



# Forum Botanicum

Newsletter of the South African Association of Botanists  
Nuusbrief van die Suid-Afrikaanse Genootskap van Plantkundiges

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Forum Botanicum, P O Box 3268, Matieland, 7602

e-mail: [foraab@mweb.co.za](mailto:foraab@mweb.co.za)

## **Presidential Report for the Period January to December 1998**

**South African Association of Botanists**

Prof. JU Grobbelaar

### **Council**

Council for the above mentioned period consisted of:

Prof. Johan U. Grobbelaar  
(President)

Prof. Frikkie C. Botha (Vice  
President)

Dr. Karen Esler

Dr. Jill Farrant

Prof. Gideon F. Smith

Mr. Frans Weitz

Dr. Ed Witkowski

Mrs. Rose Williams

The following two ex officio members were appointed to serve on Council and the Executive Committee:

Dr. Karen Kemp – Honorary  
Secretary

Prof. Rudi L. Verhoeven – Honorary  
Treasurer

Dr. Karen Kemp took up a new position at the end of September 1998 and her position on Council was not filled.

The permanent secretary of SAAIB, Mrs. C. Mariana van Wyk who took over from Robyn Arnold during 1996, found that she

could not cope with all her activities and it was decided at Councils' meeting in July 1998 to find a replacement for her. Unfortunately SAAB matters were not dealt with at the professional level that we would have expected and we apologise to members if they were inconvenienced. We as Council did our utmost to resolve the matter and Dr Marianna Smith has been appointed to this position starting from January 1999.

Council met on 28 July 1998 at Stellenbosch University for the mid-year meeting, where amongst others the following important matters were dealt with:

1. The organisation of the SA J. Bot. Three editors, supported by an editorial board will manage the journal. The appointments of Prof. George Bredenkamp, Gideon Smith and Hannes van Staden followed both a requests for able persons to make themselves available and by active solicitation by Council. We sincerely hope that amongst others the impact factor of the journal will

improve and that problems of the past would be laid to rest. I urge members to support our journal, especially in view of renewed threats regarding the States funding policies of scientific publications.

2. The position of botany in South Africa and the role of SAAB. This followed the discussion session held at the 98<sup>th</sup> Congress and some correspondence with the FRD. After considerable correspondence and further statistical analyses of the rating data, an exploratory meeting was arranged at the FRD on 24 November 1998 to discuss the status of Botany in South Africa. Many aspects were discussed, such as the historical position of botany within the FRD, the status of botanical research, impact of new developments within science funding in South Africa and the way forward. It was agreed that the rating system of the FRD is fair and it was noted that the degree of research funding at present relies much less on the rating of a researcher. Possible solutions to improve the status of botany are:

- Learn from countries where similar problems were experienced, e.g. Australia where the situation has been turned around and science is flourishing.
- Establish networking systems (forums) to improve the exchange of ideas, information, international contacts, opportunities, etc.
- Establish a post-doctoral programme to draw young promising scientists to South Africa.
- Improve the quality of research proposals and the standard of research done. It is up to the botanists to improve their rating

positions and improving the standard of their science could only do this.

- Commercialise products and research.
- Support international contacts and co-operations.

***Follow-up meetings will be held in 1999 and more botanists will be involved in these discussions.***

## **Membership**

During the year Prof. Chris Cresswell passed away. SAAB acknowledges his contributions and botany is poorer without him.

Our membership numbers are declining. Many of our members emigrated, resigning from the association. The numbers are:

1995	476
1996	510
1997	507
1998	465

It still remains a problem to get some members to pay their accounts within the prescribed deadlines. Unfortunately we had to take a stand and apply the bylaws of our constitution to defaulters in this regard. I hope members understand this, as the society cannot carry defaulters indefinitely.

A pleasing aspect of our membership is the number of young people joining, which clearly indicates the bright future of botany in South Africa.

