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

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PETRUS JOHANNES BOTHA: Prof. P J Botha, voormalige Professor in Plantkunde aan die Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir C.H.O., is op 28 April 1985 oorlede. Petrus Johannes Botha is op 10 Augustus 1912 in die distrik Wolmaransstad gebore. Sy middelbare skoolopleiding het hy aan die Wolmaransstadse Hoërskool geniet, waar hy in 1931 die Eindeksamen van die Middelbare Skool met onderskeiding geslaag het.

Aan die begin van 1932 skryf hy aan die destydse Potchefstroomse Universiteitskollege vir C.H.O. vir die B.Sc.-graad in en aan die Potchefstroomse Normaalkollege vir die Transvaalse Onderwysertifikaat (O2). Laasgenoemde sertifikaat behaal hy in 1934 met onderskeiding en die B.Sc.-graad aan die einde van 1935 met onderskeiding in Plantkunde. Aan die einde van 1936 behaal hy die M.Sc. in Plantkunde ook met onderskeiding. Op grond van laasgenoemde prestasie verwerf hy die H.B. Webb-beurs en die Alexander von Humboldt-Stipendium. Nadat hy 'n aantal maande lank te Makwassie onderwys gegee het, vertrek hy in Oktober 1937 na Duitsland, waar hy aan die Friedrich-Wilhelmus-Universität in Berlyn vir die doktorsgraad in Plantkunde inskryf. Sy hoofstudierigting was die Plantfisiologie, en as onderwerp vir die doktorsproefskrif het hy gekies "Die biogenese en fisiologiese betekenis van die alkaloiëde van Lupinus luteus L." Na die uitbreek van die oorlog moes hy in Oktober 1939 uit Duitsland vlug nog voordat hy kon promoveer.

Terug in Suid-Afrika aanvaar hy aan die begin van 1940 'n lektoraat in Plantkunde aan die Potchefstroomse Universiteitskollege vir C.H.O. Aangesien die Soetlupien, waarop hy in Duitsland gewerk het, destyds nie in Suid-Afrika beskikbaar was nie, was hy verplig om van voor af met navorsing vir die doktorsgraad te begin. In 1943 skryf hy as eksterne student van die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika in met die navorsingstema "Die Lewensgeskiedenis, Morfologie en Ontkiemingsfisiologie van Alectra vogelii Benth". Hy het hierdie navorsing heeltemal selfstandig gedoen en aan die begin van 1947 die Ph.D.-graad daarmee verwerf. Aan die begin van

1945 is hy tot senior lektor in Plantkunde bevorder en aan die begin van 1954 tot professor. Sedert die begin van 1962 tot einde 1977 was hy hoof van die Departement Plantkunde aan die PU vir C.H.C.

Ongeveer 40 publikasies waarvan hy outeur of mede-outeur was en wat oor navorsing, vakkundige werk of 'n filosofiese inslag gehad het, het onder sy naam verskyn. Professor Botha het in die plantfisiologie baanbrekerswerk gedoen op die gebied van biologiese beheer van die Rooibloem (Striga asiatica). Hierdie werk, voor die verskyning van onkruidodders was van onskatbare waarde vir die mieliebedryf in Suid-Afrika.

Buite Universiteitsverband was hy besonder aktief en was vir baie jare voorsitter van die studiekomitee vir Plantkunde, Biologie en Mikrobiologie aan UNISA. Na die uitfasering van die studiekomitee het hy tot en met sy aftrede as adviseur vir Plantkunde en Biologie aan genoemde universiteit opgetree. Hy was verder volle lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, lewenslange erelid van die S<sub>2</sub>A<sub>1</sub>, stigterslid van die SAGP waar hy onder andere ook as waarnemende President en President gedien het. Hy ontvang dan ook in Januarie 1984 die Senior medalje van die SAGP uit erkenning vir die werk wat hy as akademikus gelewer het. Wat ander Wetenskaplike komitees en rade betref, het hy gedien in die advieskomitee van die WNNR, die Raad op Atoomkrag en die Redaksiekomitee: Terme in Plantkunde.

