

# FORUM BOTANICUM

VOL. 25, No. 4

ISSN 0015 - 847X

AUGUST  
AUGUSTUS 1987

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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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## FOR SALE: ADC Infra-red Gas Analysis System

**Comprising:** 1 x 225/2B/SS CO<sub>2</sub> analyzer, 1 x 225/2B/SS water vapour analyzer, 1 x 6 channel selector unit, 1 x exhaust pump. All items checked and certified in good working order by Beckman Instruments in May 1987. Small area of gold plating in larger H<sub>2</sub>O analysis chamber slightly tarnished. Reason for selling: Already have a MkIII ADC System in the department and now wish to raise capital for purchase of portable system. The above equipment was purchased in 1979; used for a very short period in 1982 whereafter it was placed in storage. Offers in the vicinity of 50% of the cost of a new system will be considered.

**Please reply to:** Professor J.E. Granger, Acting Head Department of Botany  
Faculty of Science, University of Transkei,  
Private Bag X1001, UNITRA, Transkei

**DIE INTERNASIONALE UNIE VAN BIOLOGIESE WETENSKAPPE** (VERSLAG VIR 1986)

Prof. N. Grobbelaar is vroeg in 1986 deur die WNNR tot voorsitter van die Nasionale Komitee van die IUBW aangestel.

Die belangrikste saak wat op die Augustus vergadering behandel is, is die verslag oor die stand van Taksonomie in Suid-Afrika en die prosessering van die aanbevelings wat in die verslag verskyn. Die verslag is deur die President van die WNNR na die SNO verwys, waar daar vasgestel sal word tot watter mate spesiale voorsiening vir die aktivering van taksonomiese navorsing moontlik is. Aangesien sodanige spesiale hulp ten koste van ander biologiese vakrigtings sal moet geskied, sal daar eers onder die bioloë bepaal moet word watter prioriteit aan die stimulering van taksonomie relatief tot die ander subdissiplines toegeken moet word. Die hulp sal in ieder geval ook slegs aan persone toegeken word wat volgens die SNO-evaluering oor die nodige meriete beskik. Die Nasionale Komitee van die IUBW het ook die President van die WNNR versoek om die Taksonomieverslag aan die Departement van Landbou en Watervoorsiening, sowel as aan die Departement van Nasionale Opvoeding en die Wetenskaplike Adviesraad beskikbaar te stel aangesien heelwat taksonomiese werk deur personeel van genoemde twee departemente verrig word.

Suid-Afrika se deelname aan die IUBW se wetenskaplike navorsingsprogram het by die vergadering ook heelwat aandag ontvang. Vir die SAGP is SA se deelname aan die projek oor "Responses of savannas to stress and disturbance" wat 'n onderdeel vorm van die projek oor "Decade of the Tropics" veral van belang. Suid-Afrikaanse medewerkers speel 'n belangrike rol in die uitvoering van hierdie projek.

**N. GROBBELAAR**

**THE HABITAT COUNCIL** (REPORT FOR 1986)

Owing to circumstances, the Annual General Meeting for 1985 took place on 1986.02.25 at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Stellenbosch. Similarly, the Annual General meeting for 1986 will take place early in 1987. In addition to its important role as a watchdog organisation and mouthpiece for the public at large, the Habitat Council can also fulfil a valuable screening or sifting function to relieve the pressure on the Council for the Environment. Activities of the year can only be reported on very briefly here.

Deforestation and degradation of the Limpopo River banks has reached alarming proportions. The Habitat Council is keeping a close watch on the matter. Concern has also been expressed regarding inter alia: Atmospheric pollution in Northern Natal and Eastern Transvaal; Historic passes of the Cape Province including the Bainskloof, Swartberg and Montagu Passes; The Richtersveld; and The Encroachment of Alien Vegetation on road reserves.

On World Environment Day, 1986.05.05, a Symposium entitled "The Manmade Environment - an opportunity lost -?" took place at Randburg. This was held under the auspices of The Federation of Societies of Professional Engineers (FSPE), The Environmental Planning Professions Interdisciplinary Committee (EPPIC) and the Habitat Council.

J.C. SCHEEPERS

#### SOUTH AFRICAN SYNTAXONOMIC NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE (REPORT FOR 1986)

The South African Journal of Botany not being prepared to publish the SASNC Code, the finalised Code will be distributed amongst members of the National Working Group for Vegetation Ecology after approval of the SASNC. It was found to be necessary to correct certain misconceptions about the nature and purpose of the Code. An interim meeting of the SASNC was held on 1986.08.18 at the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria. Minutes of this meeting are available on request from the Secretariat. A brief account of some developments during the year is given below.

