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

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## AN INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP ON CYTOGENETICS

**Date:** July 5-7 1989; **Venue:** Department of Botany, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg; **Convenor:** Prof. C.H. Stirton; **Speakers:** Prof. J.J. Spies (University of the Orange Free State); Mrs H. du Plessis and Mrs. E.J.L. Saayman (Botanical Research Institute); assisted by Dr D. Rausch (Department of Genetics, University of Natal, PMB). The workshop will cover meiosis and its interpretation, basic chromosome counts, polyploidy, aneuploidy, meiotic abnormalities (univalents, laggards, B-chromosomes, inversions, translocations, bridges, and fragments). The practical application of cytogenetics to systematics will be addressed. Emphasis throughout will be on practical applications with hands-on experience. One of the mornings will be devoted to a panel discussion and will be the speakers responses to written questions, and photos requiring interpretation.

VACANT POSTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

REFERENCE: S4/5/3/1/1

POSTS: Forestry Scientist (Ecologist), Forestry Scientist (Geneticist)

CENTRES: Saasveld FRC (George), D.R. de Wet FRC (Sabie)

SALARY: Negotiable

ENQUIRIES: Miss Coetzee

APPLICATIONS: The Director, SAFRI, P.O. Box 727, Pretoria

QUALIFICATIONS: / recognised, appropriate, 4-year B-degree or 3-year B-degree plus Honours. Appropriate fields are forest science/nature conservation, botany/zoology, ecological or biological sciences. A M.Sc. degree will be a strong recommendation.

1. DUTIES (ECOLOGIST) SAASVELD

The Forestry Branch of the Department of Environment Affairs maintains an active research programme in the fynbos and associated vegetation in the Southern and Eastern Cape. Current research focus is on conservation biology, population processes as determinants of successional change, fire ecology, plant-animal interactions and invasions by exotic species. The appointee would join a small team of scientists and technicians. There is ample opportunity for collaboration with scientists in indigenous forest and forest site research programmes.

2. DUTIES (GENETICIST) D.R. DE WET

Development and management of a current breeding programme on tropical and subtropical pine species. Emphasis will be placed on applied breeding and development of techniques to produce genetically improved trees. Development of hybrids and cloning of superior material will receive priority.

REFERENCE: S4/5/3/1/1

POSTS: Forestry Scientist (Nutritionist), Forestry Scientist (Tree Physiologist), Forestry Scientist (Soil Chemist).

CENTRES: D.R. De Wet FRC (Sabie), Saasveld FRC (George)

SALARY: Negotiable to R34 629

ENQUIRIES: Miss Coetzee

APPLICATIONS: The Director, SAFRI, P.O. Box 727, Pretoria

QUALIFICATIONS: A recognised, appropriate, 4-year B-degree or 3-year B-degree plus Honours. Graduates in forests science, soils sciences, botany, hydrology, geography, geology, agriculture and applied mathematics, will be considered pending the nature of the duties of the posts involved. A proven ability of communicating on scientific level through the written and spoken word is important.

1. DUTIES (NUTRITIONIST) D.R. DE WET

Join a team of research scientists in the field of forest nutrition in the summer rainfall areas. Duties will be related to research on fertilization of plantations, with emphasis on interaction with site factors and the ecophysiology processes it is associated with.

2. DUTIES (PHYSIOLOGIST) D.R. DE WET

The successful applicant will join a team of research scientists in the field of production. Direct projects on the biology of tree growth, the development of abnormal wood anatomy, and/or fundamental problems in the vegetative propagation of trees; work on the study of stress physiology, water- and nutritional use efficiency of trees.

3. DUTIES (SOIL CHEMIST) SAASVELD

Join a team of research scientists in the field of different aspects on forest sites country wide. Do research on the availability of mineral nutrients on lean soils, the effect of afforestation on soil development and aspects of fertilisation.

