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

DEPARTEMENT PLANTKUNDE, UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA:-

- 1 Professor N Grobbelaar, hoof, departement Plantkunde wat deur die WNNR as lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Komitee vir die IUBS (International Union of Biological Sciences) aangestel is, is onlangs deur die WNNR gevra om Suid-Afrika op die 19e Algemene Vergadering van die IUBS te verteenwoordig. Die vergadering was vanaf 27 September tot 2 Oktober 1976 in Bangalore, Indië, gehou en is deur sowat 80 afgevaardigdes bygewoon. Op die vergadering is prof Grobbelaar verkies om vir die volgende drie jaar op die Uitvoerende Komitee van die IUBS te dien.
2. Tydens 'n raadsvergadering van die Universiteit van Pretoria in Juniemaand is prof N Grobbelaar gelukkigwens met sy verkiesing tot volle lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns.
3. Op Woensdag 10 November 1976 is 'n plaket van prof H G W J Schweickerdt by die Schweickerdt-herbarium van hierdie departement deur dr S Meiring Naudé, voorsitter van die Universiteitsraad onthul. Die plaket, wat deur die Schweickerdt-familie geskenk is, is bokant die Schweickerdt-naamplaat wat 'n jaar gelede deur die rektor prof E M Hamman onthul is, aangebring.

Dr Meiring Naudé het hulde gebring aan prof Schweickerdt as een van die bekendste en geroemste plantkundiges in ons land wat 'n groot bydrae tot die uitbouing van die kennis aangaande ons inheemse flora gelewer het.

In sy antwoord namens die familie Schweickerdt het dr V Hesse daarop gewys dat afgesien van prof Schweickerdt se kennis van en toewyding aan plantkunde, hy ook 'n musiek- en kunskenner is wat oor 'n groot versameling oorspronklike Suid-Afrikaanse kunswerke beskik.

Alhoewel prof Schweickerdt weens siekte nie die onthulling kon bywoon nie, het dr Hesse namens prof Schweickerdt goeie wense aan die departement Plantkunde oorgedra.

4. Nuwe Aanstellings: Prof Chris H. Bornman is van die begin van 1976 in hierdie departement as professor aangestel en bekleed die Louis Botha-leerstoel.

Prof Bornman was voorheen aan die Universiteit van Natal verbonde waar hy sedert Januarie 1966 hoof was van die departement Plantkunde te Pietermaritzburg.

Die volgende personeellede is ook vanaf Januarie 1976 aangestel: Mej G Rösche as junior dosente; mev PP Swartz (neë Steyn) as junior dosente; mev J Lombard as tydelik-voltydse navorsingsbeampte; mej J Gous as tegniese assistente; mev Bence as Navorsingsassistent.

5. Besoekers uit die Buiteland: Dr K Jones van die Universiteit van Lancaster, Engeland het hierdie departement vanaf Desember 1975 as gasdosent besoek. Hy is vanaf 1 Januarie tot 30 Junie 1976 teen die lektoraat van mnr W F Reyneke, wat met 'n jaar studieverlof is, aangestel. Dr Jones se navorsingsbelangstelling handel hoofsaaklik oor eko-fisiologie van alge en ander laer plantsoorte met spesiale verwysing na die stikstofbindende funksie van sulke gemeenskappe. Hy het die werk hier voortgesit en ook op 8 Maart 1976 die seminaar "Nitrogen fixing bacteria on the leaves of temperate plants" gelewer.

Prof K V Thimann van Crown College, Santa Cruz, Californië het hier vanaf 23 tot 27 Februarie besoek afgelê en is deur die bestuur van die Noord-Transvaalse tak van die SAGP genader om 'n lesing te lewer. Behalwe hierdie lesing "New ideas on the mechanism of auxin action" voor die SAGP-lede, het prof Thimann ook in hierdie departement 'n lesing gelewer.

Dr A J M Leeuwenberg van die Landbouhogeschool Wageningen, is as gasdosent genooi om 'n reeks lesings in taksonomie voor studente en personeel te lewer. Dr Leeuwenberg se besoek wat van 2 Februarie tot 13 Maart geduur het, het ook besoeke aan ander Universiteite en Navorsingsinstitute in ons land ingesluit.

Dr Leeuwenberg se lesingprogram wat vanaf 9 tot 16 Februarie geduur het, het die volgende ingesluit:-

- a. Tipe metode
- b. Metodes van ondersoek in die taksonomie
- c. "Primitiewe" plante en evolusie
- d. Bespreking van die families: Oleaceae, Salvadoraceae, Loganiaceae, Gentianaceae, Menyanthaceae, Apocynaceae, Asclepiadaceae en Rubiaceae.
- e. Bespreking van die kenmerke van primitiefheid en gevorderdheid by die Loganiaceae en verwante families.
- f. Bespreking van klassifikasiesisteme.