Syntaxonomic Syntheses The work of Mr C. Boucher is farthest advanced in South Africa and should give a good lead towards setting guidelines. A subgroup of the Grassland Biome Classification and Mapping Task group comprising Prof. G.J. Bredenkamp, Drs D.J. Muller and J.C. Scheepers are working on a first-approximation synthesis of an area in the northwestern portion of the Grassland Biome. Preliminary indications look promising.

S.A. Code of Syntaxonomic Nomenclature. Publication of the revised International Code of Syntaxonomic Nomenclature is expected in the near future. It has therefore been decided not to consider publication of a South African Code until the International Code has appeared. After approval by the SASNC, a corrected version of the S.A. Code can be circulated to members of the SASNC as an initial working document and to determine shortcomings.

Affiliation with the International Association of Vegetation Science. Approaches to the President of the International Nomenclature Commission of

the International Association of Vegetation Science have been favourably received. We are therefore proceeding with application for affiliation with the I.N.C.

Publication of Syntaxonomic Work. Problems in connection with proper publication of syntaxonomic work are currently being investigated.

J.C. SCHEEPERS

NATIONAL WORKING GROUP FOR VEGETATION ECOLOGY (REPORT FOR 1986)

Two newsletters were circulated to those on our mailing list in 1986. Technical Communications 3 and 4 concerning soil classification and soil erosion and accumulation respectively were also circulated. Two courses, one at Jonkershoek and one in Pretoria, were held on the practical application of the cover meter. About 90 participants in total attended both courses.

Matrix data for 30 sets have been loaded onto the computer. 29 plantname sets have been encoded and 30 community-name sets have been prepared for encoding. These data form a large proportion of the backlog for the PHYTOTAB data base. Unfortunately, the amount of programmers' time allowed us did not permit the planned progress with new programs. The automatic classification program PHYTO 22 has been under development this year and although promising is not yet complete. A program PHYTO 00 for species sequencing for key construction was a breakthrough. Retrieval programs for the PHYTOTAB data base have yet to be written.

R.H. WESTFALL

DIE GESAMENTLIKE RAAD VAN NATUURWETENSKAPLIKE VERENIGINGS (VERSLAG VIR 1986)

Verskeie van die televisieprogramme oor die natuurwetenskappe wat deur bemiddeling van die GRNV deur die SAUK onderneem is, is skynbaar bevries. Die hoofredes hiervoor is vinnige omset in die SAUK-personeel waarmee die GRNV onderhandel het en geldskaarste by die SAUK.

Pogings word aangewend om 'n groter gedeelte van die Aardrykskunde hoërskoolleerplan aan Geologie toegesê te kry en te verseker dat Geologie binne die Aardrykskunde op skool duidelik as 'n afsonderlike universiteitsvak geïdentifiseer sal word.

Die jaarlikse prestige-lesing van die GRNV is vanjaar deur dr C.F. Garbers, president van die WNNR, aan 'n uitgelese gehoor aangebied waar dit met geesdrif ontvang is.

Dit wil voorkom asof die ondersoek na die wenslikheid om 'n Raad of Instituut vir Fundamentele Biologiese Navorsing tot stand te bring, ten einde geloop het, sonder dat daar veel daaruit sal voortvloei. Die GRNV beskou die tyd en finansiële klimaat tans as ongunstig vir die loodsing van so 'n projek.

Die GRNV se nuwe Uitvoerende Komitee is soos volg saamgestel:

President: Dr P.S. Steyn

Pas uitgetrede president: Dr B.W. Strydom

Voormalige president: Dr G. Heymann

Senior vise-president: Prof. C.J.H. Schutte

Junior vise-president: Prof. A.J. Reinecke

Eresekretaris/Penningmeester: Dr J.H. Hofmeyr

**N. GROBBELAAR**

**WORKING GROUP FOR THE FLORA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA** (REPORT FOR 1986)

Nineteen persons attended the annual meeting of the contributors to the Flora of Southern Africa, held at the annual congress of SAAB in Umtata, January 1986. The AETFAT Secretariat in Hamburg has returned the questionnaires recording the taxonomic research interests of AETFAT members. These will be worked into a database that will allow comparison of research interests for the FSA with research in other parts of Africa.

FSA volumes published during 1986

Pteridophyta; by E.A.C.L.E. Schelpe & N.C. Anthony (University of Cape Town).

Vol. 18,3. Simaroubaceae - Malphiaceae; by K.L. Immelman (National Herbarium, Pretoria), J.J.A. van der Walt (Stellenbosch University), F. White & B.T. Styles (Oxford University, U.K.), P.D. de Villiers & D.J. Botha (Potchefstroom University).

Vol. 31, Part 1, Fascicle 2, Rubioideae (second part) Paederieae, Anthospermeae, Rubieae; by C. Puff (Herbarium and Botanical Garden, University of Vienna).

TOTAL SPECIES PUBLISHED TO DATE: 2 790 (12,7% of total).