REFERENCE: S4/5/3/1/1

POSTS: Forestry Research Technician: Hydrology (2 posts), Silviculture (1 post), Tree breeding (1 post)

CENTRES: DR de Wet FRC (Sabie), Jonkershoek FRC (Stellenbosch), Saasveld FRC (George)

SALARY: Negotiable

ENQUIRIES: Miss Coetzee

APPLICATIONS: The Director, SAFRI, P.O. Box 727, Pretoria

QUALIFICATIONS: Diploma in Forestry or recognised, appropriate, 3-year degree

1. DUTIES FORESTRY RESEARCH TECHNICIANS : TREE BREEDING (SABIE), SILVICULTURE (SAASVELD)

- (a) Integrate with selection research
- (b) Cultivation and establish Pine progeny and provenance trials
- (c) Maintain and evaluate existing and newly established trials
- (d) Handling of computer and data capturing devices
- (e) Integrate with the administration and management of the research centre

2. DUTIES FORESTRY RESEARCH TECHNICIAN : HYDROLOGY (2 POSTS), JONKERSHOEK, D.R. DE WET FRC

- (a) Co-ordination and execution of technical tasks for a range of hydrological projects
- (b) Management of data collection networks and the maintenance of instrumentation at field sites, including automatic data capture units
- (c) Calibration and installation of instrumentation in the field and in the laboratory
- (d) Data management and processing
- (e) Administration (budgets, purchases, etc)
- (f) Training and control of staff

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, ANNUAL REPORT 1988

The Union held its 23rd General Assembly in Canberra, Australia in October 1988. South Africa was represented by Mr Gerard Prinsloo of the National Insect Collection of the Department of Agriculture who was accompanied by Mrs Enid du Plessis of the CSIR.

At the General Assembly the following persons were elected as members of the IUBS Council for the next three years:

President: Prof J. Salanki of Hungary (Cell Biologist)  
Vice-Presidents: Prof. F. di Castri of France (Animal Ecologist)  
Prof W.D.L. Ride of Australia (Zoologist)  
Secretary-General: Prof. G. Nicolis of Belgium (Mol. Biologist)  
Treasurer: Prof. D.F. Roberts of the UK (Human Geneticist)

Ordinary Voting members:

Prof. B. Dias of Brazil (Entomologist)  
Prof. W. Greuter of West Germany (Botanist)  
Prof. A. Khalaf of Iraq (Limnologist)  
Prof. T. Okada of Japan (Cell Developmental Biologist)  
Prof. V. Sokolof of the USSR (Zoologist-Ecologist)  
Prof. I.E.P. Taylor of Canada (Cell Biologist-Biochemist)  
Prof. A. Urbanek of Poland (Paleontologist-Theoretical Biologist)

The next General Assembly of the IUBS will be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in 1991.

The membership of the present incumbents of the South African National Committee of the IUBS expires in March 1989. It is envisaged that the next National Committee will be reduced in size from the present 17 members to five with the right to co-opt additional members for specific purposes. Contact with the various biological societies will however be maintained (or even increased) through correspondence emanating from the ICSU Secretariat at the CSIR in Pretoria.

The South African National Committee of the IUBS has also decided to take the initiative in organizing an INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON TAXONOMIC PROBLEMS IN REGIONS OF HIGH BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION in Cape Town in September/October 1989 with the blessing of the IUBS. The meeting will jointly be organized by the South African Association of Botanists, the Board of the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa and the South African National Committee of the IUBS. Dr W. Greuter of West-Berlin will attend the meeting as the guest of the National Committee of the IUBS.

N. GROBBELAAR

**NATIONAL WORKING GROUP FOR VEGETATION ECOLOGY,  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1988**

There have been no organised activities during the past year. New correspondents have been added to the mailing list and some changes of address have been noted. We have also been able to be of assistance to fellow workers in the processing of their data. The future situation of the Botanical Research Institute vis-a-vis the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply has introduced uncertainty as to future developments which have been held in abeyance for the time being.

The ecological data bank has 30 sets of field data of which 18 are phytosociological in form and suitable for phytosociological processing. Of the latter 18 sets, 16 sets have already been loaded onto the computer. Moreover, there are 8 sets of monitoring data of which 2 are currently in a form suitable for loading onto the computer. The hard-copy data bank comprises 34 'publications' with phytosociological data, of which 'publications' data sets, 14 sets are also available as field data. 'Publications' data of this type are being accumulated at a steady rate.