Prof R L Wain van Wye College, Universiteit van Londen, het die departement in Augustus besoek en o.a. 'n seminaar oor die jongste werk in sy laboratorium wat oor plantgroeistowwe handel bespreek.

PROF J A DE BRUYN is aangestel as heeltydse Dekaan van die Fakulteit van Natuur-

wetenskappe, Universiteit van Stellenbosch.

Sy pos as Professor in Botanie (Plantfisiologie) is nou vakant en aansoeke om die vulling van die pos word ingewag. Besonderhede is te verkry van die Registrateur van die Universiteit.

Die Universiteit van Stellenbosch het die gebruik dat waar daar twee of meer professore in 'n departement is, die Senaat, op aanbeveling van die professore in die departement, 'n Voorsitter vir die Departement aanwys. As daar net een professor in 'n departement is, staan hy bekend as die Hoof van die departement.

Gedurende die afgelope paar jaar was professor De Bruyn Voorsitter van die Departement van Plantkunde. Totdat 'n tweede professor aangestel en 'n voorsitter vir die Departement aangewys word, is prof P G Jordaan weer Hoof van die Departement.

DR J D M KEET, former Director of the Department of Forestry, died on 9 November 1976 at the age of 94, having "grown up" in the Department. Johann Diederik Mohr Keet was born at Ceres in the Cape on 28 December 1882 and, when the South African College Forestry School was started at Tokai in 1906, he was one of the first batch of students, gaining the Diploma with distinction at the end of 1907. In 1908 he was appointed to the Department of Forestry and was stationed first at Keiskammahoek and then for a number of years at Knysna. While at Knysna he became associated with Prof van der Byl of Stellenbosch in a study of fungi attacking indigenous trees and, from 1917 to 1922, was Conservator of the Eastern Cape Region. From 1923 to 1926 he was stationed in the eastern Transvaal and was the first to make a close study of the indigenous forests on Mariepskop. In 1934 he was appointed Director of Forestry, a post he held until his retirement in 1942. In 1934 the University of Stellenbosch conferred on him an honorary M.Sc degree and, in 1964, an honorary doctorate.

After his retirement he was far from idle. For several years he was Technical Advisor to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and was Controller of Timber during World War II. From 1948 to 1951 he was advisor on forestry matters to the S W Africa Administration. In 1953 his friend Dr Hans Merensky asked him to assist in the development of Westfalia Estate in north-eastern Transvaal and he was resident director of the afforestation work from 1956-1969. When no longer able to do active field work, he settled in Pretoria and took up his pen to write an official history of the Department of Forestry, a task which took him three years. He is survived by his wife, six children, 20 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

DR MARIE VOGTS, die bekende proteakenner, het na 'n dienstydperk van sestien jaar

by die Departement van Landbou-tegniese Dienste die tuig neergelê.

Sy het in 1960 'n kontrak aangegaan met die departement vir navorsing op die kweek van proteas, wat die eerste pos van so 'n aard was. Sedertdien het sy haar pal aan hierdie taak gewy.

Haar verbintenis met proteas het 36 jaar gelede begin toe sy nog dosente aan die Paarlse Opleidingskollege was.

Ná haar huwelik het sy in Pretoria gewoon en daar die eerste proteatuin aangelê. Met geriewe wat die Universiteit van Pretoria tot haar beskikking gestel het, kon sy in hierdie tyd voortgaan met haar navorsing op proteas as liefhebber.

In 1959 het die eerste boek oor die kweek van proteas in Suid-Afrika "Proteas, Ken en Kweek Hulle" uit haar pen verskyn.

Nadat sy by die Departement van Landbou-Tegniese Dienste aangesluit het, het sy in 1961 verskeie universiteite in Europa besoek om op hoogte te kom van watter kennis oor protea-navorsing benut kon word. Terselfdertyd is 'n paar koöperatiewe eksperimente met oorsese universiteite begin.

Tot in 1963 was haar kontrakpos ingeskakel by die Navorsingsinstituut vir Plantkunde waar veldwaarnemings nog hoofsaak was. As gevolg hiervan het sy in 1962 op Bettysbaai gaan woon om in die natuurlike habitat van die belangrikste proteas te kon werk.

Weens die toenemende belangstelling in die ekonomiese moontlikhede van proteas is sy in 1964 na die Navorsingsinstituut vir Vrugte en Vrugtetegnologie op Stellenbosch oorgeplaas.