Binne die Potchefstroomse gemeenskap was hy ook besonder aktief. Hiervan getuig sy betrokkenheid as lid van die Skoolkomitee van die Laerskool Mooirivier, beheerraadslid van die Hoërskool Gimnasium en Stadsraadslid vir die laaste dertien jaar van sy lewe. Wat laasgenoemde betref was hy vir sewe jaar lid van die Bestuurskomitee en burgemeester van Potchefstroom gedurende 1980 - 81. Sy kundigheid as wetenskaplike het hom ook in staat gestel om belangrike bydraes te kon maak tot die Wes-Transvaalse Vereniging van Plaaslike Owerhede, die uitvoerende bestuur van die Transvaalse Munisipale Vereniging, die Mooirivierwaterskema en die Vereniging van Munisipale Elektrisiteitsondernemings waar hy as hoofbestuurslid gedien het.

Ons, wat die voorreg gehad het om as kollegas saam met hom te kon werk, saam met al sy oudstudente dink met groot waardering en piëteit terug aan 'n man wat so 'n groot rol gespeel het in die uitbouing van Plantkunde in Suid-Afrika. Ons eer sy nagedagtenis.

DJB

#### EVALUERING VAN DIE 1985 SAGP-KONGRES

Kongresgangers by die SAGP-kongres wat in Januarie 1985 by die Pot-

chefstroomse Universiteit vir CHO gehou is, het die kongres as volg ge-evalueer. Die persentasiepunt dui op die mate van samestemming met die spesifieke stelling.

### 1. WETENSKAPLIKE GEHALTE

- 1.1 Die gehalte van die referate was goed ... .. 74%
- 1.2 Die gehalte van die plakkaate was goed ... .. 72%
- 1.3 Die keuse van die kongrestema was goed .. ... 54%
- 1.4 Die gesamentlike sessies was baie geslaagd ... .. 65%

### 2. ORGANISASIE

- 2.1 Die reëlings voor die kongres was goed ... .. 91%
- 2.2 Die program is goed opgestel ... .. 88%
- 2.3 Daar is te veel parallelle sessies gereël ... .. 29%
- 2.4 Daar is te veel algemene sessies gereël . ... .. 34%
- 2.5 Die registrasieproses het vlot verloop .. ... 91%
- 2.6 Die registrasiekoste was te hoog ... .. 32%
- 2.7 Die fasiliteite in die lesingsale was goed . ... .. 75%
- 2.8 Die reëlings met die skyfieprojeksies was goed .. ... 77%
- 2.9 Die reëlings met die beoordeling van jong navorsers was goed ... .. 65%
- 2.10 Die verblyfreëlings was goed ... .. 85%
- 2.11 Die koshuisgelde was te hoog ... .. 34%
- 2.12 Die reëlings met die tee en verversings was goed ... .. 92%
- 2.13 Die sosiale funksies was aangenaam . ... .. 88%
- 2.14 Daar was te veel sosiale funksies .. ... 17%

### 3. ALGEMEEN

- 3.1 Die sessievoorsitters het hulle goed van hulle taak gekwyd ... .. 82%
- 3.2 Daar behoort by elke kongres 'n ekskursie te wees.. .. 55%
- 3.3 Die ekskursie moet voof of na (nie tydens) kongres wees.. 66%
- 3.4 Daar behoort by elke kongres werksessies te wees ... .. 71%
- 3.5 Die kongresreëlingskomitee het hulle werk baie goed ge-doen ... .. 93%
- 3.6 Dit was die moeite werd om die kongres by te woon ... .. 91%

Die volgende verdere kommentaar is ook van kongresgangers ontvang:

- (i) Te min tyd is aan plakkaatsessies gegee
- (ii) Voorsitters van sessies moet hulle presies by die tye hou soos op die program aangedui. Sodoende kan lesings van verskillende sessies oor en weer bygewoon word.

- (iii) Ernstige aandag moet aan die beoordeling van die beste referaat gegee word. Voorstelle soos: (a) die gehoor moet hom beoordeel; (b) meer as een prys moet toegeken word; en (c) hulle moet in een gesamentlike sessie beoordeel word, is aan die hand gedoen.

EVALUERING VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE TYDSKRIF VIR PLANTKUNDE

Tydens die Algemene Jaarvergadering van SAGP gedurende Januarie 1985, is SAGP-lede gevra om die amptelike tydskrif van die Genootskap te evalueer. Die resultate is as volg. Die persentasiepunt dui op die mate van samestemming met die spesifieke stelling.