## **Finances**

Our Honorary Treasurer will report on our financial situation. However, it is with deep appreciation that I can announce that UCT made a profit of some R24 000,00 for which we thank them and salute their great effort. We also recovered the R1 000,00 start-up loan that was made available to the organisers of the Fort Hare conference.

Unfortunately I have to report that we have not been able to resolve the SAAB Trust Fund although the Committee took a decision to do so more than a year ago. The problem is that we need to locate the Deeds Office where the Trust was registered. With a lead from Prof. Charles Whitehead we hope to resolve the matter in the near future.

## **Awards**

It is a pleasure for me to announce that the SAAB Silver Medal for Botany will be made to Prof. Snowy Baijnath, the SAAB Bronze Medal for Botany to Dr. Keith Edwards and the SAAB Certificate of Merit to Mrs. Elsa Popely during the SAAB dinner at the 99' Conference.

My heartiest congratulations to the recipients and my thanks to the group under Prof. Frikkie Botha of Stellenbosch University who did the adjudication of the Bronze Medal.

## **General**

The Journal appeared at regular intervals and the hard and efficient work of our editor, Prof. Kobus Eloff who retired during the year, is acknowledged with appreciation. He and his wife Christna did a gallant job and the many volumes of the journal that appeared is an apt memorial to their efforts. We wish our three new editors all the best with the task ahead. We had one issue of Forum Botanicum although our editor Gavin Hellström promised four issues for 1998. Council has discussed the situation and we hope to resolve these in the near future.

The constitution of SAAB was last printed in 1991. Since then many amendments were made, especially the confusing situation regarding the medals of the association. All SAAB members in good standing should have received a copy of the revised

constitution, which was posted early in December 1998.

We are having a SAAB poster made, that could be used at meetings where it is necessary to promote SAAB. The plan is also to have mini-versions made, that could be displayed at e.g. Botany Departments at Universities.

The three major branches of SAAB, i.e. Free State, Southern Cape and Northern Province have been active this year and each one will report separately. Members should consider forming branches in their areas to promote Botany.

SAAB acquired a new PC and printer that should serve our needs for several years. We also plan to convert all our membership and other data to MS formats. This would be one of the initial tasks of our new permanent secretary Dr Marianna Smith.

This year has also seen the promulgation of the act for Science Professions and I will serve a term representing botanical and ecological sciences on SACNASP (South African Council for Natural Science Professions). Not only will accreditation be an important issue, but also with standards, auditing and status of science within the country.

In order to co-ordinate and focus marine research in South Africa, SANCOR was established a few years ago. This has benefited the marine science community and marine science in general. Johan Paauw from the FRD organised an exploratory meeting where I represented SAAB to discuss a similar structure for the terrestrial and freshwater aquatic sciences. More than twenty concerned groups and associations expressed their support for such an initiative, especially in view of large overseas support possibilities. A small committee was elected and tasked to

initiate the formation of a structure grouping all terrestrial and freshwater aquatic sciences under one umbrella. The initiating committee of SANCTAS (South African Network for Terrestrial and Aquatic Sciences) met in December 1998 and it was decided to found such a structure in 1999 with the aid of a prominent biologist. You will be approached in this regard and I urge you to give your support where possible.

Related to the previous aspect is that the FRD will be replaced by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the objectives are fundamentally different between the former (FRD) and the new (NRF). In essence the NRF will facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all areas of science. SAAB members should take note of the paradigm shift and position themselves with the objectives of the NRF so that we could be on board from the beginning.

I visited the LOC at UNITRA during November to finalise detail of this conference. This is the second year that the LOC was visited prior to the annual congress and this exercise definitely serves an important function, as small detail could be resolved. The venue for the 2000 conference will be Potchefstroom University, followed by RAU in 2001.

