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

JAARVERSLAG OOR DIE S AFRIKAANSE TYDSKRIF VIR PLANTKUNDE : Dit gaan goed met die tydskrif. Hy handhaaf deurentyd vër meer as die vereiste minimum van 32 gedrukte bladsye per nommer en daar is tot aan die einde van 1983 altesaam 142 manuskripte ontvang.

Vanaf begin 1984 sal die tydskrif tweemaandeliks (6 uitgawes per jaar) ipv driemaandeliks (4 uitgawes per jaar) verskyn. Dit sal die eerste van die nasionale tydskrifte wees wat normaalweg meer as vierkeer per jaar sal verskyn.

As gevolg van hierdie nuwe reëling moes die manuskripte vir Vol 3 nr 2 reeds op 19 Desember 1983 by die Buro vir Wetenskaplike publikasies afgelewer gewees het. Aangesien Desember 'n maand is waarop meeste mense vakansie hou en nie op tyd reageer nie, was daar nie betyds soveel manuskripte in finale vorm ontvang as wat gehoop is nie en gevolglik sal Vol 3 nr 2 nie so dik wees soos die ander nommers nie. Dit sal egter toq dikker as die vereiste minimum dikte wees.

Reëlings om vanaf begin 1985 die Journal of South African Botany van die Nasionale Botaniese Tuine van Suid-Afrika (Kirstenbosch) by die S Afr Tydskrif Plantk in te lyf vorder goed, en behoort baie by te dra tot die gereëide verskyning van nog dikker nommers. Dit mag selfs wees dat die tydskrif vanaf begin 1985 selfs meer dikwels as 6 keer per jaar sal moet verskyn om tred te hou met die volume materiaal wat vir publisering ontvang word.

As gevolg van kritiek wat ontvang is, en om meer in ooreenstemming met ander internasionale tydskrifte te wees, het die Redaksie besluit om nie meer in die toekoms suiwer beskrywende anatomiese artikels te publiseer wat nie iets

opspraakwekkends bevat nie. Anatomiese artikels moet maw ten doel hê om (a) n nuwe anatomiese ontdekking bekend te stel, (b) n algemene anatomiese hipotese te toets, of (c) studies in ander subdisiplines soos taksonomie, fisiologie, ens te ondersteun.

Ons kan maw nie bloot n anatomiese beskrywing van een plantsoort na die ander publiseer as daar nie iets besonders daarin steek nie. Dieselfde beginsel geld reeds vir die ander subdisiplines van die plantkunde.

Op aanbeveling van party van ons ondersteuners, sal ek ook vanaf begin 1984 die naam en adres van die skrywers van manuskripte uitvee as ek die manuskripte aan keurders vir be-oordeling voorlê. Dit sal hopelik help om skrywers te verseker dat die keurders onbevooroordeeld optree.

Die gehalte van n tydskrif hang baie af van die deeglikheid waarmee die keurders hul werk doen. Die redaksie is baie dank aan ons vakgenote verskuldig vir die wyse waarop hulle dusver met keuringswerk gehelp het. Ons is ook baie dank aan ons kollegas verskuldig wat dusver die tydskrif ondersteun het deur manuskripte vir publisering aan te bied.

Die huidige redaksie wat op n relatief ondemokratiese wyse saamgestel is om die tydskrif op die been te kry, se dienstermyn verstryk aan die einde van Junie vanjaar en ek vertrou dat die SAGP-Raad betyds oor n aanvaarbare aanstellingsprosedure sal besluit en n nuwe redaksie betyds sal aanwys om te verseker dat die oordrag van die tydskrif se sake vanaf die ou redaksie na die nuwe een vlot sal verloop.

Die Buro vir Wetenskaplike Publikasies doen n ernstige beroep op skrywers om in die vervolg hulle asseblief stiptelik by die voorskrifte ivm die voorbereiding van illustrasies te hou. Die voorskrifte is duidelik op twee los gedrukte bladsye uiteengesit wat in nommer 4 van Vol 2 van die tydskrif aan alle lede versprei is.

Ek maak dan ook graag van hierdie geleentheid gebruik om die Buro vir Wetenskaplike Publikasies en in besonder mev Maretha Henning en mej Edda Hubrig

van harte te bedank vir die doeltreffende en vriendelike wyse waarop hulle my dusver gehelp het om ons tydskrif te maak wat dit is. Laastens wil ek 'n besondere woord van dank aan die lede van my redaksiekomitee rig. Gedurende die afgelope jaar het mnr E R Robinson en E G H Oliver asook prof P J Robbertse veral baie werk vir die tydskrif in hul vrye tyd moes doen. Vir die vriendelike wyse waarop die hele redaksiekomitee my bygestaan het wil ek hulle opreg bedank.

