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

AMY GERTRUDE CORBISHLEY

On the 5th of May 1977 Miss Corbishley died and was buried on the 9th of May in the Family Grave in Weststreet Cemetery. The following note appeared in the Daily News on the 10th.

Miss Corbishley matriculated at the Girls College corner of Russell-Smith Str. in Durban. She enrolled at the University College in Pietermaritzburg and was one of the first Botany students of Prof. Bews. She graduated in 1912.

After a visit to England and specially Kew Herbarium she came back to South Africa. In February 1919 she returned to England and worked till 1921 in the Kew Herbarium. At first voluntarily unpaid but afterwards an arrangement was made with the Div. of Plant Industry in Pretoria to be paid by the S.A. Government.

Her duties were the naming of the plants which were collected mainly by Dr. Pole-Evans, Head of the Division at the time.

The Government Herbarium in Pretoria had started in earnest to collect for the National Herbarium. More authentic naming and comparing of the plants was desirable and could only be done overseas. Kew itself could not supply this service mainly for lack of personnel and funds, the aftermath of the war.

So Miss Corbishley became the first Liaison Officer of the National Herbarium Pretoria to Kew. Later on this arrangement became permanent. The Liaison Officers from S.A. are duly listed in the yearly Kew Bulletin.

Miss Corbishley worked with Dr. Hutchinson and Dr. Stapf, Keeper of the Kew Herbarium. She also described several new S.A. plants sometimes as co-author.

In 1921 her mother became ill and needed more permanent attention and Miss Corbishley came back to Durban, Berea where she lived till her death. Dr. Pole-Evans wanted her to work in the Natal Herbarium, but she refused as it would have meant that Miss Forbes would have lost her employment. She instead took for times teaching posts in schools and as lecturer for the pharmacists at the Technical College in Durban. Thereafter she lived a quiet secluded life on the Berea.

This information I gathered from herself when I visited her in 1967 and induced Prof. Bayer to visit her. I arranged this visit 19th November 1969 and took my tape-recorder with me. A copy of the resulting dialogue is in the Botany Department of the Univ. of Natal. (R.G. Strey).

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE : Oswald Makunga spent a profitable six months at Rothamsted. He wrote the following description of his overseas visit, "Research done in Rothamsted involves almost all scientific disciplines applicable to crop improvement. My leave was spent in the Department of Botany whose head is Dr C P Whittingham.

Crop physiological studies are undertaken at Rothamsted with the aim of showing how yield of the whole crop depends on the growth and development of individual parts of plants. The practical objectives of these studies are to try and pin-point a basis for increasing crop yield. Investigations on the distribution of preanthesis photosynthates in varieties of wheat were undertaken in collaboration with Dr Gillian Thorne who has published various articles on the physiological aspects of grain yield in cereals, particularly wheat and barley. We investigated the distribution of preanthesis photosynthesis in wheat varieties using radio-active carbon dioxide $^{14}\text{CO}_2$.

A visit was paid to the L'Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon during the centenary celebration for the Paris centre and 150th anniversary for the Grignon centre. Fort Hare was the only South African University with an official representative.

A day was spent at Wye College, University of London, near Ashford, Kent. I held stimulating discussions with Dr Graham M Milbourn who is in charge of the Maize Unit at Wye College. The visit included a conducted tour of the field experiments and facilities of the College.

Towards the end of my stay in England, I visited the Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge, where breeding programmes are being carried out on varieties of forage and grain maize specifically adapted to British conditions. The maize section is under Dr E S Bunting who works in collaboration with Mr R E Gunn. Arrangements were made for me to also

visit the Physiology and Genetics Departments of the Plant Breeding Institute."

Oswald returned here for a few months before leaving for the second stage of his sabbatical at Cornell with Professor Herbert Everett where he will continue with his studies on the translocation of photosynthates in maize.