1. Die gehalte van ekologiese publikasies was goed ..... 71%
2. Die gehalte van taksonomiese publikasies was goed..... 77%
3. Die gehalte van fisiologiese publikasies was goed..... 74%
4. Die gehalte van morfologiese publikasies was goed..... 71%
5. Die tegniese gehalte van die tydskrif is goed ..... 86%
6. Die wagtydperk voor publikasie is te lank ..... 49%
7. Dit is 'n goeie idee om boekresensies te plaas ..... 80%
8. Dit was 'n goeie idee om die twee tydskrifte te amalga-meer ..... 81%

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

SENATE SPECIAL LECTURES - 1985

Title: Critical Resources - Use and Abuse

The Senate Special Lectures series is an endeavour by the University of the Witwatersrand to promote discussion on important topical issues. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in these evenings.

The current series has been convened by professor Helen Garnett, head of the Department of Microbiology at the University, telephone (011)-716-2300.

14 August: Water Resources

South Africa's role in planning southern Africa's water resources

Mr T P van Robbroeck

Research in water and waste water

Prof G Marais

Water and the environment

Mr E J Hall

21 August: Materials, Minerals and Energy

Mineral and energy policies

Dr L Alberts

Energy planning in South Africa - problems and challenges

Prof R K Dutkiewicz

Materials science and engineering - the key to adding value to our mineral resources

Dr J B Clark

28 August: Food and Agriculture

Soils, climates and terrain forms in Southern Africa	Dr C N MacVicar
Agriculture in underdeveloped areas - what can be done?	Mr D Beuster
Modern technology - can it improve agricultural production?	Prof H M Garnett

NATIONAL SYNTHESIS SYMPOSIUM ON THE ECOLOGY OF BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS

The symposium is being held to produce a synthesis of our understanding of alien species invasions in South Africa. The published proceedings will set out to review current knowledge and management practice in this field, with particular emphasis on:

- (a) describing the ecological processes involved, including those associated with human activities; and
- (b) developing the principles necessary to control and manage alien species in natural and near-natural ecosystems.

The meeting is being held under the auspices of the South African National Programme for Ecosystem Research (formerly National Programme for Environmental Sciences) and is convened by its Working Group for Invasive Biota.

From a global perspective the meeting comprises one of five national contributions to the SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment) project on the ecology of biological invasions. Contributions are being simultaneously compiled by Australia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, for presentation at a global review meeting in November 1986. This meeting will be hosted by South Africa. (SCOPE is a non-governmental scientific organization comprising eighteen international scientific unions. It coordinates the activities of its 65 national members, focusing on short-term syntheses and appraisal of man-made environmental problems).

Although much work has been done on the control of certain invasive species in South Africa, the problem has not until recently been looked at from a holistic, sub-continental perspective. How widespread is the problem and what ecological and economic impact is it having? What is the prognosis for the future? These and related questions need to be asked from several general points of view - which species? which ecosystems? what ecological mechanisms are involved? Answers, based on local scientific and management experience, must be found as a prerequisite to achieving the ultimate goal - an integrated country-wide strategy of control and prevention involving all major land-use and administrative agencies.

Invited review papers will be presented in separate sessions on the following themes:

- history of our introduced species
- extent of invasions in our ecosystems
- what makes a species an aggressive invader?
- what makes an ecosystem susceptible to invasion?
- case studies, local lessons learned in control and management of invasions
- integrated control and prevention - guidelines for the future.

Due to financial constraints the meeting will be held in Stellenbosch and not in Pretoria as was originally planned. The symposium will take place on 27, 28 and 29 November 1985 in the Jannasch Hall, University of Stellenbosch.

FYNBOS BIOME PROJECT : SWARTBOSCHKLOOF WORKSHOP (17 - 18 October 1985).

This Workshop is organized by the National Programme for Ecosystem Research (Terrestrial Ecosystem Section).

AIMS

1. to determine the aims of research and relevance of individual projects to the stated aims;
2. to revise the existing draft proposal document accordingly;
3. to standardize on analysis techniques; and
4. to provide a forum for contact between research workers in Swartboschkloof.