#### **Council for 1999**

Prof. Frikkie C. Botha (President)

Prof. Johan U. Grobbelaar (Vice President)

Dr. Karen Esler

Dr. Jill Farrant

Prof. Gideon F. Smith

Mrs. Rose Williams

Dr. Ed Witkowski

Mr. Frans Weitz

Dr. Bettie Marais – Honorary Secretary

Dr. Mike Cramer. – Honorary Treasurer

## **Acknowledgement**

*I would like to thank Council members for their support and especially for the two honorary members, who have come to the end of their term(s). Firstly Prof. Rudi Verhoeven for his support and also for dealing with the associations financial matters and Dr. Karen Kemp for her enthusiastic efforts especially with the revision of the constitution. Our best wishes go to Mariana van Wyk our permanent secretary, who served the association under obvious difficult personal conditions for two years. Then to the LOC of our UNITRA Congress - Thank you and a great job done under difficult conditions. Lastly to all the members and visitors for attending the conference, you are SAAB and SAAB is a great society. Without you the principal custodians of our wonderful floral heritage of Southern Africa, botany will be a lot poorer.*

Prof. Johan U. Grobbelaar

President

January 1998

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## **In Memoriam**

**Two of our members passed away since the beginning of 1999. They are Mr HB Nicholson and Dr LEW Codd. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the respective families.**

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## Medecos 2000: Past, Present; Future

The International Society of Mediterranean Ecologists (ISOMED) will be holding its Ninth International Conference on Mediterranean-Type Ecosystems (to be known as MEDECOS 2000) at Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 11 to 15 September 2000.

### Conference structure

The meeting will incorporate the following themes:

#### Main themes:

1. The diversity of composition, function and evolutionary processes in Mediterranean-type Ecosystems.
2. Human relationships with MTE's: history, management and urban transformation.
3. Global changes relationships between MTE's and adjacent ecosystems.

#### Cross-cutting themes:

1. Fire
2. Technology: GIS, remote sensing, databasing
3. monitoring (e.g. long-term ecological research)
4. The molecular level
5. Ecotones
6. Biological invasions

### Contact names and addresses

Secretariat: Ms Glaudin Kruger

Web site address: [www.kruger-associates.com](http://www.kruger-associates.com)

e-mail address: [kruger@jaywalk.com](mailto:kruger@jaywalk.com)

### Conference organising committee contacts:

Karen Esler [kje@land.sun.ac.za](mailto:kje@land.sun.ac.za)

Dave Richardson [rich@botzoo.uct.ac.zac.za](mailto:rich@botzoo.uct.ac.zac.za)

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## SAAB Posters

We had a SAAB poster made, that could be used at meetings where it is necessary to promote SAAB.

The association has 5 big laminated posters and 1000 smaller A4 versions. The big posters are available on loan from the SAAB secretary, if any organisation needs to display them. The A4 versions are, free of charge, available on request for permanent display at universities or institutes.

Contact Marianna Smith if you need any of these posters. Tel. (021) 8833314, e-mail:

[forsaab@mweb.co.za](mailto:forsaab@mweb.co.za), PO Box 3268, Matieland, 7602.

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## Some changes to SAAB

### The new Millenium

It has become fashionable for organisations, institutions and even individuals to ask the question whether they are ready for the new millennium. This is most probably because the prospect of moving into a new century is perceived as an opportunity for restructuring, repositioning and general renewal. For SAAB this might also be an ideal opportunity to establish whether we are still relevant and important for the botanical fraternity.

### Membership

For a strong organisation like SAAB it is very easy to become complacent about its strength and importance. However, for many it is obvious that there is some danger lights flashing. Two very important parameters with which one can measure how vibrant and healthy any organisation is, is how satisfied current members are and how they support annual events, and how many young people join the organisation.

On both of these accounts SAAB is not doing well. For those of us with a long association with SAAB, it is evident that support as measured by attendance and number of papers presented at our annual conference has decreased significantly.

Some areas of Botany have been affected more than others. We are hearing many complaints about how relevant SAAB still is to its members, and many have voiced dissatisfaction with the general management of SAAB matters by Council, the Council executive and the secretariat. Young scientists, and especially student members, are only forthcoming from a very few Universities, and these members mostly do not continue their membership after completion of their studies.