FSA volumes in press

Vol. 16,3 Fabaceae, Papilionoideae, Aspalathus; by R. Dahlgren.

Bryophyta 1,2; by R.E. Magill and J. van Rooy.

Manuscripts with the Editor

- Vol. 5. Liliaceae - Asparagoideae and Dracaenoideae; by A.A. Obermeyer.
- Vol. 8. Zingiberaceae; by R.M. Smith. Orchidaceae (many genera); by E.A. Schelpe, N.C. Anthony, A.V. Hall, K.L. Immelman.
- Vol. 9,1. Casuarinaceae, Ulmaceae; by M. Wilmot-Dear. Piperaceae, Salicaceae, Fagaceae; by K.L. Immelman. Cannabaceae; by M. Wilmot-Dear.
- Vol. 10,2. Polygonaceae - Polygonum; by G. Germishuizen
- Vol. 12. Ceratophyllaceae; by M. Wilmot-Dear.
- Vol. 16,3,1. Fabaceae: Papilionoideae: Aspalathus; by R. Dahlgren.
- Vol. 24. Trapaceae; by B. Verdcourt.
- Vol. 27. Asclepiadaceae - Stapelieae (p.p.); by L.E. Leach.
- Vol. 31. Plantaginaceae; by H.F. Glen.

New research. The following work has been undertaken for the FSA since 1 January 1986.

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Vol. 2. Poaceae. Arundinoideae                  | G. Conert (FR)               |
| Vol. 6. Tecophilaeaceae. <u>Cyanella</u>        | G. Scott (NBG)               |
| Vol. 9. Moraceae. <u>Ficus</u> (in part)        | H. Baijnath (UD-W)           |
| Vol. 12. Portulacaceae & Basellaceae            | H.F. Glen & D.S. Hardy (PRE) |
| Vol. 16 Fabaceae. <u>Lessertia</u>              | G.C. du Plessis              |
| <u>Dichilus</u>                                 | A.L. Schutte (JRAU)          |
| <u>Polhilia</u>                                 | C.H. Stirton (K)             |
| Vol. 19. Polygalaceae. <u>Securidaca</u>        | C. Johnson (UWC)             |
| Callitrichaceae, Buxaceae &                     | H.F. Glen &                  |
| Aquifoliaceae                                   | D.S. Hardy (PRE)             |
| Vol. 24. Oleaceae. <u>Olea</u> (biosystematics) | C. Dyer (J)                  |
| Vol. 30. Acanthaceae. <u>Ruellia</u>            | M.-J. Cadman (NU)            |
| <u>Petalidium</u>                               | M. Craven (NU)               |
| <u>Peristrophe, Dicliptera</u>                  | K. Balkwill (NU)             |
| <u>Anisotes, Metarungia</u>                     | C. Baden (C)                 |

G.E. GIBBS RUSSELL

REPORT TO SAAB ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FLORA CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (FOR 1986)

Mr P.D.M. Parker, Chairman of the F.C.C. announced his resignation from the Botanical Society's Council and the Chairmanship of the F.C.C. on 18th August 1986, after occupying this position for the past 7 years. Later, Prof E.J. Moll was elected Chairman of the F.C.C. This change in leadership resulted in a re-assessment of the Committee's objectives. As the committee was largely engaged in defining its objectives and reorganising its affairs, relatively few activities of any significance to flora conservation were dealt with during the six month period July 1986 - December 1986.

LIST OF MEMBERS

Botanical Society

Mr R.I.G. Attwell  
Mr F. Duckitt  
Prof. J.N. Eloff  
Mr J.A. Fenn (vice-chairman)  
Mr R. Geary-Cooke (ex officio)  
Prof. W.P.U. Jackson (ex officio)  
Mr A.H. Joubert  
Prof. O.A.M. Lewis (ex officio)  
Mr G.J.E. Matthaei  
Mr W.J. Middelmann  
Prof. E.J. Moll (chairman)  
Mrs A. Nunn  
Mr A. Rebelo  
Dr J.P. Rourke (ex officio)\*  
Mr P. Roux  
Mr P. Slingsby  
\* as Chairman: Publications Sub-Committee

Advisors

Ms E.R. Ashton (Cape Town Municipality)  
Mr R. Andrag (Directorate of Forestry)  
Mr C. Blandy (Divisional Council)  
Mr T. Dearlove (National Parks Board)  
Mr J.F. Fick (Divisional Council)  
Miss J.W. Lloyd (CDNEC)  
Mr D.J. McDonald (BRU)

Dr B. McKenzie (UWC)  
Dr J. Neethling (CDNEC)  
Mr P.D.L. Rist (Cape Town Municipality)  
Mr F. van der Kooy (ESCOM)  
Mr D. Wightman (ESCOM)

**PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE**

- (a) Worcester and surrounds: conservation guide plan
- (b) Survey of remaining Strandveld areas
- (c) Survey of Blouberg: area of particular and outstanding floral diversity and scientific interest

