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Julie

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

DEPARTEMENT PLANTKUNDE, UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA:

Bevorderings en aanstellings: Dr P.J. Robbertse is vanaf 1 Julie 1977 van Mede-Professor tot vol Professor in hierdie departement bevorder en beklee nou die Louis Botha Leerstoel. Hierdie vakature het ontstaan toe Prof Chris H Bornman die departement aan die einde van April 1977 verlaat het.

Dr Albert Eicker is van Senior Lektor tot Mede-Professor bevorder in die vakature wat met Prof P.J. Robbertse se bevordering ontstaan het. Hierdie bevordering geld ook vanaf 1 Julie 1977.

Mnr A.E. van Wyk is vanaf 1 Januarie 1977 as permanente vóltydse lektor aangestel en sal in besonder Planttaksonomie doseer.

Die volgende personeellede is ook aangestel: Mnr N. van Rooyen as junior dosent, Mev E. Kotzé as tegniese assistent en Mej R. Vermooten as tegniese assistent.

Studieverlof: Mnr P.D.F. Kok het studieverlof van ses maande gedurende die eerste semester van 1977. Hy is met 'n taksonomiese studie van die Suid-Afrikaanse verteenwoordigers van die genus Digitaria Haller vir sy DSc besig.

Mnr J.V. van Greuning het studieverlof van ses maande gedurende die tweede semester van 1977 gehad. Hy bestudeer die morfologie en taksonomie die Suid-Afrikaanse verteenwoordigers van die genus Ficus L. vir sy DSc.

Besoek aan die Buiteland: Dr J.H. Visser, Senior Lektor, het deur middel van 'n toekening van die Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) vanaf 1 Januarie 1977 vir tien weke in Duitsland navorsing gedoen. DAAD reël jaarliks, in samewerking met die departement van Nasionale Opvoeding, dat twee Suid-Afrikaanse akademici aan gevorderde navorsing in Duitsland deelneem. Dit geskied op 'n uitruilbasis deurdat ons departement van Nasionale Opvoeding vir die betrokke tydperk reël dat twee Duitse akademici navorsing in Suid-Afrika kom doen. Die akademici is nie van een besondere

vakgebied nie, maar verteenwoordig alle akademiese dissiplines.

Dr Visser is na die Botanisches Institut und Botanischer Garten van die Universiteit van Kiel waar hy saam met Prof dr R. Kollmann gewerk het. Dr Visser se belangstellingsveld is die parasitiese verteenwoordigers van die familie Scrophulariaceae en in besonder die haustoriale morfologie en funksie van die genus Alectra.

Derdejaartoe gedurende die Aprilvakansie: Gedurende die afgelope Aprilvakansie het drie personeellede te wete Professor N Grobbelaar, mnr W.F. Reyneke en mej G. Rösch saam met 31 Plantkunde III studente 'n studietoer deur die Transkei, Oos-Kaap, Suidwes-Kaap en die Karoo onderneem. Die doel van die toer was om die studente met 'n groot aantal plantegroeitipes te laat kennis maak. Die toer is per bus onderneem en daar is in ruskampe en vakansie-orde tuisgegaan.

Aangesien die studente in hulle Plantkunde II en III kursusse voldoende met die grasveldtipes, bankenveld en die verskillende bosveldtipes te doen kry, is die Kaapse toer aanvullend hierby en het dit al 'n instelling geword om die derdejaarstudente jaarliks met so veel moontlik Kaapse plantegroeitipes te laat kennis maak.

Buitelandse Besoeker: Professor Richard E. Norris, baie bekende Algoloog van die Universiteit van Washington, het Suid-Afrika vir nege maande besoek. Die laaste drie maande van sy besoek, wat in Juniemaand ten einde geloop het, het hy aan die Universiteit van Pretoria deurgebring. Hier het hy nie net navorsing op geflagelleerde varswateralgsoorte in medewerking met dr A.J.H. Pieterse onderneem nie, maar het hy ook 'n reeks lesings in die Plantkunde departement oor taksonomiese en fynstruktuuraspekte van geflagelleerde algsoorte aangebied. Die kursus is deur studente en personeellede van hierdie departement asook navorsers verbonde aan die Nasionale Instituut vir Waternavorsing bygewoon. Die reeks lesings is vir 'n kort rukkie onderbreek toe Prof Norris met dr Fiona Getliffe van die Plantkunde Departement van die Witwatersrandse Universiteit in die huwelik getree het.