(Prof N Grobbelaar, Wetenskaplike Redakteur).

FLORA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWS :

New Flora Volumes

Volume 21 Tiliaceae by H Wild was published in February 1984. Price R4.30 plus GST, in South Africa; other countries R5,00 post free.

Volume 33 Asteraceae, Part 7 Inuleae, Fascicle 2 Gnaphaliinae (First part) by O M Hilliard was published in December 1983. Price R13,70 GSTI, in South Africa; other countries R16,20, post free.

(Both available from Division of Agricultural Information, Department of Agriculture, Private Bag X144, Pretoria, 0001.)

New Palaeoflora Volume

Molteno Formation (Triassic) Vol 1, Part 1 Introduction; Part 2 Dicroidium by J M and H M Anderson was published in December 1983. Available from A A Balkema, P O Box 3117, Cape Town, 8000. Price R35,00 (non IOP members) or R25,00 (IOP members).

New Ancillary publication

List of species of Southern African plants, by G E Gibbs Russell and the staff of the National Herbarium was published in February 1983.

Available from Division of Agricultural Information, Department of Agriculture, Private Bag X144, Pretoria, 0001. Price R5,30 GSTI, in South Africa; other countries R6,20 post free.

Meeting of Participants in the FSA : Thirty-nine FSA participants met in the Department of Botany at the University of Cape Town, during the 10th annual SAAB Congress. Dr B de Winter opened the meeting by stressing the basic importance of the FSA to other botanical disciplines. The extent of the contribution of taxonomy is often unappreciated because the assistance of taxonomists is so openly and freely given. The following major points were discussed during the meeting :

1. Progress report on FSA

Dr O A Leistner discussed the "Plan of Flora of Southern Africa", showing the workers engaged on various taxa, with an indication of their progress. Copies of this plan are available from Dr O A Leistner, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria, 0001.

2. Lists of genera with latest revisions

Staff at the National Herbarium (PRE) have prepared lists of genera with the most recent revisions through 1976. These are being brought up to the present, and will be available on computer printout towards the end of 1984.

3. Lists of species of Southern African plants

Dr G E Gibbs Russell said that the first edition shows that there are over 24 000 accepted taxa of plants in the FSA area, including Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms. Previous estimates for numbers of flowering plant species were 17 500 to 18 500, but the new list shows there are about 21 200 species accepted. This means that more taxonomists will be required if the FSA is to be completed by the end of the century.

A second edition of the list of species giving recent literature and synonyms is being prepared. Bryophytes, pteridophytes, gymnosperms and monocots will go to press late in 1984, and dicots in 1985. Mistakes found in the first edition should be communicated to Dr G E Gibbs Russell, Botanical Research Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria, 0001.

4. Working Group for FSA

Prof A V Hall proposed that the authorities establish a Working Group for the Flora of Southern Africa, to ensure effective collaboration among the workers involved. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

5. FSA Newsletter

The first FSA newsletter had appeared in November 1983 as part of Forum Botanicum. The Newsletter will continue to appear in Forum so that botanists in other disciplines can be made aware of the progress of the FSA. FSA contributors should send news items to Dr G E Gibbs Russell, Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, 0001.

6. Fellowships, contracts and other services

The Department of Agriculture makes available fellowships to overseas botanists who are contributing to the FSA, and research contracts to University taxonomists to assist them in preparing FSA treatments. Fellowship holders this year are Dr O Almborn from Lund and Dr C Puff from Vienna. Prof E A Schelpe is preparing the Pteridophyte volume on contract. Applications must be made at least 18 months in advance.

7. Western Cape taxa available for revision

Mr R O Moffett presented a list of taxa available for revision. The most direct method of determining taxa available for revision for other parts of the country is to enquire from Dr Leistner, who maintains the records for the FSA.

8. Invitation to non-participating taxonomists

Dr De Winter said that every taxonomist should think in terms of assisting in a co-operative project by preparing an account for the Flora. Turning a revision or a monograph into FSA format was a considerable job, best done by the author.

9. Discussion of "Prodromus" and "Conspectus" production

Dr De Winter pointed out that in large families of 400 to 1000 or more species a taxonomist working as fast as possible to write up 50 species per year would take a number of years to complete the account. For example, Ericaceae would take over 12 years. In these cases special arrangements might be made for a conspectus or prodromus volume in the FSA series, but this must not be a substitute for the full Flora volume to come. Prof Hall suggested the use of a word processor to upgrade the preliminary treatment to Flora format. Prof J J A van der Walt emphasized that such work must be done by an expert in the group, and that it was of greatest importance to examine and report type specimens.

