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

BOLUS HERBARIUM UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN.- During the University summer vacation Professor Schelpe visited the Northern Natal Drakensberg before the SAAB conference mainly in search of Orchids and Bryophytes. Peter Linder has begun post graduate study on the genus Disa and allied genera and undertook an extensive collecting tour through the Eastern Transvaal, Natal and the Eastern Cape Province. Mr Hugh Glen is in the process of completing his doctorate thesis, a Revision of the Lampranthineae (Mesembryanthemaceae). A key to the Southern African species of Habenaria has been prepared by Dr J. Renz of Basel and Professor E.A. Schelpe for publication in the near future. A review of the Summer Rainfall area species of Holothrix, including a key has been published in the South African Orchid Journal by Professor E.A. Schelpe.

Miss Sue Milton started a project on alien Acacias that invade S.W. Cape Fynbos vegetation. Under the direction of Dr A.V. Hall, Miss Milton will study intra-specific variation, phenology and important aspects of the soil's seed reserve and seedling growth. Dr Hall's rare and endangered plant species project for the Cape Province south of the Orange River and west of Longitude 26°E. (near Port Elizabeth), has so far shown that 38 species may be presumed as recently extinct, 68 endangered, 84 vulnerable, 278 rare and needing monitoring, 218 in hazard but with precise status unknown, 773 suspected cases of endangerment, making a total of 1 459 for the region. Miss Saskia van Oosterhout has recently joined this research group and a field assistant is expected in July. The group operates at the Bolus Herbarium with support from the National Programme for Environmental Sciences. Dr Hall is completing his study of Satyrium (Orchidaceae).

DEPARTEMENT VAN PLANTKUNDE, UNIVERSITEIT VAN STELLENBOSCH:- Die profesoraat in Botanie (Plantfisiologie) by die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, wat vakant is sedert professor J.A. de Bruyn aangestel is as Dekaan van die Fakulteit van Natuurwetenskappe en geadverteer was, is om finansiële

redes nie gevul nie.

By die Universiteit van Stellenbosch is 'n dekaan geregtig om 'n kwart van sy tyd aan navorsing of doseer te wy en prof. De Bruyn het verkies om van sy tyd aan doseerwerk in sy vak te wy.

Op 7 Maart 1977 het mnr. R.O. Moffett en mej. E. Marais van die Departement van Plantkunde en mnr. P. Drijfhout van die Botaniese Tuin van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch op 'n versameltoer na Namakwaland en Suidwes-Afrika vertrek. Later het dr. Heidrun Hartmann van die Staatsinstitut für Allgemeine Botanik in Hamburg en 'n deskundige oor die vygies, en haar man, dr. Wilfried Hartmann, by die toer aangesluit. Die toer het op 28 Maart geëindig.

Die hoofdoelstellings van die toer was om uitstallings- en navorsingsmateriaal vir die Botaniese Tuin te versamel en om 'n versameltoer vir dr. Hartmann daar te stel.

Deur die toer is veral die gedokumenteerde vygieversameling in die Tuin en die materiaal vir navorsing oor Pelargonium en Sarcocaulon uitgebou.

In die vetplantgebiede wat besoek is, was dr. Hartmann se kennis van die vygies van onskatbare waarde en kon die Stellenbossers baie van haar leer.

In samewerking met die Nasionale Botaniese Tuine, Kirstenbosch en die Navorsingseenheid vir Plantkunde op Stellenbosch, het dr. Hartmann nog 'n paar versameltoere in Kaapland onderneem. Sy was vir amper twee maande in Suid-Afrika en het die Botaniese Tuin en die Departement van Plantkunde van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch as haar hoofkwartier gebruik.

Die Raad van Trustees van die Nasionale Botaniese Tuine van Suid-Afrika is vir 'n nuwe termyn van drie jaar saamgestel. Prof. P.G. Jordaan wat die Hoof is van die Botaniese Tuin van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch, is weer aangewys as lid van die Raad en is by die eerste sitting van die nuwe Raad herkies as sy Vise-voorsitter.

DR. L.E. CODD has been honoured for his contributions to the advancement of botany in South Africa by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science. He has been awarded their South African Medal and Grant. SAAB congratulates Dr. Codd on this outstanding achievement.