**PROPOSALS FOR LONG TERM FUTURE**

- (a) Protea Atlassing Project
- (b) Threatened coastal zone in the Cape Province - a co-ordinated survey/report
- (c) Conservation Education
- (d) A review of South Africa's conservation record for its flora: man's role in changing ecosystems structure and function
- (e) Conservation status reports for Veld and Flora
- (f) Urban Open Space Systems (URBOSS) with Wildlife Society

**The Objects for which the committee is established are:**

- (i) To develop in the minds of the people a practical and sympathetic interest in the conservation of the indigenous flora by means of suitable propaganda, and by such other means as may be deemed desirable.
- (ii) To encourage the establishment of nature reserves by the Government, Municipalities and other public bodies, as well as by private landowners.
- (iii) To create among individuals an interest in the cultivation and propagation of the indigenous flora.
- (iv) To create awareness among and bring pressure to bear on Government, municipalities, corporate bodies and private persons for the protection of the indigenous flora from encroachment of alien vegetation upon lands in their control by all means possible, and to assist and



aid the same in the control of the spread of alien vegetation upon such lands.

- (v) To co-operate in the promotion of legislation for the better preservation of the indigenous flora and the most effective means of administering it.
- (vi) To co-operate with other bodies, both national and international, whose activities are, in whole or in part, similar to those of the Society and Committee.
- (vii) In its own name the Committee may collect funds for the furtherance of its objects.

#### Guidelines for the Flora Conservation Committee

- (i) The FCC should act as the conservation arm of the Botanical Society, with its powerbase and thus credibility being linked to the substantial body of members of the Society.
- (ii) Although the Botanical Society is a national organisation, the FCC should concentrate its conservation efforts on the fynbos vegetation of the Cape, given the present limitations placed on the members of the Committee through their voluntary involvement. Each committee member should use his expertise in the field of conservation to monitor and bring to the attention of the Committee as a whole any relevant matter which could be termed a threat to the survival and/or well-being of the fynbos vegetation of the Cape.
- (iii) The FCC, with the Society's backing, should give support and encouragement to individuals or organisations, whether private or official, concerned with the conservation of the flora. However, the Committee should not hesitate to criticise where necessary or justified.
- (iv) The FCC should be fully supportive of the conservation objectives of the National Botanic Gardens.
- (v) Public awareness of our unique flora and its importance must be continually emphasised through child and adult education. The FCC's Publications Sub-Committee and its support for children's environmental education are two examples of the FCC's active involvement.
- (vi) The FCC should make regular use of the Society's Journal Veld and Flora to publish more information on issues relating to conservation matters.

- (vii) The FCC should maintain contact and liaise with other organisations both national and international, involved with conservation matters.

J.P. ROURKE

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL REGION: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1986

1. Committee: Chairman: Prof. H.A. van de Venter; Vice-Chairman: Prof. J. Coetzee; Secretary: Miss A.P. Backer; Treasurer: Mr D.C. Joubert; Members: Mr C.F. van der Merwe, Miss D.J. van Rensburg, Miss I. von Teichman, Mr R.H. Westfall (representative of the Nature Conservation Committee).

2. Membership: Current membership is 164.

3. Programme for 1986: Five meetings were held during the year. The talks presented were of a general nature and were well attended. The meetings were as follows (attendance figures are supplied in brackets):

6 March: Mr M. Johannsmeier  
"Die interafhanklikheid tussen plante en bye"  
(Members 23; Visitors 23; Total 46)

1 May: Mr J.C. Oosthuysen  
"Die kweek en versorging van broodbome"  
(Members 29; Visitors 23; Total 52)

5 June: Dr A.E. van Wyk  
"Bas - meer as net die kleed van 'n boom"  
(Members 30; Visitors 2; Total 32)

23 June: Prof. J.N. Eloff  
"Die ontginning van groen goud in Suid-Afrika"  
(Members 12; Visitors 35; Total 47)

18 September: Dr J.C. Vogel  
"The Namib: A harsh environment for plants and animals"  
Dr E. Holm  
"Woestynaanpassings by Namibinsekte"  
(Members 29; Visitors 23; Total 52)

The meetings on 6 March and 18 September were arranged in collaboration with the South African Biological Society and that on 23 June in collaboration with the S.A. Aloe Breeders Society.

Two additional meetings which had been planned had to be cancelled due to circumstances beyond the control of the Committee.