Regional activities of SAAB have almost disappeared, and for 1998 only two of our regional branches have submitted annual reports.

### **Forum Botanicum**

I do firmly believe that any organisation or association is only as strong as its support by members.

However, as Council and secretariat we do appreciate that we can play an important role to keep members satisfied and happy. Steps have already been taken to rectify some of the problems that were pointed out to us and I would like to invite all members to let us know if there are others issues that can be addressed to further improve matters.

A major problem was that we have failed to communicate on a regular basis with members during the year. For this we will in future be using *Forum Botanicum* which will primarily serve as an official newsletter and which will appear as four issues per annum in future. Marianna Smith is the new editor and SAAB wishes to thank Gavin Hellstrom for his contribution in this capacity in the past.

We would like to run a 'Letters to the Editor' column in the newsletter through which you can regularly voice your opinion. I would like to invite members to write to us and express your views on the future and potential role of SAAB in the next millennium. Please actively support *Forum Botanicum* by sending items to the editor. The editor will also approach individual botany departments for short contributions on matters such as staff and student numbers and some general interesting aspects.

In order to try and reduce delays and improve communication between members and the secretariat the address for SAAB related issues has been changed to P.O Box 3268, Matieland, 7602, or e-mail at [forsaab@mweb.co.za](mailto:forsaab@mweb.co.za).

Marianna Smith has been appointed as the permanent secretary of SAAB since 1 January 1999. Since taking up office she and Mike Cramer compiled a new electronic mailing list of all members. This 'new' membership list is available to all members (see elsewhere in this publication). Please ensure that you notify us of any changes in your personal details. Accounts have already been sent to all members. Please ensure that you respond timely to this. We cannot afford to carry members that do not pay their subscriptions, and Council will have to enforce the ruling in the constitution in this regard more strictly in future. If there are any problems with your account please contact Marianna Smith urgently.

**Prof. FC Botha**  
**SAAB President**

### **Subscription Fees as from 1 December 1998**

Retired	R30
Student	R45
Affiliate	R85
Ordinary	R110
Family	R160
Institutional	R420
Life	R2200

## **Indigenous Plant Use Forum**

**Theme: Indigenous knowledge in  
transition – ethics and marketing  
issues**

**Date:** 6 to 9 July 1999

**Venue:** Richards Bay Country Club

**Enquiries:** Mrs Bettie de Beer

Tel: (012) 481-4034

Fax: (012) 481-4005

e-mail: [bettie@NRF.ac.za](mailto:bettie@NRF.ac.za)

Prof. Ben-Erik van Wyk

Tel: (011) 489-2412

Fax: (011) 489-2411

e-mail: [BEVW@na.rau.ac.za](mailto:BEVW@na.rau.ac.za)

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### **SAAB:**

**What our members mean to us, and  
what we mean to our members**

During last year there was much lively debate in council over the role of SAAB and the future of Botany in South Africa. The purpose of this article is to highlight what we see as the benefits of SAAB, and to appeal to you, the members, for your support and input. We welcome suggestions on how we can improve or add to our services - approach your council members or write to SAAB Council, P.O. Box 3268, MATIELAND, 7602 (Our next council meeting is in June 1999).

A major role of SAAB is to facilitate communication between botanists within South Africa and southern Africa. We achieve this in four ways:

- Distribution of Forum Botanicum

- Distribution of South African Journal of Botany
- AGM held once a year in different parts of the country
- Annual congress

Although these are obviously not the only channels South African botanists communicate through, we ask you to use and develop the channels SAAB offers. Conferences are becoming more and more expensive, and although we all like to travel overseas, having a local, broad interest botanical conference virtually on your doorstep is a great, cheap opportunity for the community to swap ideas, generate new ones and to introduce students to the conference circuit. We (Karen, Jill, and Rose) for example, cut our teeth as students attending SAAB conferences, and found the exposure invaluable. In 1998, major efforts were made to restructure the journal and Forum Botanicum. We are convinced that with your support, the quality of both will be of a high standard and will address the needs of Botany into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Through SAAB, members are affiliated to a number of ancillary scientific associations, which give us political clout. For example, we were involved in the forming the white paper on Science and Technology. SAAB is trying to promote the image of botany to funding bodies such as the FRD (now NSF). SAAB promotes botany to the undergraduates through the publication of a career's brochure. SAAB recognises Botanists by the annual presentation of awards and

medals. We believe that there is an important role for SAAB, as a professional body of botanists, particularly during these times of Botany Department amalgamations. We ask you to further strengthen and support SAAB in 1999.