MR. HIMANSU BALJNATH from Natal is currently working at the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew supported mainly by a grant from the CSIR. He is fulltime student registered with the University of Reading for a Ph.D. degree. The Jodrell Laboratory is wellknown for its work on the Systematic Anatomy of Vascular Plants and at the present research there is directed

towards the Anatomy of the Liliaceae. Dr. David Cutler, head of the Anatomy section at the Jodrell supervises Mr Bajinath's work together with Professor David Moorde of Reading University. Dr. B. de Winter of the Botanical Research Institute has been appointed by the CSIR as his local supervisor. Mr. Baijnath's project is entitled "Systematic studies within the genus Bulbine Wolf sens. lat." In keeping with the multidisciplinary approach of the Botany Dept. at Reading headed by Prof. V.H. Heywood, he is required to tackle the subject very broadly. He received his early training at the University of Durban-Westville under Dr. Fiona Getliffe, herself a student of Prof. Heywood.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF S₂A₃:- The Association is not holding a Congress this year, 1977, but in terms of the recent amendment to its Constitution, passed at Nelspruit in 1976, future Congresses will be held biennially. The next Congress will be held at Stellenbosch in mid-June 1978.

However, it is desirable for many reasons to hold the General Meetings annually. The A.G.M. was held on Tuesday 1977-06-21 at the University of Potchefstroom.

This is the first time in the 75-year history of the Association that it has the privilege of meeting under the auspices of the Potchefstroom University for C.H.E. The S.A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns are holding their annual gathering at Potchefstroom at the same time. The occasion was the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Prof. J.D. du Toit (Totius) the renowned Afrikaans poet, writer, and theologian.

AETFAT CONGRESS:- Members who intend flying to Las Palmas to attend this congress in March 1978 are requested to contact the Secretary of SAAB at P/Bag X101 Pretoria as soon as possible in connection with possible reduced fares via charter flights. So far there has been quite a good response to the Secretary's circular in this connection.

EMBLEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA:- For the interest and use of readers of Forum we publish a list of emblems as officially recognised:-

National

Flower: Protea cynaroides
Animal: Springbok, Antidorcas marsupialis marsupialis
Bird: Blue Crane, Tetrapteryx paradisea

Cape Province

Flower: Red Disa, Disa uniflora
Animal: Bontebok, Damaliscus dorcas dorcas
Bird: Knysna Loerie, Turacus corythaix corythaix

<u>Transvaal</u>	Flower: Mapog-lily (Yellow Arum Lily) Zantedeschia pentlandii
	Animal: Impala, Aepyceros melampus melampus
	Bird: Bokmakierie, Telophorus zeylonus
<u>Natal</u>	Flower: Strelitzia reginae
	Animal: Black Wildebeest (running position), Connochaetes gnou
	Bird: Bearded Vulture, Gypaëtus barbatus
<u>Orange</u>	Flower: Orange River Lily, Crinum bulbispermum
<u>Free State</u>	Animal: Black Wildebeest, Connochaetes gnou
	Bird: Black Korhaan, Afrotis afra
<u>South West</u>	Flower: Welwitschiamirabilis
<u>Africa</u>	Animal: Gemsbok, Oryx gazella
	Bird: Crimson-breasted shrike, Laniarius atro-coccineus

BESKERMDE BOME:- Die Department van Bosbou het onlangs die beskerming van inheemse boomsoorte ingevolge artikel 5 van die Boswet, 1968, in heroorweging geneem en 'n nuwe lys van beskermde bome in die Staatskoerant van 6 Augustus 1976 afgekondig.

Agt-en-vyftig boomsoorte word nou beskerm, waaronder soorte soos stinkhout, geelhout, boomvarings, broodbome, kokerbome, witmelkhout, mingerhout, kremetart, kameeldoring, silwerboom, waboom en halfmens.

In die verlede was die verkryging van toestemming om beskermde bome te kap 'n omslagtige en uitgerekte proses, met die gevolg dat grondeienaars dikwels beskermde bome gekap het sonder om eers toestemming van die Departement van Bosbou te verkry. Aangesien die Departement nie oral in die land verteenwoordigers het nie, het sulke gevalle nie altyd onder sy aandag gekom nie. Die prosedure is nou heelwat vereenvoudig en die Departement hoop dat daar in die toekoms beter samewerking met grondeienaars sal wees om sodoende sy taak te vergemaklik.