Ted Botha has also left for the U.S.A. where he has received a warm welcome from Professor Ray Evert. They intend working on ultra-structural and histo-chemical aspects of maize phloem at Wisconsin for the next year. Before leaving here Ted helped design a computer based system for indexing and retrieval of data on phloem.

Don Grierson has come to Fort Hare for six months as substitute for Oswald and Ted. He comes from the University of Port Elizabeth where, as an M.Sc. student of Professor Chris Small, he is researching the nitrate-incorporating enzymes of maize. We welcome him as the third member of our mealie gang and wish him a happy stay at Fort Hare.

Robbie Robinson is congratulated on the award of his M.Sc. from the University of Natal earlier this year. Apart from his research on the autecology of Pteronia incana, he is contributing together with Beth Gibbs-Russell and Shaun Russell towards the E. Cape Flora project which is a joint effort between Rhodes, University of Port Elizabeth and Fort Hare.

NEW MEMBERS OF SAAB : Dr. G K Campbell, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Natal, Durban, Mnr J P Kluge, Privaatsak 838, Witklip, Witrivier, Mnr H L Pretorius, Dept. Plantkunde, P.U. vir C.H.O., Potchefstroom, Mej. M J Pretorius, Crescentweg 6, Waterkloof, Pretoria.

UNIVERSITEIT VAN STELLENBOSCH : Prof. Miriam de Vos is besig met 'n sitotaksonomiese ondersoek oor die genus Ferraria (Iridaceae) in Afrika. Sy het interessante gegewens gekry van heteroploidie binne twee van die species, gepaardgaande met verskille in die geografiese verspreiding van individue met verskillende chromosoomgetalle. Sy was in die Junie/Julie-vakansie weer na Noordwes-Kaapland om ontbrekende gegewens in te win. Die ondersoek sal hopelik aanstaande jaar voltooi wees.

KILLING BUGS IN HERBARIUM SPECIMENS : It has long been realised that most methods currently used for killing unwanted fellow-travellers in herbarium specimens are nearly as lethal to the operators as to the insects they are designed to kill.

With this in mind, the following observation, made on a visit to

Stockholm last year, is offered to all concerned.

It appears that all destructive insects, and their larvae and eggs, can be killed by exposure to a temperature of -35 degrees C or less, for a period of 72 hours or more. At the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, all incoming specimens are frozen in a suitable deep-freeze for 3 days on arrival. This is said to deal satisfactorily with all incoming insect pests without any harm to the operator.

It should be noted that normal domestic deep-freezes cannot attain the required temperature without some minor modifications (extensions to the cooling system) but it appears that suitable freezers are available. I am given to understand that blood-transfusion services use temperatures of this order. H.F. Glen

SUCCULENT FELLOWSHIPS : The Cactus and Succulent Society of America at each of its biennial conventions awards Fellowships to persons who have made significant contributions to the advancement of succulent plants. At its recent 17th Biennial Convention held in May in Tucson, Arizona, two South Africans were added to the Honour Roll.

John Lavranos an insurance broker of Johannesburg was honoured for his extensive contributions to the knowledge of succulents and his supplying of material to recognised organisations from his numerous collecting expeditions to places such as Somalia, Socotra, Yemen, Arabia and Southern Africa.

Cythna Letty (Mrs C. Forssman) was honoured for her remarkable contribution to the knowledge of succulents through her numerous and exquisite paintings figured in the series Flowering Plants of Africa published by the Botanical Research Institute and those in White & Sloane's work "The Stapeliae". Mrs Forssman, now over 80, lives in Pretoria and still enjoys painting and writing poetry.

INTERNATIONAL CYCAD SOCIETY : Recently the establishment was announced of the world's First International Cycad Society to be sponsored by the Cooperative extension service of the University of Florida, The Fairchild Tropical Garden, the Marie Selby Botanic Gardens, the International Palm Society and the Louisiana State University.

The First meeting was held in West Palm Beach, USA, on April 23rd with a program by Mrs Cynthia Giddy, authoress of the book, Cycads of South Africa. A newsletter, pollen bank, seed bank, slide library, identification service and eventually a journal are planned. The membership fee

will be \$5,00 per annum.