In die volgende vier jaar het o.m. een van haar grootste take gevolg toe sy saam met die Departement van Bosbou 'n opname gemaak het van die vernaamste proteas wat van die Sederberge af tot by die Amatolas op staatsgrond aangetref word.

Sy het in 1971 haar doktorale graad behaal met 'n tesis oor die geografiese variasies van *Protea cynaroides*.

Die afgelope vier jaar het sy by die Navorsingsinstituut vir Tuinbou gewerk waar al die protea-navorsing van die staat deesdae gedoen word.

Dr. Vogts, wat allerweë aanvaar word as 'n wêrelddeskundige van Suid-Afrikaanse proteasoorte se man is agt jaar gelede na 'n motorongeluk oorlede. Sy het een seun wat nog op universiteit is.

JOHN P H ACOCKS The South African Biological Society has announced that the Senior Captain Scott Memorial Medal for 1976 has been awarded to Mr Acocks. The presentation will be made when Mr Acocks next comes to Pretoria.

QUANTITATIVE ECOLOGY AND NUMERICAL TAXONOMY - THEORY AND PRACTICE: A short course, subject to ratification by Council in January, is being organised by the Northern Transvaal Region of SAAB in cooperation with prof B Walker (University of the Witwatersrand).

Place: University of Pretoria.

Time: July 1977 (4 or 5 days).

Cost: Maximum R5 for SAAB-members (excluding accomodation).

Provisional Contents of Course:

- a. Theory of sampling, data summarisation and standardisation.
- b. Field sampling - problems.
- c. Objectives and methods of analysis (including classification and ordination techniques and ecological profiles).
- d. Practical application of methods using the computer.
- e. Interpretation of results.
- f. Discussion.

The course is open to all members of SAAB, who will have preference over non-members, should too many applications be received. Application forms for attendance and a detailed programme will be circulated in "Forum Botanicum" early in 1977.

Organising Committee: Dr J C Scheepers, Dr G K Theron, Dr J W Morris, Miss M Welman.

Enquiries: Miss M Welman, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria, 0001.

BOTHALIA: The editor of Bothalia reports that a new section will be started in the journal entitled "Miscellaneous Ecological Notes". Ecologists are invited to submit research notes which are too short to constitute full papers.

DR R E MAGILL formerly of the Missouri Botanic Gardens, USA, recently joined the staff of the Botanical Research Institute as research officer and curator of the bryophyte collections. He will be concentrating on the moss flora of Southern Africa and would welcome any collections sent to him for identification.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN PLACE NAMES: by O A Leistner and J W Morris appeared during October in the Annals of the Cape Provincial Museums, vol. 12. It contains about 42 000 geographical names identified in terms of the Degree Reference System. Included are Lesotho names from the Flora of Lesotho by A Jacot-Guillarmod as well as names from the itineraries of Burchell, Drège and

Schlechter. The volume is available from the Director, Albany Museum, Grahamstown 6140. The price is about R10.

REMOTE SENSING: A course on remote sensing took place in Johannesburg from the 17th to the 19th of November. This course was organized by the South African National Committee for Remote Sensing and it was a real success reinforced by the pleasant environment provided by the Landdrost Hotel. The presentations fell under three main topics. 1) Principles of Remote Sensing 2) Information processing prior to user interpretation 3) Applications of Remote Sensing.

One hundred and twenty delegates from all over the country attended the congress. What was remarkable was the large range of applications that remote sensing has today and it was of great interest to botanists to see the possibilities and limits that remote sensing has had for other sciences such as geology and mineral resources, agriculture, marine and freshwater environments and meteorology. The botanical aspect of remote sensing was represented by a team headed by Dr D Edwards (B.R.I.). His own contribution and that of Mrs M L Jarman (U.C.T. on "marine algae, salt marsh and dwarf shrub vegetation"), Mr C J Ward (University Durban-Westville on "Various kinds of photography to detect and monitor Natal Coast Vegetation"), Dr P J Weisser (B.R.I., 1937-1974 Macrochanges in the Dune Vegetation Zululand Coast) and Mr D W van der Zel (Dept. of Forestry on "Afforestation and effects on water supply") were valuable contributions to the success of this event. (P.J.W).

VACANCIES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL

SCIENCES: Graduates in Botany with strong interests in conservation research are needed for field studies of rare and endangered plant species in the Western and Southern Cape Province.

The appointees will be part of a team that is producing valuable results for conserving the seriously depleted floras of the region. The posts are tenable on an Ad Hoc basis for one year with a possibility for renewal. Honours Graduates are preferred and would start at a salary of R4 020 per annum; applicants with good Bachelor's Degrees would also be considered.

Please send enquiries or applications, giving full details of qualifications and experience, to Dr A V Hall, Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700.

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