**RAAD VIR WETENSKAPLIKE PUBLIKASIES,  
JAARVERSLAG VIR 1988**

As gevolg van beperkte fondse, word daar in toenemende mate druk op die Raad vir Wetenskaplike Publikasies uitgeoefen om, afgesien van die geld wat van Tesourie ontvang word, addisionele fondse op ander wyses te bekom. Daar kan dus verwag word dat die gelde wat die wetenskaplike verenigings vir die Nasionale Tydskrifte betaal, in die nabye toekoms aansienlik verhoog gaan word.

'n Ander voorstel wat aandag geniet, is die heffing van bladsyfooie van skrywers wat in die Nasionale Tydskrifte publiseer. Party lede van die RWP wat baie sterk gekant is teen die heffing van bladsyfooie, wil eerder sien dat die verskillende Nasionale tydskrifte ge-evalueer moet word en dat daardie tydskrifte wat nie op die internasionale arena sterk vertoon nie se kontrakte met die RWP opgesê moet word ten einde te kan voortgaan om die 'goeie' Nasionale Tydskrifte sterk te kan subsidieer.

Uit bogenoemde kan verder afgelei word dat dit in die voorsienbare toekoms al hoe moeiliker vir Wetenskaplike Verenigings gaan word om hul tydskrifte as Nasionale Tydskrifte uitgegee te kry.

Onder die bestaande Nasionale Tydskrifte staan die S. Afr. Tydskr. Plantk. redelik sterk alhoewel sy buitelandse sirkulasie en internasionale trefkrag heelwat laer is as die van byvoorbeeld die S. Afr. Tydskr. Weten. en die S. Afr. Tydskr. Chem.

**N. GROBBELAAR**

**SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF BOTANY,  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1988**

Number of manuscripts submitted for publication:	118
Requests to referees for reviews:	404
Reports received from referees:	334
Reminders to referees:	120
Number of manuscripts accepted for publication:	96
Manuscripts returned to authors for revision:	98
Manuscripts rejected:	7
Average number of days from date of submission to date of acceptance:	112

**A total of 94 articles were published during 1988 on the following subjects:**

Taxonomy:	32
Ecology:	11
Seed Germination:	10
Vegetation Classification:	7
Phytochemistry:	6
Tissue Culture:	6
Economic Botany:	3
Plant Pathology:	3
Pollination:	3
Alien Vegetation:	2
Seed Dispersal:	2
Cladistics:	1
Seed Structure:	1

**J.N. ELOFF**

FLORA CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA,  
REPORT FOR 1988

**INTRODUCTION**

The year was one of consolidation and increased activity for the Flora Conservation Committee (FCC), mainly as a result of the employment of a salaried Conservation Liaison Officer (CLO) in the latter part of 1987. This has led to greater continuity and greater involvement in conservation at all levels.

**GENERAL**

The FCC is now fully represented, through the CLO, on the Executive Committee of the Habitat Council, the Tourism Working Group of the Regional Development Advisory Committee of the Western Cape Region, the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the IUCN SA Committee, the Western Cape Branch Committee of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, and the Interim Steering Committee for the 'Greening of the Greater Cape Town Region' Project.

Liaison with Government has improved, but need to get better yet to overcome the inherent resistance to help from non-governmental organisations (NGO), and the fear that NGOs only criticise.

The Western Cape Fynbos emphasis of the FCC, caused by the geographical distribution of the Botanical Society membership, and the problems the region faces, needs to be altered to reflect more accurately the fact that the Society is a national organisation. Progress in this field has been slow during this year of consolidation.

An operating budget of R35 000 for 1988/89 has been a restraining influence, particularly when it is considered that the CLO's salary is included in the figure, as well as one botanical survey of the Cape Flats, which has been sponsored with R12 000.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Some of the more interesting items with which the FCC has been involved are as follows:

1. **Issues.** The FCC has supported the Still Bay Trust in its campaign surrounding the controversial rezoning of both sides of the Kaffer-



kuils River Mouth, and there has been a measure of success. Support was also given to the proposal to deproclaim Minor Road 141, which runs through 3 private nature reserves near Bredasdorp, which has now been achieved after a campaign of 26 years. Attempts to stop the officially condoned violation of Kleinmond Nature Reserve have failed. But the FCC has been successful in increasing official interest in the uncoordinated 'hit and run' tactics of small-scale diamond prospectors on the West Coast, which are destroying the natural environment, and are spoiling the future of the area for tourism and recreation. Much work has also been done to have the suspension on further research into the biological control of Australian invasive plants lifted.