Anyone interested should contact Dr Walter J Harman, Dept of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA70803, U.S.A.

CYCADS : Venda se Minister van Landbou, kaptein Malwamondo, het onlangs drie massiewe modjadji broodbome aan die Transvaalse Afdeling Natuur= bewaring geskenk. Die broodbome pryk nou in die tuin van die Hartbees= hoek Provinsiale Kwekery, sowat 7 km buite Pretoria-Noord. Hierdie skenking is 'n verdere voorbeeld van die goeie samewerking wat daar tussen die regering van Venda en die Transvaalse Afdeling Natuurbe= waring bestaan. Die Venda-regering het natuurbewaringsbeamptes van Transvaal goedgeunstiglik toegelaat om saad van hierdie spesifieke skaars broodboomsoort in Vendaland in te samel. In die verlede het die Transvaalse Afdeling Natuurbewaring Venda-amptenare opgelei om broodbome te kweek en te bewaar.

Terwyl daar op die „broodlyn" beweeg word, nog so 'n brokkie oor broodbome. Altesame 3 000 vyf jaar oue broodboomplantjies is vandeese= maand deur die Transvaalse Afdeling Natuurbewaring van die hand gesit. Die broodboomsoorte wat te koop aangebied was, het die volgende inge= sluit: Encephalartos humilis, E. lanatus, E. paucidentatus, E. lebomboensis en E. transvaalicus. Die pryse vir die boompies het gewissel tussen R10 en R15 stuk. In die afgelope tien jaar is daar reeds sowat 30 000 van hierdie oerplante by die Hartbeeshoek Kwe= kery gekweek.

MEMOIRS OF THE BOTANICAL SURVEY OF SOUTH AFRICA No. 41. The bio= stratigraphy of the Permian and Triassic. Part 3. A review of Gondwana Permian palynology with particular reference to the northern Karoo Basin, South Africa. By J.M. Anderson (1977). Price R5-00. Overseas R6-50. Post free.

Bothalia 12,2 (1977). Price R5. Overseas R5-20.

Obtainable from : Division of Agricultural Information, Dept of Agri= cultural Technical Services, Private Bag X144, Pretoria.

URGENTLY NEEDED : The following material of Schoenoxiphium/Kobresia (fam. Cyperaceae):

1. Seed of any species.
2. Freshly fixed material of inflorescences to be fixed in F.A.A. (70% etanol: 85 parts, 40% formalin: 10 parts, acetic acid: 5 parts).

Freshly fixed material can be shipped in a letter, air mail, if placed in

a small plastic bag with some soft paper moistened with F.A.A. The material is needed for a student who is studying the structure of the inflorescence of Schoenoxiphium. Dr I Kukkonen, Department of Botany, University of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 44, SF-00170 HELSINKI 17, Finland.

CORRECTION. On page 44 of the July 1977 issue of "Forum Botanicum", it was stated that Mr Ian Player is the Director of the Natal Parks Board. It was brought to our attention that Mr John Geddes-Page is the present Director. Mr Player left the Natal Parks Board in 1974 and had never been its Director. We regret any misunderstanding caused in this connection.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION P/Bag 9086, CAPE TOWN

SUPERINTENDENT OF GARDENS

1. Applications are invited for the vacant post of Superintendent of Gardens at the Jonkershoek Nature Conservation Station, Stellenbosch. The duties will include general horticulture, management, layout of wild flower garden and the propagation of indigenous plants in the wild flower nursery.
2. Qualifications. The National Technical Certificate (Part III) or equivalent and appropriate experience, or a Diploma in Nature Conservation and Management.
3. An official house will be provided on the station.
4. The successful applicant should assume duty as soon as possible.
5. The salary scale attached to the post is R3000 x 150 - 3300 x 180 - 5100 - 5340 plus 10%.

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