'n Verdere stap in die bewaring van ons inheemse bome is ook onlangs gedoen toe die Minister van Bosbou 'n beleid van beskerming van volledige ekostelsels op private grond aanvar het. Die Departement het reeds 'n hele aantal kolle inheemse bos in verskeie dele van die land geïdentifiseer wat voorlopig as beskermde bosse verklaar sal word en mettertyd, namate fondse beskikbaar word, uitgekoop en as ongeskonde ekostelsels beskerm sal word. Dit gebeur dikwels dat 'n grondeenaar deur die afkap van onbeskermde bome die toestande in 'n bos so drasties verander dat die beskermde bome nie meer daar aard nie en ook nie voortplant nie. Die hele ekostelsel word dus vernietig. Dit is teen sulke gebeure dat hierdie nuwe beleid van die Departement gemik is. (Bosbou Nuus).

BOTANICAL STAMPS:- The South African Post Office has just issued a new series of definitive stamps on the 27th May. This is the third definitive series of Republican stamps and uses the family Proteaceae as its theme. There are 21 different values of stamps each depicting a different species painted by the wellknown artist Dick Findlay who has recently designed stamps for Lesotho, South West Africa and the Transkei with botanical subjects.

The species depicted are 1c - Protea repens; 2c - Protea punctata; 3c - P. neriifolia; 4c - P. longifolia; 5c - P. cynaroides; (the National Floral Emblem); 6c - P. canaliculata; 7c - P. lorea; 8c - P. mundii; 9c - P. roupelliae; 10c - P. aristata; 15c - P. eximia; 20c - P. neriifolia; 25c - P. grandiceps; 30c - P. amplexicaulis; 50c - Leucospermum cordifolium; R1 - Paranomus reflexus; R2 - Orothamnus zeyheri and in the coil series (obtainable from slot machines only) 1c - Leucadendron argenteum; 2c - Mimetes cucullatus; 5c - Serruria florida; 10c - Leucadendron venosum.

The first day cover for the issue of the stamps bore the place name of Kirstenbosch. A special ceremony for the launching of the stamps took place at Kirstenbosch in Cape Town and was attended by the Minister of Posts & Telegraphs and the Postmaster-General.

CONGRESSES:- The Limnological Society of South Africa will be holding a meeting on general limnology in Pretoria from 3-9 July 1977. Contact Dr A.J.H. Pieterse, Dept. Plantkunde, Universiteit van Pretoria, for details.

The Federation of European Societies of Plant Physiology will be holding its first scientific congress under the auspices of the Society for Experimental Biology from 11-14 July 1978 in Edinburgh. There will be two main theme sessions on 1) Plant growth and development and 2) Transport in plants - each for one day followed by sessions dealing with all facets of plant physiology and discussion periods. For further information contact Prof. H. Lorenzen, Pflanzenphysiologisches Institut, Untere Karspüle 2, 3400 Gottingen, West Germany.

The 2nd International Symposium on African Wildlife Research and Management will take place from 5-7 July 1977 at the University of Pretoria under the auspices of the S.A. Wildlife Management Association. The objective of the symposium is to create a better understanding and knowledge of Africa's Flora and Fauna. The contact address is Box 61326, Marshalltown, 2107.

The IXth International seaweed symposium is to be held from 20 - 27 August 1977 at the seaside campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara. It is co-sponsored by, and will meet jointly with the Phycological Society of America and the International Phycological Society. The integrated meeting that has been planned will deal with a full spectrum of phycological research. There have already been over 900 responses to the first circular, indicating that this will be a major international meeting. A special symposium topic will be "Algae in Pharmaceutical Science".

NEW MEMBERS OF S.A.A.B.:-

Mr H. Baijnath, Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England,
Dr J.S. Buzer, Dept. of Botany and Microbiology, Univ. of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg

Mnr J.C. Coetzee, Hoërop Koshuis, Excelsior, O.V.S.