2. **Surveys.** The FCC has sponsored a botanical survey of the Cape Flats area, before too much is lost through much-needed housing programmes, and is also involved in a new survey of Table Mountain. The FCC has joined the Wildlife Society and the S.A. Nature Foundation in sponsoring a botanical survey of an area west of Darling, which until recently has been dismissed as 'Strandveld', when it actually is an area surprisingly rich in species, some of these being components of Fynbos.

3. **Woodlot Seminar.** A very successful one-day seminar was organised in February, when the possibility of using alien vegetation as an alternative source of energy for the Greater Cape Town Region was discussed. The conclusion was that, contrary to expectations, paraffin was more important, and that ultimately electricity had to be the answer, although there was a need to exploit the alien vegetation better in the meantime.

4. **Environmental Education.** A start has been made in getting teacher's training colleges of the SW Cape interested in environmental education as a means of passing this on to the children, once the trainee teachers have completed their courses.

5. **FCC Scholarship.** The FCC Scholarship for 1988 was not taken up, but an award has been made to a student from the University of Venda for an Honours course in Botany during 1989.

6. **Miscellaneous.** The CLO privately viewed the excellent conservation efforts ARMSCOR is taking in the Restricted Area of the Overberg

Missile Test Centre near Bredasdorp. Other activities included visits to Natal for seeing the Metropolitan Open Space System (MOSS), and visiting some game reserves and the headquarters of the Natal Parks Board, and a visit to the Transvaal Nature Conservation Division in Pretoria. Issues taken up included a moratorium on burning in mountain catchment areas, the burning policy for Table Mountain, an illegal dam in SWA/Namibia, the suspension of the proclamation of new nature areas, a R2,9 billion (yes, billion!!) holiday resort and game reserve project for the east side of Clanwilliam Dam (the promoter has disappeared), and cycad stealing in the Transvaal.

#### SUMMARY

It has been an increasingly successful year for the Flora Conservation Committee, with a good chance that its greater credibility could be useful in the future. More money is needed to increase its effectiveness, and improved budgetary arrangements may allow this to happen. This is one of the objectives for 1989, and another is making the FCC more representative in flora conservation throughout the Republic.

W. VAN WARMELO

#### WORKING GROUP FOR THE FLORA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, 1988 REPORT

1. Twenty-four persons attended the working group for contributors to the Flora of Southern Africa, held at the annual congress of SAAB in Cape Town, January 1988.
2. The AETFAT Register of Taxonomic Projects in Africa continues to be operated as a PDS-ADEPT database on the BTOS operating system on a Burroughs 26 microcomputer network. Camera-ready copy for information up to September 1987 was published in the AETFAT Bulletin. Since then, many additional information forms for members have been received from Hamburg, and all have been entered. Camera-ready copy for new entries between September 1987 and September 1988 was sent to the Secretariat in Hamburg, and these will be published in the next AETFAT Bulletin, along with a corrected key to geographical regions, which had a ruinous typographical error.

3. FSA fascicles published during 1988.

Volume 16 Fabaceae, Part 3 Papilionoideae, Fascicle 6 Crotalariaeae (Aspalathus) by the late Rolf Dahlgren.

TOTAL SPECIES PUBLISHED TO DATE: 3 023 (about 14% of total).

4. FSA fascicles in press.

Volume 5 Liliaceae, Aloinae, consisting of Aloe (H.F. Glen & D.S. Hardy), Gasteria (E. van Jaarsveld) and Kniphofia (L.E. Codd)

Volume 30 Part 3, Acanthaceae, Justiciinae, consisting of Justicia (K.L. Immelman), Monechma (J. Munday) and minor genera by various authors.

5. FSA fascicles nearing completion.

Vol. 5. Liliaceae, Asparagoideae: Protasparagus, Myrsiphyllum, Dracaenoideae: Sansevieria, Dracaena; by A.A. Mauve, K.L. Immelman.

Vol. 8. Orchidaceae; by H.P. Linder, E.A. Schelpe, N.C. Anthony, A.V. Hall, J. Stewart, K.L. Immelman.

Vol. 9. Casuarinaceae, Piperaceae, Salicaceae, Myricaceae, Fagaceae, Ulmaceae, Moraceae, Cannabaceae, Urticaceae; by K.L. Immelman, M. Wilmot-Dear, I. Friis, H. Baijnath, D.J.B. Killick.