Karen Esler  
Rose Williams and  
Jill Farrant (Council Members).

## Membership list

**In 1992 a booklet with the address details of SAAB members were published. There has been numerous requests to have this done again. Due to the high cost of printing, and the fact that address lists outdate so soon, the council decided to make the SAAB membership list electronically available to all SAAB members. In order to receive this, please contact Marianna Smith and it will be send to you via e-mail.**

[forsaab@mweb.co.za](mailto:forsaab@mweb.co.za)

## EXCITING NEW FIND: A NEW SPECIES OF TREE AND FOREST FOUND IN MOZAMBIQUE

Professor Roy Lubke recently returned from the Netherlands where he met Jan Wieringa of the Vadenge Herbarium (WAG) of the Agricultural University of Wageningen to discuss the discovery of a new species of tree, which is the dominant species of a coastal evergreen forest in north-eastern Mozambique. Last year whilst undertaking an environmental impact assessment in Mozambique, the Rhodes University botanists

discovered that the dominant tree of forests covering more than 200ha of coastal dunes had been mistakenly identified by earlier botanists in the region.

In December last year, Tony Dold, assistant curator of the Selmar Schönland herbarium in Grahamstown, collected fruits of the tree and showed that it was different from the fruits of a tree collected by Professor Lubke and Dr Ted Avis in 1995. Professor Lubke explained that "a tree we collected in 1995 was clearly *Hymenaea verrucosa*, the well-known gum copal of east tropical Africa, predominantly found with other species in coastal woodland and forests. It has large warty fruits. Like other botanists, who surveyed the region in the past, we thought that all the trees of the forest were *Hymenaea verrucosa*. Closer examination shows that the vegetative similarities between gum copal and the new species are rather superficial."

The tree of the new species has trunks over 1m in diameter, can be 40m tall and most importantly has flat pods and small flowers with a single petal. This puts it in the *Monopetalanthus-Aphanocalyx* group of legume trees of the Caesalpinoids of tropical Africa, which are being researched by Jan Wieringa for his Ph.D.

The staff of the Selmar Schönland Herbarium was instrumental in revealing this new genus. Tony Dold collected the specimens that alerted everyone to the existence of an unknown genus before the specimen was sent to Kew. Estelle Brink made extensive studies of the plant and her detailed dissection and drawings of the floral buds showed that it had a single petal. This she identified as being in the *Monopetalanthus* (single-petalled) group of legume tree.

The specimen was first sent to Gerrit Germishuisen of the National herbarium in Pretoria, and the plant was sent on to Kew where South Africans Brian Schrire and Saskia Harris (the South African Liaison Officer) assisted. Barbara Mackinder, the expert on this group of



legumes at Kew realised that it was one of Jan Wieringa's species and sent it on to the Netherlands. He was very impressed with the analysis of the young, floral buds and asked if he could use Estelle Brink's figures in his monograph of the plants.

The two-paired leaflets of the tree are similar to those of the common mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*) trees, which will be familiar to many botanists. The only other specimens available of this tree, collected by Dr. Mogg at Wits University, was classified as a mopane in the herbarium at Harare before Jan Wieringa received that specimen. If any botanists know of other specimens like this we would be glad to hear from them.

The researchers are now preparing a paper describing both the new species of tree which falls into a new genus and the undescribed forests that occur on the coastal dunes of the Mozambique coastal plain. This is the only species of a group of trees, which is predominantly from West and Central Tropical Africa, to be found on the East Coast. These forests have been isolated for at least the last few million years.