Miss D.M. Curnick, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria

Mnr A.C. de la Harpe, Dept. Plantkunde, Universiteit van Pretoria, Pretoria

Mr N.J. Devenish, P.O. Box 15, Wakkerstroom, Transvaal

Miss G.E. Gough-Palmer, Botany Dept. Univ. of Pretoria, Pretoria

Mr G.B. Harding, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria

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Mnr D.C. Joubert, Dept. Plantkunde, Univ. van Pretoria, Pretoria

Miss C.A. Liengme, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria

Mrs M. Lubke, Botany Dept., Rhodes University, Grahamstown

Mnr C. Malan, Dept. Plantkunde, Univ. van Pretoria, Pretoria

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Mnr S. Venter, Navorsingsinstituut vir Plantkunde, Privaatsak X101, Pretoria

Mr R.H. Westfall, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria

Mr J.K. Winstanley, Triomf Crop Protection (Pty.) Ltd., P.O. Box 31755,

Braamfontein, 2017

DAMS AND NATURE CONSERVATION:- All planning and management of outdoor recreation has been taken over by the Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation. They have entered into an agreement with the Department of Water Affairs to take over control of the water surfaces and environs of all state dams in the Cape Province for recreational use.

According to the Department's latest Annual Report No. 32, three dams have

have already been taken over and detailed planning on the Clanwilliam and Buffeljagts dams is now being carried out.

The many photographs and illustrations make this report a must for all conservation minded citizens.

You may obtain your Free copy of this useful publication by writing to the Director Nature and Environmental Conservation, Private Bag 9086, Cape Town 8000 or by telephoning Cape Town 45-0227.

A HISTORY OF SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA:- This is the title of book to be published this month by the Royal Society of South Africa to mark the centenary of the Society. It will consist of a series of historical essays by some of South Africa's leading scientists covering 21 different fields amongst which are:- Botanical research in the twentieth century by Dr R.A. Dyer; Agricultural research by Prof D.M. Joubert; The history and status of nature conservation in South Africa by Dr D. Hey, Scientific matters in early writings on the Cape by Prof. V.S. Forbes.

In some 500 pages the book gives the highlights of the growth, the discoveries and the personalities of science in Southern Africa, from the earliest times at the Cape till today. It includes about 140 illustrations with full-page portraits of explorers and scientists who have achieved the highest distinctions. The aim has not been to achieve completeness in this vast subject but to give a readable and entertaining text that will interest scientists, historians and laymen. It is under the editorship of Prof A.C. Brown (Zoology, Cape Town) and has been honoured with a Foreword from the State President.

Obtainable from Royal Society of South Africa, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700 at R18,75.

AFRICANA:- A complete set of Flowering Plants of Africa 43 volumes, published by the Botanical Research Institute, was recently advertised in America for \$ 6000 and no doubt quickly snapped up.

PUBLICATIONS FROM BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE:

Flora of Southern Africa Vol. 16, Part 2 (Caesalpinioideae) 1977 published by the Institute is available at R16 post free from the Division of Agricultural Information, Dept. of Agricultural Technical Services, Private Bag X144, Pretoria.

Keys to Families and Index to the Genera of Southern African Flowering Plants By R.A. Dyer 1977. Price R1,15 post free from address above.

FLOWERING PLANTS, OF LETOTHO: GRASSES:- By M.O. Schmitz-Ruch; no date of publication but presumably 1976. Printed by Mazenod Institute, Lesotho; 123 pp and many illustrations. Price R6-00 (soft cover only).

This is a handy guide to the grasses of the Roma Valley, Lesotho but will serve for the lowlands of that country generally. It contains two keys, one macroscopic with diagrams, for use in the field and one for microscopic character identification, as well as a general discussion of grass morphology. Each species is illustrated, the drawings having a fraction-scale to indicate reduction on the printed page. Sesotho names, habitat and habit details are given, and in some cases, the derivation of the scientific name and English common name. This is the first publication to provide keys to any of the plants of Lesotho. (A.J-G)

SEAWEEEDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA:- Guide-lines for their study and identification by Mr R.H. Simons has just been published by the Sea Fisheries Branch, Beach Road, Sea Point, Cape Town as Fish. Bull. S. Afr. 7 : 1 - 113. Mr Simons is an algologist at the State's Seaweed Research Laboratory in the University of Cape Town.

Although more interest to taxonomists there is an illustrated key with 188 species illustrated. There are also chapters on reproduction, classification, distribution and industrial uses.

It appears that the book can be obtained free as the English edition states "ook in Afrikaans gratis van die Tak Seevisserye verkrygbaar".

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