6. FSA fascicles with solid progress.

Volume 11 Mesembryanthemaceae, Leipoldtiinae (H. Hartmann and students).

Volume 24 Myrtaceae (A.E. van Wyk), Onagraceae (P. Goldblatt & P. Raven), Combretaceae (E.F. Hennessy), Lythraceae (K.L. Immelman).

Volume 28 Convolvulaceae (A.D.J. Meeuse & W.G. Welman).

Volume 30 Pedaliaceae (H.-D. Ihlenfeldt) and Gesneriaceae (O.M. Hilliard).

7. Other manuscripts with the Editor

Vol. 2. Poaceae; Poeae by H.P. Linder; Meliceae by G.E. Gibbs Russell; Alloteropsis by G.E. Gibbs Russell.

- Vol. 8 Zingiberaceae; by R.M. Smith; Flagellariaceae by H.P. Linder.
- Vol. 10,2. Polygonaceae; by G. Germishuizen.
- Vol. 12. Ceratophyllaceae; by M. Wilmot-Dear.
- Vol. 24. Onagraceae; by P. Goldblatt & P. Raven.  
Trapaceae; by B. Verdcourt.
- Vol. 27. Asclepiadaceae, Stapelia (in part); by L.C. Leach.
8. New research. The following work has been undertaken since 1 January 1988.
- Vol. 2. Poaceae: Aveneae by H.P. Linder.
- Vol. 3. Cyperaceae: Scirpus by J. Browning.
- Vol. 5. Liliaceae: Caesia by J. Vlok.
- Vol. 11. Mesembryanthemaceae: Machyrophyllum by J. Vlok.
- Vol. 16. Fabaceae: Argyrolobium by T. Edwards; Calpurnia by A.J. Beaumont; Dalbergia by A. Fleming.
- Vol. 17. Oxalidaceae by C.H. Stirton.
- Vol. 18. Rutaceae: Acmadenia by J.M. Viviers
- Vol. 19. Euphorbiaceae: Acalypha by C.R. Scott-Shaw.
- Vol. 23. Thymelaeaceae: Lachnaea by J. Beyers.
- Vol. 24. Apiaceae: Rhyticarpus by B.E. van Wyk.
- Vol. 27. Asclepiadaceae: Cynancheae by S. Liede.
- Vol. 28. Verbenaceae: Verbena (pollination biology) by C. Norris.
- Vol. 33. Asteraceae: Bidens, Coreopsis, Guizotia, Jaumea, Microlecan by T.J.G. Rayner (Reading); Disparago by M. Koeke-moer.

S.A.A.B. - S.W.A. REGION : ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1988

1. Membership of this regional branch still stands at 19. Effort is continually put into recruiting new members and all qualified botanists known of in the country are approached, and most have already taken out membership. We have now decided to make an effort to recruit some student members, now that the University of Namibia is in existence. We will also look into the possibility of student members who are doing degrees through Unisa or busy with postgraduate projects in this country.
2. Several members of this branch attended the 1988 S.A.A.B. Congress, and we hope to have four delegates at the 1989 Congress.
3. Due to the low membership numbers and the long distances that many members have to cover to attend meetings we decided to try having one big meeting this year, preceded by a lecture from a visiting botanist, and to try to concentrate the attendance of as many members as possible. The lecture was given by Prof. Charles Breen of the Institute of Natural Resources at the University of Natal, and was entitled 'Grazing system stability in macrophyte dominated aquatic ecosystems'. It was very interesting, and was well attended. We will in future again try to time meetings to coincide with the visits of botanists to the country who are able to deliver lectures to our branch.
4. As two years had elapsed with the present committee in office, it was necessary to elect new office bearers. It was found, however, that due to low membership numbers, and the fact that members are spread so far and wide over the country, and that even those based in Windhoek are often very heavily committed to fieldwork programmes outside of town, that the only suitable candidate for chairmanship was Dr M.A.N. Müller, who had held this position for the past two years. Dr Müller agreed to continue in this capacity until such time as a suitable replacement could be found.