PROPOSED AGENDA

17 October 1985

SESSION I - Chairman: F J Kruger (South African Forestry Research Institute)

Introduction: B W van Wilgen (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre)

Review paper: The effects of fire on fynbos plant populations; W J Bond (Saasveld Forestry Research Centre)

The vegetation communities of Swartboschkloof; D J McDonald (Botanical Research Unit, Stellenbosch)

The stability of forest - fynbos boundaries; P T Manders (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre)

Regeneration strategies in fynbos plants; D C le Maitre (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre)

Above- and below-ground plant phenological studies; A J Lamb (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre)

SESSION II - Chairman: W R Siegfried (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute for African Ornithology, UCT)

Review paper: The effects of fire on fynbos faunal communities;  
G J Breytenbach (Saasveld Forestry Research Centre)

Pollination studies; A G Rebelo (Percy Fitzpatrick Institute for African Ornithology, UCT)

Small mammal studies; S A Botha (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre) and R C Bigalke (Faculty of Forestry, University of Stellenbosch)

Invertebrate studies including argentine ants; A E de Kock (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre)

Riparian vegetation and its importance to aquatic communities; J King (Department of Zoology, UCT)

SESSION III - Chairman: M Rutherford (Botanical Research Institute)

Review paper: The effects of fire on resources in fynbos ecosystems;  
D T Mitchell (Department of Botany, UCT)

Studies on streamflow and groundwater; J Bosch (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre) and B Davies (Department of Zoology, UCT)

Climate network in Swartboschkloof; D B Versfeld (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre)

Catchment nutrient balance; D B van Wyk (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre) and Dr J Day (Department of Zoology, UCT)

SESSION IV - Chairman: P M Norton (Cape Provincial Administration)

Boundaries of the proposed fire and fire behaviour studies; B van Wilgen (Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre)

Microbial studies; M Loos (Department of Microbiology and Virology, University of Stellenbosch)

18 October 1985: Field trip and workshop activities

Field inspection of Swartboschkloof (Weather permitting). Division of proposed projects and participants into three working groups. The working groups will review projects relating to plants, faunal components and resources. Appointment of rapporteurs. Working groups meet to discuss projects and determine relevance to stated aims. Meeting reconvenes. Rapporteurs on working group decisions. Appointment of a willing and enthusiastic working group to see a revision of proposal.

FYNBOS BIOME PROJECT REVIEW SYMPOSIUM: RESEARCH FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT held on Monday, 29 and Tuesday, 30 July 1985 at the Fruit and Fruit Technology Research Institute, Stellenbosch, Cape.

The Fynbos Biome Project has as one of its principal objectives the integration and coordination of ecological research within the biome. Formal coordination at an inter-organizational level is provided by a Steering Committee while informal contact between field workers has been maintained through workshop meetings, seminars etc. Annual research meetings have been held as a mechanism to bring all parties together for an exchange of progress reports, research plans and the review of programme goals. This was the seventh such meeting.

SESSION I : Welcome and Introduction

Welcome: Dr R R Arndt, Deputy President, CSIR

Opening Address: The Hon J W E Wiley MP, Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism

Setting the Scene: The palaeohistory and history of settlement of the fynbos biome; Professor H J Deacon, University of Stellenbosch.

SESSION II : Habitat Conservation

Chairman: Dr J H Neethling, Deputy Director, Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation

Current strategy for the conservation of fynbos ecosystems; Mr C J Burgers, Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation

Identifying conservation priorities in lowland fynbos; Mrs M L Jarman, CSIR

Case study: The role of farmers in conserving threatened habitats; Mr C McDowell, University of Cape Town

Introduction to poster session; Professor E J Moll, University of Cape Town.

SESSION III : Posters : Habitat Conservation and Invasive Biota

SESSION IV : Invasive Plants and Animals

Chairman: Mr Walters, Winter Rainfall Region, Department of Agriculture and Water Supply

Feasible management goals and strategies for control of invasives;

Mr P A S Wilson, Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism.

Understanding aliens in the fynbos biome; Mr I A W MacDonald, University of Cape Town

Case study: Hakea in the southern Cape; Mr G J Breytenbach, Saasveld Forestry Research Centre

SESSION V : Catchment Management

Chairman: Mr J A Fenn, Regional Director of Forestry: Western Cape, Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism



Planning and problems in catchment management; Mr F J Kruger, Director,  
South African Forestry Research Institute

The role of fire in the management and conservation of mountain  
catchments; Mr B W van Wilgen, Jonkershoek Forestry  
Research Centre

Case Study: Monitoring mountain catchments; Dr J M King, University  
of Cape Town

Grazing impacts and their potential influence; Dr R M Cowling, Univer-  
sity of Port Elizabeth and Mr G J Breytenbach, Saasveld  
Forestry Research Centre

SESSION VI : Posters: Catchment Management and the Cape Flower Industry  
Introduction to poster session; Mr D B Versfeld, Jonkershoek Forestry  
Research Centre

SESSION VII : The Cape Flower Industry

Chairman: Mr W J Middelmann, Honorary Life President, South African  
Protea Producers and Exporters Association