Average attendance:

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total</u>
1984	20	10	31
1985	26	28	54
1986	25	21	46

4. Committee meetings: The Committee met on four occasions.

5. Acknowledgements: The Committee members are thanked for their support during 1986. Special thanks to the secretary, Miss A. Backer and the treasurer, Mr D. Joubert for their efforts. The ladies on the Committee who were responsible for the refreshments at the different meetings are thanked for their sterling efforts. The Head of the Botany Department at the University of Pretoria is thanked for use of the tea room. The Director of the Botanical Research Institute is thanked for use of their duplication facilities. Gratitude is expressed towards all the speakers and towards all our loyal supporters who found time to attend meetings in spite of busy programmes.

H.A. VAN DE VENTER

#### ORANJE-VRYSTAATSTREEK: JAARVERSLAG 1986

Bestuur: Voorsitter: Dr L. Scott; Ondervoorsitter: Dr D.B. Müller; Sekretaresse/tesouriere: Mev. A.M. Joubert; Addisionele lid: Prof. V.R. Smith.

Die huidige ledetal van die OVS-streekstak is 49.

Vier algemene vergaderings is gedurende die jaar gehou wat deur gemiddeld meer as die helfte van die lede bygewoon is. Die sprekers by bg. geleentehede was die volgende:

10 April 1986 AJV. Prof. J.U. Grobbelaar:

"Die daaglikse verandering van die verskillende biotiese komponente en koolstofvloeï in die pelagiese gebied van 'n lawameertjie op Marioneiland".

28 Mei 1986 Prof. E.M. van Zinderen Bakker:

"'n Besoek aan Dakar i.v.m. die paleoekologie van Afrika".

23 Oktober 1986 Dr D.B. Müller (Afdeling Natuurbewaring, OVS):

"Plantekologie van die Willem Pretorius Wildtuin".

13 November 1986 AJV Mnr A.A. Gubb:

"Classifying and mapping the vegetation of the Northern Cape using Landsat imagery".

By die algemene jaarvergadering wat in April gehou is, is besluit om voortaan hierdie vergaderings na die laaste byeenkoms van die jaar te skuif. Hierdie geleentheid word vanjaar weer afgesluit met 'n kaas- en wyn onthaal.

Die bestuur soos op die Jaarvergadering verkies, is soos volg:

Voorsitter:	Prof. F.C. Botha
O/Voorsitter:	Mnr J.C. Roos
Sekretaresse/ Tesouriere:	Mev. A.M. Joubert
Addisionele lid:	Mnr P.W.J. van Wyk

#### Streeksadvieskomitee: OVS Nasionale Botaniese Tuin

Die Raad van die Nasionale Botaniese Tuine van Suid-Afrika het besluit om Streeksadvieskomitees in die lewe te roep om onder andere die Direkteur van die NBT te adviseer in verband met die ontwikkeling van die plaaslike tuin, bevordering van die doelstellings van die NBT, ondersteuning van die plaaslike tuin en bemarking daarvan aan die publiek.

Die bestuur het besluit om dr Daan Müller as verteenwoordiger op die plaaslike streeksadvieskomitee te benoem.

Die boekprys wat jaarliks deur die streektak uitgelooft word aan die beste derdejaar-student in Plantkunde, is vanjaar toegeken aan mej. C.R. Janse van Rensburg tydens die Akademiese Prysuitdelingsaand van die Universiteit. Die boekprys word goedgunstiglik deur Nasboek geborg vir 'n tydperk van 3 jaar. Die boekprysfonds wat verlede jaar gestig is om kontinuering van hierdie prys aan Plantkunde studente te verseker, beloop tans R63. Slegs enkele bydraes van lede is nog uitstaande.

Die finansiële posisie van die OVS-tak is redelik gesond nadat die jaarlikse bydrae van die hoofbestuur ontvang is.

Alle lede word hiermee bedank vir hulle samewerking en gereelde bywoning van vergaderings.

L. SCOTT

## SOUTH WESTERN CAPE REGION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 1986

**CONGRATULATIONS:** On behalf of the committee and members I would like to congratulate the following members: Dr Bruce McKenzie with his appointment as senior lecturer in Ecology at the University of the Western Cape since the beginning of the year. Dr Richard Cowling with his appointment as lecturer at the University of Cape Town. Dr Peter Linder with his appointment at the Bolus Herbarium. Prof. Derick Mitchell with his appointment at the University College of Dublin. Prof. Rodney Moffett with his lectureship at the QwaQwa campus of the University of the North and Dr Willy Stock with his lectureship in the Zoology Department of the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg. We wish these three friends everything of the best in their new positions and we thank them for their contribution towards botany in the South Western Cape. We are sad to see them go. Prof. Owen Lewis with the Distinguished Teachers Award that was awarded to him at the end of 1985. Prof. Anthony Hall with the Cape Times Conservation Award. Dr Richard Cowling on receiving the prestigious CSIR Presidents Award. Prof. Owen Lewis with his book PLANTS AND NITROGEN published by Edward Arnold. Colin Straker with his Ph.D. from the University of Cape Town. Colin is currently in Dijon in France on a post-doctoral fellowship.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The membership of our association in the South Western Cape has increased from 136 in 1985 to 160 in 1986. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new members and I do hope that they will benefit from their membership and that they will in turn be able to make positive contributions towards the activities of the Association.