10. Taxonomic articles in the South African Journal of Botany

Mr E G H Oliver, the taxonomic editor for the journal, said that both long articles and short notes were acceptable. In long articles, he was considering restricting the literature references for synonyms to author name, date and page, with the full reference given only in the References at the end of the article.

11. Working Group of Herbarium Curators

Dr T Lowrey proposed that there should be a working group of herbarium curators in Southern Africa, to discuss common problems of finance, equipment and techniques. This proposal was unanimously accepted. A proposal was drawn up and submitted to the AGM of SAAB, where it was also unanimously accepted.

RE-LOCATION OF THE BOLUS HERBARIUM : The Bolus Herbarium of the University of Cape Town has moved to temporary accommodation in Cape Town proper while new construction is underway on the Science Faculty campus at Rondebosch. The herbarium will return to new, permanent facilities in 1986. The

temporary accommodation is at the Orange Street campus of the University of Cape Town in the City, approximately ten kilometers northwest of the original Bolus Herbarium location on the Grootte Schuur campus. The new accommodation permits the herbarium to function in its full capacity as a research centre and does not impede the use of the plant collections or library by visiting researchers as adequate space has been provided. Loans of materials will be processed as in the past and the only interruption of service was during the two month move in February and March. All specimens currently on loan to the Bolus Herbarium have been given proper curatorial handling. The Bolus Herbarium's postal address remains the same although the telephone number has been changed to 23 1216 and 23 1217. The official reopening of the herbarium is 26 April 1984.

If there are any queries concerning this temporary move, please address correspondence to the Acting Director, Assoc Prof A V Hall or to the Director, Prof E A Schelpe, who is on sabbatical leave overseas, after June 1984.

SAAB EASTERN CAPE BRANCH, REPORT FOR 1983: The most important activity which involved the interest and participation of this region's SAAB members in 1983 was the East Cape Environmental Symposium held at Rhodes University from 13th to 15th July. Papers were presented by Prof R A Lubke and Dr A Jacot Guillarmod, and poster papers were presented by Mrs G D Court, Dr M Olivier, Mr A R Palmer and Mr S Russell on a variety of taxonomic and ecological subjects. The Symposium was chaired by our regional representative, Prof R A Lubke.

On the 30th July a tour of the Department of Plant Sciences at Fort Hare University was arranged by the Fort Hare staff. Special thanks go to Prof Ted Botha for the excellent tour of the extremely well-equipped department in the new Plant Sciences building. Members were later driven through the Ciskei to the Hogsback mountains. Our thanks go to Mr Peter Phillipson and Mr Shaun Russell for the smooth organisation of the afternoon excursion. It was disturbing to all to note that the past three years have seen changes in the indigenous forest. Giant yellowwoods, possibly 400 or more years old, had been felled, forest paths widened

and worse still, cattle are now allowed to graze on the understory of the forest, causing elimination of seedlings to a large degree.

In response to a letter from Prof G K Theron re the collecting permit problem, the East Cape Branch committee prepared a short memorandum which recommended the introduction of an open permit system for SAAB members. This would enable them to work in the field without hindrance. This recommendation was forwarded to Prof Theron.

Earlier this year the SAAB members of the Eastern Cape became involved in an attempt to prevent the construction of a dam in the Waters Meeting Nature Reserve just outside Bathurst. Members from Grahamstown joined representatives from other life science organisations, Forestry representatives and municipal officials from Port Alfred, and the proposed site was toured. This area is densely wooded, has never been used for agricultural purposes and is the habitat of many species of birds, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates. A preliminary checklist of plants was drawn up and a report suggesting a very suitable alternative site was sent in. The area has since been examined by a firm of consulting ecologists, but latest reports from Forestry officials indicate that the dam construction will go through. Our comment from the Eastern Cape is that reports of plans of this nature reach the interested specialists far too late for effective action to be taken, and that economic considerations seem to over-ride all others.

(Mrs G D Court, Chairwoman)

SAGP, VRYSTAATSE TAK, JAARVERSLAG VIR 1983 : Die Bestuur vir die termyn 1983/84 was soos volg saamgestel :

Voorsitter	:	Dr R L Verhoeven
Ondervoorsitter	:	Dr W L J van Rensburg
Sekretaresse/tesouriere	:	Mev A M Joubert
Addisionale lid	:	Mnr D B Müller

Die ledetal het toegeneem van 38 tot 51. Namens die bestuur wil ek

graag die nuwe lede welkom heet en die vertroue uitspreek dat hulle verbintenis met die Vereniging vrugbaar sal wees.