Die Limnologiese Vereniging van S.A.: Die Limnologiese Vereniging van Suidelike Afrika het vanjaar (van 1977-07-05 tot 1977-07-07) sy Kongres en Veertiende Algemene Jaarvergadering aan die Universiteit van Pretoria gehou.

Die reëlins vir die byeenkoms is deur die Sekretaris van die Vereniging vir die 1976/77-periode, Dr A.J.H. Pieterse (Senior Lektor, Departement Plantkunde, Universiteit van Pretoria) in medewerking met mnre M.T. Seaman (NIWN, WNNR), L. Vogel en J. Jacobs (Skakelafdeling, Universiteit van Pretoria) asook Dr P.F.S. Mulder (Departement van Natuurbewaring) gereël.

Vyftig persone het die Kongres bygewoon waarvan sommige in Universiteitskoshuise tuisgegaan het. Onder die Kongresgangers was twee Rhodesiërs, te wete mnr I. van der Lingen en J.A. Thornton.

Een-en-twintig referate is gelewer. Mej M.I. Claassen (Lektrise, Departement Plantkunde, Universiteit van Pretoria) se referaat was getitel "Varswateralge: Enkele interessante morfologiese en taksonomiese aspekte".

Die referate is oor die algemeen goed ontvang. Werksessies wat gereël is, is goed bygewoon en lewendige besprekings is gevoer. Die volgende werksessies was veral van insiggewende belang :

"Bestuursvoorkeure vir Suid-Afrikaanse Damme" en "Organisering en Finansiering van Limnologiese Navorsing in Suid-Afrika".

'n Uitstappie vir die Kongresgangers is op Woensdag 6 Julie gereël. Die Daspoortrioolwerke, Hartbeespoortdam, Roodeplaatdam en die Hidrologiese Navorsingsinstituut is besoek.

PROF C.G.G.J. VAN STEENIS who with his wife visited South Africa from mid-September to the end of November 1975, has just presented 3 papers to Bothalia and one to the S.A. Journal of Science resulting from this visit. Prof van Steenis, formerly Director of the Rijksherbarium in Leiden wishes to acknowledge assistance and hospitality they received during their visit.

Warm thanks are due to Dr and Mrs B. de Winter for help in planning their itinerary, for their unlimited hospitality and to the staff of the Botanical Research Institute and its Units at Stellenbosch and Grahamstown for preserving and identifying their collections, duplicates of which have been deposited as far as possible in the National Herbarium, Pretoria. Thanks are due to Mr Charlie Boucher of the Botanical Research Unit, Stellenbosch, who was allowed to act as their guide from Pretoria via Augrabies Falls and Springbok southwards through Namaqualand to Cape Town. Warm thanks are due also to Dr J.J.A. van der Walt and his family who accommodated them in Stellenbosch. Prof H.B. Rycroft gave them the facilities of Kirstenbosch and allowed Dr John Rourke, Mrs P. Fairall and Miss D. Snyman to guide them on various excursions in the Cape Province as did Prof van Steenis' old friend Prof W.J. Lütjeharms and Dr Ion Williams of Hermanus. At Knysna they enjoyed the assistance of the Dept. of Forestry and at Grahamstown that of Mrs E. Brink, Miss G.V. Britten and Dr Amy Jacot-Guillarmod. Dr D.J.B. Killick gave them the privilege of a personal introduction to the Drakensberg, Dr Pablo Weisser was their guide from Grahamstown through Swaziland stopping en route to enjoy the hospitality and guidance of Mr Ian Garland in his wonderful private coastal nature reserve on the Natal Coast.

Finally they stayed at Mt Sheba thanks to the help of Mrs and Dr A.J. Jones of Witrivier.

CAPE FLATS NATURE RESERVE: The University of the Western Cape at Bellville South near Cape Town is developing a unique reserve aimed at preserving the Cape Flats and Sandveld Flora. The rapid and irreversible urbanization and industrialization of the Cape Flats, together with the encroaches of alien vegetation, threaten the last unspoilt stretches of the region. The importance of the project can be realised when one considers the fact that 325 years after the landing of Van Riebeeck at the Cape, only about 15% of the region : for consideration (Coastal Macchia) remains unspoilt.

The aims of the Reserve may be broadly defined as follows: in the first place, the flora and fauna indigenous to the Coastal Macchia must be preserved; secondly, plants indigenous to this region will be cultivated; thirdly, the Reserve will become a centre of research into the horticulture and ecology of the plants of the area, serving not only the students of the University, but also specialists from other centres.