**COMMITTEE:** The committee consisted of the following members: Mr J. Aalbers (Chairman); Mrs. M. Jarman (Vice-chairman); Dr J.E. Watts (Secretary/Treasurer); Miss P. Perry; Miss A. le Roux and Miss C. Liengme.

The following members have reached the end of their term of office: Dr J.E. Watts, Mrs. M. Jarman and Miss P. Perry. Written nominations for the retiring committee members have been asked for.

During the course of the year two formal committee meetings were held - on the 18 March 1986 at UWC and on the 16 October 1986 at Stellenbosch.

**SAAB COUNCIL:** Prof. J.N. Eloff and Dr O.T. de Villiers represented our region on the Council of SAAB.

**MEETINGS:** Three meetings were held during 1986.

21 May 1986 at the University of the Western Cape. (37 members and 14 visitors).

- Prof. C.T. Johnson : Botany at UWC - an education perspective  
Dr B. McKenzie : Fynbos and forest islands - a conservation perspective  
Mr B. Low : Nutrient studies in the Fynbos biome - emerging patterns and immediate priorities  
Mr N. Lewack/J. Aalbers : Nitrogen and phosphorus nutrition of Atriplex nummularia and Atriplex canescens

30 July 1986 Kirstenbosch Lecture Hall, Kirstenbosch (32 members and 9 visitors)

- Mrs. D. Prosch : Chemotaxonomic studies in the Proteaceae  
Dr J.H. de Lange : The planning of in vitro tissue culture work at Kirstenbosch  
Mr P.J. Grobler : Education and information at Kirstenbosch

17 September 1986 The Studio, Botanical Gardens, Stellenbosch (24 members and 5 visitors)

- Miss I. Trautmann : Selkulture - n inleiding tot die vestiging van hierdie kulture  
Miss Y.M. Page : Micropropagation: activities at Stellenbosch  
Mr D.J. McDonald : The vegetation of the Langeberg Grootvadersbosch area  
Mr E. Oliver : Prof. Schelpe - A biography

**VISITING BOTANISTS:** The following botanists from overseas paid our South Western Cape Region a visit during the past year:

Prof. de Fossard from Australia. He is currently presenting a course in tissue culture at the University of Stellenbosch. Prof. D. Wiens from the State University of Utah. Dr R. Berliner from Israel. Dr M.T. Deignan from the University of Belfast. Dr von Willert and colleagues from Germany.

**MEMBERS GOING ON RETIREMENT:** Dr J.G. Smith (US) has already gone on retirement while Dr Karl Schutte (UCT) is retiring at the end of the year. Many thousands of students have gained from their teachings over the years. We wish them well for the future and thank them for their contributions.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** I would like to extend a special word of thanks and appreciation to the members of my committee for their support during the past year. It was a pleasure working with them. Also my sincere thanks to

Dr Jeff Watts, the secretary/treasurer of our committee for the past three years, who is now taking a well deserved break. Dr Watts has been the ideal secretary, both to my predecessor, Dr O.T. de Villiers and myself. Thanks for a job well done.

I also want to thank Pauline Perry and Margie Jarman for their contributions during the past two years. I would also like to express my appreciation towards all the SAAB-members for their support during 1986. An association is only viable if its members are active and constantly trying to improve the image and standing of The Association. Let us all endeavour to make 1987 an even bigger success year for SAAB. On behalf of our Association I would also like to thank the Botanical Society of South Africa for their contribution of one year's free membership of the Society to the three top botany students at the three Southern Universities.

The committee for 1987 will consist of Mr J. Aalbers (Chairman), Miss C.A. Liengme (Secretary/Treasurer), Miss E. Marais, Miss A. le Roux, Mr C. HiltonTaylor, Mrs G. Scott.

J. AALBERS

#### SWA-TAK, JAARVERSLAG VIR 1986

Suidwes-Afrika, hoewel 'n groot land het 'n gebrek aan plantkundiges en die wat wel hier woonagtig is, word gekortwiek deur die lang afstande om byeenkomste by te woon. Gevolglik het hierdie tak nie 'n baie indrukwekkende jaarverslag nie. Die aktiwiteit kan as volg opgesom word:

1. Mevv. P. Craven en B. Loutitt was in die begin van die jaar betrokke by die besoek van 'n groep internasionale deskundiges op gebied van die ligene, langs die Weskus.
2. Dr Johan Pretorius van die R.A.U. lewer 'n baie interessante en 'n goed met skyfies, toegeligte, seminar oor die plantegroei van die Suidwes-Kaap.
3. Lede van die Genootskap is tans aktief besig om fondse in te samel, veral met die verkoop van keramiekteëls, en die Sekretaris/Tesourier, rapporteer dat die balans in die spaarrekening tans R281,50 beloop.
4. Tydens die pas afgelope jaarvergadering is die volgende nuwe bestuur verkies:

Mnr M.A.N. Müller (Voorsitter); Mnr K. Kellner (Onder-Voorsitter); Mev. S. Brown (Sekretaresse); Dr W.J. Jankowitz (Addisionele lid), Mev. E. Maas (Addisionele lid); Mev. G. Roxin (Addisionele lid).