The Nature and development of the industry; Mr G Davis, Department  
of Agriculture and Water Supply

Ecological factors influencing the development and maintenance of  
the industry; Mr A Rebelo, University of Cape Town

Case Study: Serotiny in the Proteaceae; Mr J Midgley, Saasveld Forestry  
Research Centre

SESSION VIII : Panel Discussion and Conclusions

Chairman: Professor W R Siegfried, Director, Percy FitzPatrick In-  
stitute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town

Discussion: Management priorities for the next five years of the Fynbos  
Biome Project; Panel: Dr J H Neethling, Mr J A Fenn and  
Mr Walters

Closing remarks: Has the Fynbos Biome Project contributed to the  
solution of management problems in the biome? Professor  
W R Siegfried, Director, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of  
African Ornithology, University of Cape Town

## INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

1985

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STRATIGRAPHIC  
PALYNOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING  
& SYMPOSIUM ON POLLEN ULTRASTRUCTURE  
16-19 Oct., El Paso, TX, U.S.A.  
(W.C. Cornell, Dept. Geol. Sci. University Texas at EL Paso,  
El Paso, TX 79968-0555, U.S.A.)

INT'L SYMPOSIUM ON ECOLOGY OF  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF TROPICAL & SUBTROPICAL  
MOUNTAIN AREAS

21-25 Oct., Chengdu, China  
(Jiang Youxu, c/o Zhu Jing, Ecological Society of China  
7 Zhonguancun Rd., Beijing, 100080, China).

12th AFRICAN HORTICULTURAL SYMPOSIUM

24-30 Nov. Nairobi, Kenya  
(K. Waithaka, College of Agric. & Veterinary Sciences, Dept.  
of Crop Sciences, P.O.B. 29053, Nairobi, Kenya).

INT'L SYMPOSIUM ON DESERTIFICATION

Nov., Kartoum, Sudan  
(W.G. Sombroek, Int'l Soil Museum, 9 Duivendaal, POB 353,  
6700 AJ Wageningen, the Netherlands).

1986

DIFFERENTIATION PATTERNS IN HIGHER PLANTS

13-18 July, Zurich, Switzerland.  
(K.M. Urbanska, Geobotanisches Inst., Stiftung Rübel,  
Zürichbergstr. 38, CH-8044 Zürich, Switzerland).

4th CONGRESS OF THE INT'L ASSOCIATION  
FOR ECOLOGISTS

10-16 Aug., Syracuse, NY, U.S.A.  
(F.B. Golley, Institute of Ecology, Univ. of Georgia, Athens,  
GA 30602, U.S.A.)

22nd INT'L HORTICULTURAL CONGRESS

11-20 Aug., Davis, CA, U.S.A.  
(Conf. Services, Memorial Union, 4th Floor, Univ. of California,  
Davis, CA 95616, U.S.A.).

13th INT'L CONGRESS OF SOIL SCIENCE

13-20 Aug., Hamburg, FRG.  
(ISSS Secretariat, Int'l Soil Museum, 9 Duivendaal, P.O.B. 353,  
6700 AJ Wageningen, the Netherlands).

4th INT'L SYMPOSIUM ON MICROBIAL ECOLOGY

24-29 Aug., Ljubljana, Yugoslavia,  
(France Megusar, Biotechnical Faculty, E. Kardelj Univ. of Ljubljana,  
Jamnikarjeva 101, 61600 Ljubljana, Yugoslavia).

SYMPOSIUM ON MINERAL NUTRIENTS IN SAVANNA & TROPICAL FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

26-28 Aug., Stirling, Scotland, U.K.  
(J. Proctor, Dept. of Biological Science, Univ. of Stirling,  
Stirling FK9 4LA, U.K.)

14th INT'L CONGRESS OF MICROBIOLOGY

7-13 Sept., Manchester, U.K.  
(J.A. Cole, Dept. of Biochemistry, Univ. of Birmingham,  
P.O.B. 363, Birmingham B15 2TT, U.K.).

18th IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS: FORESTRY RESEARCH SERVING SOCIETY

7-25 Sept., Ljubljana, Yugoslavia  
(IUFRO Secretariat, Schonbrunn, A-1131 Vienna, Austria).

2nd INT'L SYMPOSIUM "SHALLOW TETHYS"

Date undeter., Wagga Wagga, Australia.  
(K.G. McKenzie, Riverina College of Advanced Education,  
P O Box 588, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. 2650, Australia).