A promising start has been made by enclosing the Reserve with a security fence. The section of the campus set apart for the Reserve was selected as much for its desirable topographical features as for its botanical interest. Large tracts of ground have been cleared of alien vegetation, principally Port Jackson Willow. The excavation of a vlei is already much advanced. This will be used not only for establishing aquatic and semi-aquatic plants of the area, but will provide a haven and nesting-ground for water fowl.

Much remains to be done, and in view of the importance of the project, it is hoped persons and bodies interested in nature conservation will provide financial assistance.

TREE FOR 1977: The White Stinkwood, Celtis africana, one of South Africa's finest indigenous shade trees, is the tree of the year 1977, named as such by the Green Heritage Committee of the Forestry Council. Special efforts are being made to plant and promote the species during the year. The Committee urges everyone possible to plant the species this year and has produced a booklet on the species. The booklet is obtainable free of charge from P.O. Box 4430, PRETORIA, 0001.

Celtis africana was selected for 1977 because it is particularly suitable for planting in gardens, parks and along streets in almost all parts of the Republic. It is adaptable to a variety of environments and is of wide natural distribution occurring from the Cape Peninsula to Zululand, in the Northern Cape and Free State, on the Highveld and as far north as the Zoutpansberg.

As part of the promotion of the White Stinkwood the Forestry Council is running a competition in collaboration with the Sunday Times to find the tallest specimen in the Republic. Prizes of R100, R50 and 5 book prizes are being offered by the Council. Closing date is the end of August 1977. All entries (photograph and measurements) will be checked by officials from the Departments of Forestry and of Nature Conservation. Entries to Madeleine van Biljon, The Sunday Times, P.O. Box 2447, CAPE TOWN, 8000.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDENS, ANNUAL SYSTEMATICS SYMPOSIUM: The Missouri Botanical Garden in St Louis is the repository in North America for African plants. It is therefore appropriate that its Twenty-fourth Annual Systematics Symposium be devoted to Systematic Studies in Africa. The Symposium will be held on 14th and 15th October 1977.

The botanical presentations of the Symposium will be devoted to floristic analysis of four major regions: Africa north of the Sahara given by Prof P. Quézel, Marseille, France; tropical Africa by Mr J.P.M. Brenan, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; temperate Southern Africa by Dr P. Goldblatt of Missouri; Madagascar by Prof J.-F Leroy, Director of the Laboratoire de Pharnérogamie of the Natural History Museum in Paris. There will be three guest speakers from American Universities talking about zoological aspects.

WHAT'S NEW IN PLANT PHYSIOLOGY: This was a fairly regular type of newsletter produced by Dr G. Fritz of Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A. for the International Association of Plant Physiologists.

It was decided last year that copies of this newsletter be circulated with Forum Botanicum. This was endorsed by the Council of SAAB, but due to various administrative problems this was never executed. However, when the time came to send the physiological newsletter out with Forum it was found that the newsletter had ceased production after No. 4 of Volume 8 in July 1976. It is thus regretted that the expectations of Forum readers to the notice in December's Forum cannot be satisfied.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA: This society, the oldest scientific society in the Republic, recently celebrated its centenary. The Society was founded on June 1877 by a group of people headed by the then Governor of the Cape Colony, Sir Bartle Frere. The major celebrations took place from 20-22 June in Cape Town when a series of review lectures were delivered by a panel of distinguished Fellows of the Society and other scientists and by Prof J. Sutton, Vice-President of the Royal Society of London, the oldest

scientific society in the world. The Society is under the present presidency of Prof A.W. Sloan of the Dept. of Human Physiology, University of Cape Town. Subsequently celebrations were held in the regional centres of the Society in Durban, Johannesburg and Grahamstown.

WORLD WILDERNESS CONGRESS, 1977 will take place in Johannesburg from 23-28 October under the Chairmanship of Ian Player, Director of the Natal Parks Board, at a venue in Milner Park. Over 2000 delegates are expected to attend from every corner of the world and the programme will feature more than 30 international speakers. The South African Government endorses the aims and objects of the congress and has agreed to support its plans. The Congress patrons are some of the Republic's leading businessmen. The contact address is the Secretariat at Box 61326, MARSHALLTOWN, 2107.

DR. MARY AGARD POCOCK died on Sunday, 11th July in Grahamstown, aged 90½. An Honorary Life Member of SAAB Dr Pocock will remain well known for her work in South African algology both fresh- and sea water. Details of Dr Pocock were given by Dr A. Jacot-Guillarmod in Forum Botanicum (Jan. 1977) and will be enlarged upon by her for a full obituary.

TREES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA: Notice has been received of a volume with the mentioned title by Keith Coates Palgrave to be published by Struik of Cape Town later this year.