5. Daar is besluit, in reaksie op die versoek, dat die S.A.G.P. kongres in

1990 in Windhoek gehou moet word, dat hierdie tak eers deeglik moet besin of hy met sy beperkte mannekrag en fondse die kongres kan aanbied.

6. Mnr K. Kellner word gelukkig met die verkryging van sy M.Sc. met die titel "n Plantekologiese studie van die Daan Viljoen-wildtuin en die plase Claratal en Neudam in die Hooglandsavanne, S.W.A."

7. Ten slotte word alle lede wat n bydrae gelewer het tot die aktiwiteite van die genootskap van harte bedank en word die nuwe bestuur alle voorspoed toegewens.

W. JANKOWITZ

#### STABILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL SAND DUNES

This is the title of a pamphlet that was produced last year by Professor R.A. Lubke and Mr A.M. Avis. It is 8 pages long and contains practical information on:

- \* Where to build in the coastal zone
- \* Why, when and where to stabilize sand dunes
- \* How to erect sand-arresting barriers
- \* Methods of stabilizing dunes with vegetation
- \* What seeds or seedlings to plant in sandy coastal regions
- \* How to manage and maintain plants in the dune environment

If any members have a particular interest in coastal problems and would like a copy we will provide it (free of cost) if a stamped self-addressed envelope is sent to the authors, C/O Department of Plant Sciences, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, 6140.

R.A. LUBKE

#### NATURAL HISTORY BOOK SERVICE, RUSSEL FRIEDMAN BOOK ENTERPRISES

It has come to the notice of the editor of 'Forum Botanicum' that the 10% discount referred to on p. 1 of Vol. 25, no. 1, no longer applies. This discount was offered to members of any organisation involved in conservation, also SAAB. The editor regrets any inconvenience caused.

#### BOTANICAL and HORTICULTURAL BOOK SERVICE

Mrs. E.R. Middelman offers a specialised book service under the title of HONINGKLIP NURSERIES and BOOK SALES (Postal address: 13 Lady Anne Avenue,



Newlands 7700, South Africa). The current pricelist contains about 175 books and pamphlets, many of them rare collector's items and valuable Africana. In the main the clients are overseas scientists, institutions, Universities, Botanic Gardens, Arboreta etc., but local orders are just as appreciated. The pricelist is regularly updated and from time to time sent to those on the mailing list.

#### POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN PLANT SYSTEMATICS AT RHODES UNIVERSITY

With the increasing awareness of the shortage of Plant Systematists (taxonomists) in South Africa, the attention of aspirant systematists is drawn to the facilities and opportunities available in the Department of Plant Sciences, Rhodes University.

Rhodes University is situated within the extremely diverse flora of the eastern Cape. In this part of southern Africa several phytogeographic regions meet. These being the Cape, the Karoo-Namib, the Kalahari-Highveld, the Afromontane and the Tongaland-Pondoland regions. The internationally recognised Rhodes University herbarium (RUH) has some 31 000 specimens while the close proximity of the larger Albany Museum herbarium (GRA) is an added asset for systematics studies of the flora of the eastern Cape or further afield.

#### Research facilities include:

Computer facilities for undertaking numerical (phenetic) studies using the programme NTSYS, and for phylogenetic studies, involving cladistics, using the programme PAUP. The Descriptive Language for Taxonomy (DELTA) computer system is also available for the production of descriptions, diagnoses, keys and various numerical analyses. Computerized data base and wordprocessing facilities are also available. Besides light and electron microscope facilities there is also apparatus for undertaking vertical gel electrophoresis and equipment for anatomical and karyological studies. There is an excellent library containing all of the standard taxonomic reference works.

There is good contact with the South African liaison officer in the herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom and there is regular communication with a number of the Kew Systematists.

#### Current research interests in systematics include:

- (a) studies on the systematics of the winter rainfall species of Aristea (Iridaceae);
- (b) studies on the generic concept of Senecio (Asteraceae):
- (c) the pollen wall morphology of the Senecioneae:

- (d) the anatomy of the pericarp of cypselas (achenes) of the Senecioneae;
- (e) species concepts in Solanum (Solanaceae);
- (f) elucidative studies on the reproductive biology of Erythrina caffra (Fabaceae) - in collaboration with the department of Entomology.