Gedurende 1983 is die volgende lesings gereël :

- 18 April : Mnr J L F Kock - Moontlike oplossings vir sortering-
en ontinningsprobleme in die pyn-
appelinmaakindustrie
Jaarvergadering Onthaal
- 9 Augustus : Dr S W Baard - Voorlopige resultate in die beheer
van peulvrot van grondboontjies
- 20 September : Dr Ron Lewis Smith - "Biology of the islands South Georgia
and Sygny"
- 7 November : Prof D P J Opperman- Die rol van wild in die benutting van
natuurlike plantegroei

Die reëlings het goed verloop met 'n gemiddelde bywoningsyfer van 20 persone. Dr Lewis Smith se lesing is ook deur 42 tweedeaarstudente bygewoon wat nie vir die gemiddelde bywoningsyfer in aanmerking geneem is nie. Die lesing deur dr Lewis Smith is in samewerking met die Instituut vir Omgewingswetenskappe gereël.

Die werkswyse van die tak het soos in die verlede voortgegaan met aandlesings gevolg deur 'n besprekingsessie waarna gesellig verkeer is met 'n koppie tee en verversings. Die lesings deur dr Baard en Lewis Smith is egter om 16h30 en 14h30 onderskeidelik aangebied.

Tydens die jaarvergadering gehou op 18 April 1983 is besluit om 'n funksie vir die lede gedurende 1983 te reël. 'n Afsluitingsfunksie in die vorm van 'n kaas-en-wyn is aangebied na afloop van die lesing van prof Opperman.

Die finansiële toestand van die tak is gesond. Die saldo is tans R188,46. Die ledegeld subsidie vir 1983 is ook ontvang.

Die volgende instansies en persone word hartlik bedank vir hulp wat in een of ander vorm verleen is om van die jaar se verrigtinge 'n sukses te maak. Die Universiteit van die Oranje Vrystaat; mev A M Joubert vir die reëling van die afsluitingsfunksie; sprekers wat gedurende die jaar opgetree het; lede van die bestuur en lede van die SAGP vir die wyse waarop hulle die aktiwiteite ondersteun het.

(Dr R L Verhoeven, Chairman)

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS OF SOUTH AFRICA : PAYMENT FOR PLANT IDENTIFICATION : The Board of Trustees of the National Botanic Gardens has resolved that greater emphasis be given to botanical research in the future. The scientific staff of the Compton Herbarium are now required to devote the major part of their working time to research, and it is therefore regretted that the herbarium will no longer be undertaking general plant identifications free of charge. The Board has laid down that a fee of R5,00 (five rand) be charged for every specimen identified, with immediate effect.

Under certain circumstances this fee may be waived, at the discretion of the Curator of the Compton Herbarium, for example when a specimen is of particular scientific importance, in which case it will be retained by the herbarium after identification, in lieu of payment.

VEGETATION COLOUR SLIDES : The staff of the Ecology Section at the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, have over the years taken colour slides of vegetation representing the various veld types of South Africa. The slides were filed systematically according to veld type

and grid reference. Adequate cross referencing of the data on the slides was not possible with a manual cross referencing system and the value of the collection was therefore reduced.

To overcome the problem of cross referencing and to facilitate maintenance of the slide collection, data pertaining to the collection were loaded onto the PHOTOS data base, developed for this purpose. The database is run on the Burroughs B 7800 computer of the Department of Agriculture. Access to the database is gained through the Burroughs INQUIRY data management system.

Apart from veld types, slides may now be retrieved according to inter alia localities, species, habitat, formation, geology and topography. The collection currently consists of 1800 colour slides of the vegetation of South Africa as well as neighbouring countries. A list of the Veld Type coverage at present is attached.

Readers who wish to loan slides or to contribute to the collection, where our collection is inadequate, may contact Miss A P Backer, Ecology Section, Botanical Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria 0001.

REDAKSIE/EDITOR

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Posbus 471
STELLENBOSCH
7600

VT	No of accessions	VT	No of accessions	VT	No of accessions
1	224	26	58	51	0
2	9	27	10	52	0
3	1	28	16	53	0
4	13	29	5	54	0
5	28	30	10	55	0
6	0	31	18	56	1
7	2	32	43	57	0
8	19	33	36	58	10
9	14	34	39	59	0
10	72	35	16	60	46
11	14	36	154	61	32
12	3	37	41	62	0
13	14	38	2	63	0
14	20	39	1	64	0
15	27	40	16	65	8
16	31	41	3	66	0
17	3	42	17	67	1
18	74	43	7	68	1
19	135	44	25	69	80
20	67	45	7	70	16
21	5	46	46	South West Africa	61
22	0	47	48	Botswana	30
23	53	48	12	Zimbabwe	5
24	0	49	2	Mozambique	3
25	36	50	11	Angola	1