This book is the first one to provide a complete coverage of all the known tree species in Southern Africa in one volume. It is claimed that the book will be an authoritative and complete guide with workable keys to families and family groups, genera and species in large genera.

All the species of trees, both indigenous and naturalised, known to occur in Africa south of the Zambezi (i.e. ⁺ 1300 species) are included. A description and distribution map will be given for all indigenous species and a leaf drawing for all species. The official and standardised common names in English and Afrikaans as well as the Rhodesian common names are given.

This vast book, 1264 pages of special light paper, will include 314 colour photographs and 61 black and white photographs.

Mr Coates Palgrave is well known for his book on Trees of Central Africa. He has been assisted by Mr Bob Drummond of the herbarium in Salisbury and by Dr Eugene Moll of the Dept. of Botany, University of Cape Town, as editor of the work.

Needless to say the cost of production will be high and to lower the price

of the final product a trust fund has been set up as has been the case with several other botanical books produced within the last twenty years. The trustees of the Fund, Mr T. Barlow, Chairman, Mrs P. Barlow, Dr B. de Winter, Mr H.B. Nicholson, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, Prof H.B. Rycroft and Prof H.P. van der Schijff, urge interested persons to subscribe R100 or more to a de luxe edition of the book or become sponsors by giving R350 or more to the Fund to enable the book to be brought out at a price hopefully around R15. Contact the Trustees at Box 1144, CAPE TOWN, 8000.

SUCCULENTA 78 is the title of the International Succulent Congress being organised by the South African Aloe and Succulent Society. It is intended that the conference shall take place in Pretoria during the week 17-22 July, 1978. The Congress will cover all aspects of the succulent plants of the world. Tours of the Northern Transvaal and of the North Western Cape are planned for the weeks preceeding and following the congress respectively. Contact address: The secretary, P.O. Box 1193, PRETORIA, 0001.

PROTEA EXPORTS: Figures recently released by the South African Protea Producers and Exporters, SAPPEX, for the export of fresh proteas are as follows:-

<u>March 1977</u>	<u>Kilograms</u>	<u>Value in R's</u>
Western Cape	61 112	68 468
Transvaal	6 908	11 041
Eastern Cape	17 617	25 204
<u>April 1977</u>		
Western Cape	63 353	68 334
Transvaal	10 505	16 407
Eastern Cape	10 404	15 631

BOOKS AVAILABLE ON CAPE FLORA: Publications by the Cape Provincial Dept. of Nature and Environment Conservation:-

Eastern Cape Veld Flowers by Dr E. Gledhill with four full-colour plates and 67 pages of line drawings. 271 pages, price R2,50.

Wild Flowers of the Northern Cape by Jill Adams with 173 full-colour plates, price R1,75.

Both are obtainable from the Controller of Stores, P.O. Box 2710, CAPE TOWN, 8000.

INTECOL 1978, THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ECOLOGY: This Congress will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, from 10-16 September 1978, under the auspices of the International Association for Ecology (INTECOL), the Ecology Section of I.U.B.S., the Israel Academy of Sciences, National Council for Research and Development and Environmental Protection Service.

The Congress will discuss and review topics of current interest in ecology. The scientific program will be designed to promote international co-operation and interdisciplinary contacts. Symposia and workshops are also planned, which will be chaired by invited speakers of international renown.

Because of the location of the Congress, a major theme will be the ecology and management of desert and semi-desert ecosystems. Another theme central to many of the symposia will be "Ecology and development - the application of ecological principles to the needs of developing countries." Advances in ecological theory will be widely presented and discussed.

Some of the subjects for lectures and discussions will be:- Structure and function of desert and semi-desert ecosystems; structure and function of tropical forest ecosystems; ecological effects of development projects; recent advances in ecological theory; ecological monitoring; coastal zones; biogeochemical cycles. Special pre-congress sessions and sessions organised by INTECOL working groups are being arranged.

Two two-day congress excursions will be held, one to the Negev, the other to the northern Jordan Rift Valley and Sea of Galilee area. A number of post-congress excursions will be available, including desert trips to the Sinai Desert conducted by the Society for the Protection of Nature. Contact address is Second Int. Congress of Ecology, ^c/c Conventions - Kopel, Box 3054, TEL AVIV.

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EDITORS/REDAKSIE

Mr E.G.H.Oliver, Miss M. Welman

CORRESPONDENCE/KORRESPONDENSIE

The Editors
Forum Botanicum
BRI, Private Bag X101
PRETORIA 0001