Studies with a bias towards pure taxonomy or combined with an experimental (biosystematic) approach can be supervised and these studies need not be within the current research interests mentioned above. Collaborative work with other science departments is also encouraged.

Funding from the CSIR in the form of Honours, M.Sc. and post-M.Sc. bursaries can be applied for (NB closing date 1 December 1987). Residence bursaries and Graduate Assistantships can also be applied for.

For further information contact:

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#### NUUS UIT SARN BULLETIN NR 1

#### Die Natuurwetenskaplike en Advertering

Hierdie bydrae oor advertering is van ons regsadviseur ontvang. Lede dien daarop te let dat ons gedragskode verskil van dié van ouer professies. Sy advies lui:

Die professionele gedragskode bepaal dat 'n natuurwetenskaplike by die beoefening van sy professionele dienste op 'n selfverheffende wyse of op 'n wyse wat die waardigheid van die professionele diens sou skaad, mag adverteer nie.

Dit kom basies daarop neer dat 'n natuurwetenskaplike nie sy professionele dienste mag adverteer nie op 'n wyse -

- \* wat sy eie werk aanprys
- \* wat nie waar en feitelik is nie
- \* wat impliseer dat ander natuurwetenskaplikes 'n minderwaardige diens sou lewer, of
- \* wat die waardigheid van die professionele diens skaad.

'n Natuurwetenskaplike mag egter sy praktyk, beskikbaarheid en ondervinding bekend maak deur individue en organisasies regstreeks te nader en hom, met

die nodige decorum, aan hulle voor te stel. Hy mag hom ook bekend stel deur middel van 'n gids, brosjure of pamflet waarin hy sy ondervinding en vermoëns omskryf. Hierdie inligting moet in wese feitelik, waardig in wyse van aanbieding en toepaslik wees. Dit mag nie misleidend, of onregverdig teenoor ander wees of tot oneer van die natuurwetenskaplike professie strek nie. In laasgenoemde verband bepaal die professionele gedragskode ook dat 'n natuurwetenskaplike nie 'n wanvoorstelling van sy eie akademiese of professionele kwalifikasies of dié van sy kollegas mag gee nie òf sy, òf hul aandeel in enige natuurwetenskaplike werk mag oordryf nie.

Origens mag 'n natuurwetenskaplike artikels aan die nuusmedia stuur of onderhoude toestaan oor sy eie werk of oor natuurwetenskaplike onderwerpe van algemene belang, op voorwaarde dat hy geen geldelike of ander vergoeding vir so 'n publikasie, uitsending of beeldsending aanbied of betaal word nie.

#### Planning a trip abroad?

A useful booklet entitled 'Planning Visits Abroad - Notes for South African Scientists' is available from the Publishing Division, CSIR, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria 0001.

#### Newton's 'Principia' commemorated

This year marks the 300th anniversary of Newton's Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica, generally known as 'Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy'. He began this work in March 1686 and completed it a few months later.

The Principia explained for the first time the way in which a single mathematical law could account for phenomena of the heavens, the tides, and the motion of objects on Earth. In fact, the whole development of modern science begins with this great treatise.

#### A grand old man of Science

Dr John Frederick Vicars Phillips, Sci Nat, emeritus professor and until his death South Africa's oldest practising ecologist, recently passed away at the age of 88.

He registered as a natural Scientist in 1983, submitting in support of his application an 11-page CV et al which he had personally typed on a 1929 model portable typewriter. He refused to allow his registration to lapse or to accept any waiver of his annual fees.

His was a most distinguished career and a life devoted to its very end to the pursuit of knowledge. SACNAS deems it a privilege and an honour to do homage to a natural scientist of the stature of the late Dr Phillips.

### Food for Thought

1. The disappearance of good maths and physics teachers from Britain's schools is threatening to blight Britain's progress long into the next century. If it is allowed to go much further there will be no recovery for generations. — Sir George Porter, President, British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Are we perhaps heading the same way?

2. Scientists are children who don't stop asking questions when they grow up.

3. "The work of the scientist is based upon a conviction that nature is basically orderly. Evidence to support this faith can be seen with the naked eye - in the design of a honeycomb or a mollusc's shell - but scientists come upon order at every level of being. The physicist finds it in the arrangement of atoms on a needle's point, the entomologist in the structure of a mosquito's eye, the crystallographer in the architecture of crystals. The scientist's primary interest in order is in the information it supplies: the orderly laws of what, why and when. And when he finds the order he seeks he often finds beauty as well. The landscape, microscopic or macroscopic, that engrosses the scientist has symmetry, grace and balance. It is a landscape ... that can delight 'the scientist's brain, the poet's heart; the painter's eye ... that has both the character of information and the quality of poetic vision'".

— (The Scientist: LIFE SCIENCE LIBRARY).

### REDAKTRISE/EDITOR

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