IVth CONGRESS OF ARAB BIOLOGISTS

Date undeter., Tunis, Tunisia.  
(S. Bouzid, Faculté des Sciences, Campus Universitaire,  
Tunis, Tunisie).

12th CONGRESS OF THE INT'L SOCIETY FOR MUSHROOM SCIENCE

Toronto, Canada.  
(R.L. Edwards, 3 Romney Close, Bearsted, Maidstone ME14  
4LU, U.K.).

1987

XIVth INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS

24 Jul. - 1 Aug., Berlin, FRG  
(Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Königin-Luise-Str. 6-8,  
D-1000 Berlin 33, FRG).

IVth INT'L CONGRESS ON THE HISTORY OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Sept., Hamburg, F.R.G.  
(W. Lang, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Meeresforschung,  
ICHO IV, Bundesstrasse 55, D-2000 Hamburg 13, F.R.G.)

9th SYMPOSIUM ON HORTICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Date undeter., Poland.  
(E. Makosz, Nowy Sacz, Poland).

1988

VIIth INT'L SYMPOSIUM ON THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF WEEDS

Date undeter., South Africa.  
(Ms E du Plessis, Int'l Relations Div., CSIR, P.O.B. 395,  
Pretoria 0001, South Africa).

RECOGNITION OF BRI JOURNALS IN CSIR'S NEW RESEARCH SUPPORT SCHEME

We have been informed by the CSIR (letter 1/1/36 of 1985.07.24) that under the FRD's Research Support Scheme, there is no list of approved journals, consequently researchers applying for awards and citing contributions to BRI journals (and the Flora of Southern Africa) should not be disadvantaged in any way.

D.J.B. KILLICK

PCA PROGRAM: Dr Jeff W Morris of 99 Ryno Kriel Avenue, 9322 Bloemfontein advises us that he has a principal components analysis program available for the Hewlett-Packard family of microcomputers.

The program is very easy to use, is menu-driven and written in H-P BASIC. Input and editing of raw data matrices is catered for, a correlation matrix, eigen vectors, eigen values and geometrical distances are calculated and the first three extracted components are plotted against each other. The program is suitable for ecological, taxonomic and other data that can be expressed by means of an entities by attributes matrix. A short User Manual is provided. Source code for the program is available in either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" diskette format and enquiries should be directed to Dr Morris at the above address or on telephone (051) 22-0416.

#### S.A. VERENIGING VIR PLANTPATOLOGIE

Die 1986 Kongres van hierdie vereniging sal in die Golden Gate-Hoogland Nasionale Park in die Vrystaat gehou word, van 20 tot 23 Januarie 1986. Die Hoofruskamp is die bekende Brandwag-kamp. Die park is sowat 300 km van Bloemfontein en 360 km vanaf Johannesburg. Die reëlingskomitee bestaan uit die volgende persone:

Dr Schalk Visser, Voorsetter, Somergraansentrum, Potchefstroom  
Kevin Chabers, Tesourier, Somergraansentrum, Potchefstroom  
Niel McLaren, Verantwoordelik vir Omsendbriewe, Somergraansentrum,  
Potchefstroom  
Kobus le Roux, Verantwoordelik vir die plek van samekoms, Kleingraan-  
sentrum, Betlehem  
Dr De Buys Scott, Verantwoordelik vir vervoer, Kleingraansentrum, Betlehem.

#### ANNUAL JCSS-LECTURE

The annual lecture of the Joint Council of Scientific Societies was held in the Senate Hall, Unisa, Pretoria on Monday, 23rd September 1985. Prof. Dave Woods, head of the Department of Microbiology, University of Cape Town, spoke on "Exciting Discoveries in Molecular Genetics and their Exploitation in Biotechnology - the Proof of the Value of Fundamental Science".

In times of economic stress it is tempting for the public and private sectors to cull fundamental research as it is often regarded as a luxury and unlikely to yield anything applied and useful. Basic esoteric research in molecular genetics involving the mechanism whereby harmless bacterial viruses infect harmless bacteria and the movement of genes within bacteria (jumping gene), resulted in important practical developments in genetic engineering and biotechnology. The original discoveries, their exploitation, the present and future prospects of molecular genetics and biotechnology in relation to research priorities, agriculture, industry and medicine, were discussed in layman's terms. The vertical spread of genes from parent to offspring is well established and understood but the equally important novel concept of the horizontal spread of genes between adult organisms were also discussed.

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