The present committee consists, therefore, of:

- Dr M.A.N. Müller (Chairman)
- Miss H.H. Kolberg (Secretary)
- Dr W. Jankowitz (Additional member)
- Mrs. B. Loutit (Additional member)
- Dr S. de Wet (Additional member)

5. Dr M.A.N. Müller is congratulated on receiving his doctorate on the genus Eriocephalus and he and his staff are congratulated on their excellent display at the Flora 1988 exhibition.

6. Finances: Members of the local branch are active in collecting funds to cover the expenses of this branch. At present the balance in our savings account stands at R383,47.

All members who contributed to the activities of the S.W.A. branch of the Association in 1988 are thanked for their participation.

M.A.N. MÜLLER

**SAGP - N.TVL-TAK : JAARVERSLAG 1988**

**Bestuur:** Voorsitter: Dr Elzabé Schoonraad  
Onder-Voorsitter: Mnr Chris van der Merwe  
Sekretaresse: Mej. Elizabeth Retief  
Penningmeester: Mnr Marion Meyer  
Lede: Prof. Jan Coetzee  
Mev. Ilse van der Westhuijzen

**Werkzaamhede:** Gedurende 1988 is daar 6 voordragte deur deskundiges gelewer oor verskillende onderwerpe van algemene belang, wat gewissel het van die beeldende kunste tot genetiese manipulasie.

- 3 Maart:** Mev. Renell Hattingh (U.P.): Beginsels van Tuinbeplanning.  
**21 April:** Dr K. Esser, Ruhr Universiteit, Bochum, Wes-Duitsland: Potentials and prospects of Genetics in Biotechnology.  
**2 Junie:** Mnr M.J. Wells (NIP): Perspectives on invaders  
**4 Augustus:** Prof. A.E. Duffey, Departement Kunstgeskiedenis, U.P.: Plants through the eyes of master artists through the ages.  
**8 September:** Prof. N. Sauer, Dekaan Fakulteit Wis. Nat. (U.P.): Die waarheid omtrent die kosmos of die aaklige nagmerrie van 'n rekenaar-maniak  
**13 Oktober:** Prof. N. Grobbelaar, Departement Plantkunde, U.P.: Broodboomnavorsing.

Daar was gemiddeld 20 persone by elke lesing teenwoordig.

Die komitee-lede word bedank vir hul bydrae. Hierdie jaar is gekenmerk deur die besonder interessante sosiale byeenkomste van nie-plantkun-

dige aard wat na elke lesing plaasgevind het. In hierdie verband word veral Ilse van der Westhuijzen en Marion Meyer bedank, asook Thea van Rensburg wat nie eens 'n komiteelid was nie. Ook word die volgende hartlik bedank: Die Direkteur van die NIP vir fasiliteite verskaf i.v.m. tik en fotokopieer van kennisgewings; Antoinette Backer vir die druk van adres-etikette en Chris van der Merwe vir skyfieprojektering. Elizabeth Retief het te kenne gegee dat sy nie weer beskikbaar sal wees om volgende jaar op die komitee te dien nie. 'n Besondere woord van dank aan haar vir die puik wyse waarop sy die sekretariële werk van die Tak die afgelope twee jaar behartig het. Sonder die opoffering van ons sprekers kon ons nie die suksesvolle byeenkomste aangebied het nie. Baie dankie aan almal wat soveel moeite gedoen het met die voorbereiding en lewering van hul lesings.

E. SCHOONRAAD

#### SAGP OVS-STREEK : JAARVERSLAG 1988

Die 1988 bestuur was soos volg saamgestel:

Voorsitter	:	Mnr J.C. Roos
Onder-Voorsitter	:	Mnr P.W.J. van Wyk
Sekretaresse/tesouriere	:	Mev. A.M. Joubert
Addisionele lid	:	Mnr G.P. Potgieter

Gedurende die jaar is 4 vergaderings gehou waartydens die volgende lesings aangebied is:

- 10 Maart 1988, Mej. Marianna Steenkamp (Dept. Plantkunde, UOVS): 'Navorsing op Marioneiland'.
- 28 April 1988, Dr Hennie Snyman (Dept. Weidingsleer): 'Waterbalansstudies op natuurlike veld van die sentrale OVS'.
- 25 Augustus 1988, Mnr P.C. Zietsman (Nasionale Museum): 'Die bestuingsbiologie van Ziziphus mucronata'.
- 3 November 1988, Mnr Wynand Swart (Dept. Plantpatologie): 'Die biologie van Sphaeropsis sapinea - 'n patogeen van dennebome in Suid-Afrika'.

