe Congress organised by the Aloe, Cactus and Succulent Society of Rhodesia will be held in Salisbury from 14th to 20th July. Contact P.O. Box 8514, Causeway, Salisbury for details.

13th Pacific Science Congress with the theme "Aquatic Resources and their management" will be held in Vancouver from 18-30 August. Contact W.S. Hoar, UBC, Vancouver 8, Canada.

7th International Plant Protection Congress will be held in Moscow from 21-27 August. Contact G. Mathys, 1 rue le Notre, 75016 PARIS.

Course on Field teaching and Modern Ecology Theory will be held from 17 August - 3 September in Shrewsbury, England. Contact Dr. J.A. Lee, Botany Department, University of Manchester, U.K.

Congress on the Effects of Agricultural Land Use on Nutrient Cycling to be held in Amsterdam in September.

Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment will be held in Toronto from 27-31 October. Contact National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, I1A 0R6.

S.A.A.B. (S.W. CAPE): The Annual General Meeting of the region, under its old Constitution, was held in the Lecture Hall at Kirstenbosch on 6th May. The following members were elected to serve on the committee until the end of the year:- Mr. E.G.H. Oliver (Chairman), Dr. J.J.A. van der Walt (Vice-Chairman), Prof. W.J. Lütjeharms and Mr. C. Boucher (Hon. Sec./Treasurer). Within the next six months a special General Meeting will be held to alter the Regional Constitution to fit in with the alterations that have been accepted for S.A.A.B. nationally.

Following the A.G.M. members were addressed by Dr. David Read of Sheffield University who is a temporary lecturer at the University of Cape Town, while Dr. Dereck Mitchell is on study leave in England. Dr. Read spoke on the mycorrhiza of Ericaceae. During his stay in the Cape he has had much to offer local botanists in regard to the

ecophysiology of Ericaceae from his research in Britain. He in turn has found many surprises in our local conditions, for instance Ericaceae confined to limestone.

On 29th May S.A.A.B. members were invited to the University of Cape Town to hear Prof. O.A.M. Lewis give his inaugural lecture as Head of the Department of Botany. His subject was "Plants, proteins and people".

ECOLOGY COURSE ON S.A. SOILS: A 3-day course on South African soils for botanists has been arranged by S.A.A.B. Council for 8th-10th July, 1975 in Pretoria. The course will be given by Dr. C.N. MacVicar, Assistant Director of the Soils and Irrigation Research Institute of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services.

The course will cover soil properties and soil-forming processes, the description, recognition and characterization of the soil profile, the new South African Soil Classification system and its botanical significance. One day will be devoted to theoretical aspects and the remaining 2 days to studying examples of different soil types in the field.

The course is being limited to the first 25 applicants. Unfortunately notice of this course was received too late for useful inclusion in Forum. However, circulars have been sent to all S.A.A.B. members requesting them to reply by 15 June.

Further enquiries to Dr. D. Edwards, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag x101, Pretoria 0001.

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