Die vergaderings is, soos in die verlede, goed deur die lede bygevoon. Die bywoningsyfer was ongeveer 60%. Die huidige ledetal van die

streektak is 40. Die algemene jaarvergadering van die OVS-streek op 3 November 1988 was die laaste vergadering van die jaar en is soos in die verlede met 'n kaas- en wyn-funksie afgesluit.

Die jaarlikse boekprys van die voortreflikste student in Plantkunde is nie vanjaar (3de jaar 1987) toegeken nie, aangesien daar nie 'n geskikte kandidaat was nie. Van Schaik's Boekwinkel het onderneem om hul borgskap vir volgende jaar te hernu, maar beklemtoon die noodsaaklikheid van volle erkenning by die prysoorhandiging. Die boekprysfonds wat deur die streektak begin is om kontinuering van die boekprys te verseker, beloop tans R143,86. Daar sal dus nog volgende jaar meer vrywillige bydraes van ten minste R1,00 van lede gevra word.

Ter afsluiting is dit vir my aangenaam om al die lede van die Vrystaattak hartlik te bedank vir die goeie samewerking en gereelde bywoning van die vergaderings die afgelope jaar.

Die volgende bestuur is vir 1989 gekies:

Voorsitter	:	Mnr P.W.J. van Wyk
Onder-Voorsitter	:	Mnr G.P. Potgieter
Sekretaresse/tesouriere	:	Mev. A.M. Joubert
Addisionele lid	:	Mnr P.J. du Preez

J.C. ROOS

**SAAB : SOUTH WESTERN CAPE REGION  
REPORT FOR 1988**

**MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the South Western Cape Region is continuing to increase and now stands at 180. Welcome to the new members, and we wish you a long and enjoyable association with SAAB.

**COMMITTEE**

The Committee for 1988 comprised of Pat Manders (Chairman), Christine Liengme (Secretary/Treasurer), Craig Hilton-Taylor, Bettie Marais, Gill Scott, Ilse Trautmann and Frans Weitz. Committee meetings were held on 22 March (Kirstenbosch) and 5 October (University of Stellenbosch). The members retiring from the committee at the end of 1988 are Craig Hilton Taylor, Christine Liengme, Bettie Marais and Gill Scott.



## MEMBERS' NEWS

Congratulations to Jim Kaiser for obtaining his Ph. D. at the University of Cape Town and to Lincoln Waite for obtaining his Ph.D. at the University of Stellenbosch. Congratulations are also due to Christine Liengme, Neil Lewack, Francois van der Heyden, Frans Weitz and J.C. Coetzee on the successful completion of their M.Sc. studies this year.

The region was well represented at the AETFAT congress at Hamburg in September which was attended by Prof. Adri van der Walt, Prof. Eugene Moll, Piet Vorster, Peter Linder, Fiona Archer and Frans Weitz.

The MEDECOS symposium in July at Montpellier was also attended by a good contingent comprising of Prof. Owen Lewis, Barry Low, Dave Richardson, Willy Stock and Mike Rutherford.

Apart from attending the AETFAT conference, Prof. Eugene Moll also went to a British Ecological Society meeting in Oxford, and an ADENEX symposium in Spain during September.

Prof. Owen Lewis visited Israel this year to follow up research which originated in his 1987 sabbatical visit.

Richard Cowling spent some time in Australia, during which he presented a paper at the Biennial meeting of the Australian Ecological Society.

Brian van Wilgen spent a few months in Australia looking at gradient modelling and geographical information systems for application in South Africa.

## MEETINGS

Owing to commitments of members to Flora '88, the committee decided to reduce the meetings from three to two in 1988. The first meeting was held at the University of Cape Town on 18 May, and was attended by 29 members (with 5 apologies) and 14 visitors. The meeting began with a report-back by Charlie Boucher (University of Stellenbosch) from the committee advising Houtech on the development of the area near Houw Hoek. William Bond, Willy Stock, Colin Straker and Richard Cowling (all of University of Cape Town) then discussed their experiences, especially with regard to

funding and finding posts, in their post-graduate and post-doctoral studies abroad. These discussions identified many pitfalls, but also many solutions to problems, and were most beneficial to those contemplating similar study tours. Dr Pat Wild of UCT administration also gave advice on procedures.

The second meeting was held at the University of the Western Cape on 17 August and was attended by 23 members (with 8 apologies) and 11 visitors.

The speakers (all from UWC) were:

James Klaasen on 'Fusarium crown rot of wheat in the Western Cape'.

Prof. Colin Johnson on 'The identity of buried trees from the Cape flats'.

Allan Channing on 'The use of cladistics in Botany'.

This meeting also sparked off some lively discussion.

## VISITORS

Several foreign scientists visited the region during the year, including:

Prof. Paul Ehrlich from Stanford University (Conservation biologist).

Dr Johan Goldammer from Albert Ludwig University, Freiburg (Forest ecologist).

Prof. Hale from the Smithsonian Institute (Lichens).

Prof. Tim Moermond from the University of Wisconsin (Conservation biologist).

Prof. Park Noble from the University of California (Ecophysiological).

Prof. Tudor Thomas from Rothmanstead Experimental Station (Physiologist).

Prof. D. van Willert from the University of Münster (Ecophysiological).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank all members of the committee for their enthusiastic efforts through the year. To those who are leaving the committee I express my appreciation, on behalf of all members, for your willingness to undertake a term of office and thereby contribute to the vitality of the local branch. Christine Liengme deserves special recognition for her

contribution; she has served as Secretary and Treasurer for three years, shouldering the bulk of the work with cheerful enthusiasm, and awesome efficiency. Thank you Christine! There is also the group of actively-participating members who are seldom recognized, but form the core community of the branch. On behalf of the committee I should like to express my appreciation to these members for making our efforts all worthwhile.

P. MANDERS

1988 INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSE IN HERBARIUM TECHNIQUES AT  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

From the 9th September 1988 to the 2nd December, 1988, Mr Alfred M. Ngwenya of the Natal Herbarium attended a diploma course on herbarium techniques at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Ten persons were chosen worldwide to attend the course, coming from countries such as Kenya, U.S.A. and India. The course manager was Ms D. Bridson and a number of members of the Kew Staff were on the lecturing team. Some of the topics that were covered during the first two months were

1. preservation of herbarium collections,
2. spirit, carpological and wood collections,
3. plant identification and
4. plant illustration.

Ideas that were put forward during the lectures were developed during visits to the botanical departments of Reading and Oxford, as well as visits to Wakehurst Place, The Commonwealth Mycological Institute, the British Museum (Natural History) and to all parts of Kew Gardens.

During the third month Mr Ngwenya started a project on traditional crop and medicinal plants of Natal where he had the use of the Kew herbarium, Economic Museum, library and data base. Although there were aspects of the diploma course that were already known, it was good to have a basis to work from to develop these aspects, in other cases many new ideas were presented and these were most stimulating. The diploma course was most beneficial in terms of its content as well as the contacts made with botanists and botanical institutions outside South Africa.

A.M. NGWENYA

### SAAB MATTERS

#### SAAB COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MOVES TO THE SOUTH WESTERN CAPE

During January 1989 the SAAB Executive moved to the SW Cape where the new office bearers are:

PRESIDENT:	Prof. C.T. Johnson	Dept. Botany, Univ. of Western Cape, PB X17, Bellville, 7530.
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Prof. R. Lubke	Dept. Plant Sciences, Rhodes Univ., Box 94, Grahamstown, 6140.
SECRETARY:	Dr W.D. Stock	Botany Dept., Univ. of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700.
TREASURER:	Mr J.H. Aalbers	Dept. Botany, Univ. of Western Cape, PB X17, Bellville 7530.

#### Council Members 1989

Professors G. Bredenkamp, E.J. Moll, Drs W.J. Bond, D. Botha, H.P. Linder and Mr T. Arnold.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS 1989

It is with great regret that the treasurer reports that SAAB members are extremely tardy in paying their annual subscriptions. In fact, at the end of April, only 30% of subscriptions had been paid. This places a severe burden on the association as the regions can not be paid their annual allowance and hence have difficulty in functioning effectively. Members should also bear in mind that Council has the power to remove names from the membership list so that those recalcitrant members will cease receiving the journal. We therefore appeal to members to pay their dues as soon as possible.

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PRETORIA  
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