We now have to collect wood, fresh leaves and seedlings of the species for additional taxonomic studies. Very little scientific work has been done in Africa and it is therefore possible that the new tree and forest could be a widespread phenomenon or that, theoretically, other new discoveries are possible. These studies have been conducted as part of co-operative as part of co-operative ventures funded by mining companies for applied studies.

Coastal and Environmental Services, the environmental assessments of Grahamstown, managed by Dr Ted Avis, are one of the leading experts in dune mining environmental consulting with commissions in Angola, Kenya, Mozambique and other areas in Southern Africa. This is the path of future botanical research - to obtain consulting funds for the applied aspects

of your subject and use your expertise in basic research as well. There is still much of Africa to be explored, and these are exciting times for botanists who have the ability to be both entrepreneurs and researchers.

In September, Coastal and Environmental Services hope to mount another expedition to collect more flowering material so that this plant can finally be named and placed in its rightful relationship with other species occurring in West and central Tropical Africa.

While in the Netherlands, Professor Lubke also visited Dr Wim van der Putten at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO) at Heteren. Dr van der Putten is the leader of the EUC-funded INVASS project on potentially invasive grass species in the Cape Province and Botswana, of which Professor Lubke is the leader in South Africa. Details on the research programme and the greenhouse and laboratory facilities available at the NIOO were discussed as well as planning of a workshop for the leaders of the programme (from UK, Botswana, the Netherlands and SA) in August. This programme provides support for Rhodes and University of Botswana postgraduate as well as the opportunity for obtaining expertise and experience in the UK and the Netherlands' laboratories. The programme began in October but the Rhodes research is well underway due to the contribution by Dr Ursula Hertling who completed her thesis on the introduced dune grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and graduated with her Ph.D. in April.

**R.A. LUBKE**

**JUNE 1988-06-26**

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual SAAB Conference  
Plant Biology for the New  
Millennium**

**POTCHEFSTROOM 10-14 January 2000**

**Invitation**

All interested persons are invited to participate in this conference by presenting talks and/or posters. A number of invited speakers from Europe will deliver papers and/or conduct workshops:

Prof R. J. Strasser (Bioenergetics), University of Geneva  
Prof C. H. Bornman (Plant Physiology), Lund University  
Prof U. Zimmermann (Biotechnology), University of Würzburg  
Prof E. van der Maarel (Vegetation Classification), Uppsala University  
Dr T. Wiegand (Ecological Modeling), Environmental Research Centre, Leipzig  
Prof N. J. Kruger (Plant Physiology), University of Oxford  
Prof R. Birch (Plant Molecular Biology), University of Queensland  
Prof T. F. Stuessy (Plant Systematics), Botanical Institute, University of Vienna  
Prof Y. Gutterman (Ecophysiology), Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Israel

**Workshops**

Vegetation classification: Formal syntaxonomy  
Fluorescence as a tool in plant stress physiology  
Concepts of biogeography, with emphasis on oceanic islands  
The use of models in long-term ecological research  
Writing scientific papers

**Address**

Secretariat SAAB Conference  
School for Environmental Sciences and Development;  
Section: Botany  
Potchefstroom University for CHE  
2520 POTCHEFSTROOM  
SOUTH AFRICA

For more information about the conference and excursions, visit our website:  
<http://www.puk.ac.za/botany/saab.htm>  
or contact us at:  
Telephone: (018) 299 2501  
Fax: (018) 299 2503  
e-mail: [saab20@puknet.puk.ac.za](mailto:saab20@puknet.puk.ac.za)

**26<sup>ste</sup> Jaarlikse SAGP Kongres  
Plantbiologie vir die Nuwe  
Millennium**

**POTCHEFSTROOM 10-14 JANUARIE 2000**

**Uitnodiging**

Alle belangstellendes word uitgenooi om aan die kongres deel te neem en voordragte en/of plakkaat aan te bied.  
'n Aantal sprekers uit Europa is uitgenooi om voordragte en/of werksinkels aan te bied:

Prof R. J. Strasser (Bioenergetiek), Universiteit van Genève  
Prof C. H. Bornman (Plantfisiologie), Lund Universiteit  
Prof U. Zimmermann (Biotelegnologie), Univ. van Würzburg  
Prof E. v.d. Maarel (Plantegroei-klassifisering), Uppsala Univ.  
Dr T. Wiegand (Ekologiese modelering), Omgewingsnavorsingsentrum, Leipzig  
Prof N. J. Kruger (Plantfisiologie), Universiteit van Oxford  
Prof R. Birch (Plant Molekulêre Biologie), Univ. v. Queensland  
Prof T. F. Stuessy (Plantsistematiek), Instituut vir Plantkunde, Universiteit van Wenen  
Prof Y. Gutterman (Ekofisiologie), Jacob Blaustein Instituut vir Woestynnavorsing, Israel

**Werkswinkels**

Plantegroei-klassifisering: Formele sintaksonomie  
Fluorensensie as 'n hulpmiddel vir plantstremmingsfisiologie  
Konsepte van biogeografie met klem op eilande in oseane  
Die gebruik van modelle in langtermyn ekologiese navorsing  
Skryf van wetenskaplike artikels vir publikasie

**Adres**

Reëlingskomitee: SAGP Kongres  
Skool vir Omgewingswetenskappe en –Ontwikkeling  
Afdeling: Plantkunde  
PU vir CHO  
2520 POTCHEFSTROOM  
SUID-AFRIKA

Besoek ons tuisblad vir meer inligting:  
<http://www.puk.ac.za/botany/saab.htm>  
of kontak ons by  
Telefoon: (018) 299 2501  
Faks: (018) 299 2503  
E-pos: [saab20@puknet.puk.ac.za](mailto:saab20@puknet.puk.ac.za)

# PROGRESS WITH THE TRIAL PHASE FOR REGISTRATION OF NEW PLANT NAMES :

\*GF SMITH and \*\*G  
GERMISHUIZEN

In a spirit of co-operation and to publicise this proposed innovation in plant nomenclature widely in southern Africa, this note has been submitted simultaneously to the following botanical journals: *Bothalia*, *South African Journal of Botany*, *Forum Botanicum* and *Sabonet News*.

\*Research and Scientific Services Directorate, National Botanical Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria 0001, South Africa.

\*\*Scientific Publications and Research Support Services, National Botanical Institute, Private Bag X101, Pretoria 0001, South Africa.

Keywords: new plant names, registration, South Africa

## ABSTRACT

*A trial phase for the registration of new plant names in South Africa, co-ordinated by the International*

*Association of Plant Taxonomy in Berlin, is introduced.*

*Registration can be effected by publishing a new name in an accredited journal or series or by submitting it to the national Registration Office established for this purpose.*

## INTRODUCTION

A number of far-reaching proposals, aimed at the refinement and simplification of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*, were discussed in some detail at the Nomenclature Section of the XVTH International Botanical Congress (ICB) held in August 1993, Yokohama, Japan. Three of the main issues were the adoption of lists of *Names in current use* (Smith et al. 1993; Smith & Hawksworth 1994), the extended options of conserving and rejecting names (Greuter & Nicolson 1993), and the registration of all new plant names (Borgen et al. 1997; Greuter & Von Raab-Straube 1998). This paper deals with the last-named issue, namely the proposed system by means of which new names of plants and fungi would have to be dealt with from 1 January 2000, onwards.

Article 32.1 of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* adopted at the 1993 IBC (Greuter et al. 1994)

concludes with 'In addition, subject to the approval of the XVI International Botanical Congress, names (autonyms excepted) published on or after 1 January 2000 must be registered.' Furthermore, Article 32.2 states that 'Registration is effected by sending the printed matter that includes the protologue(s) with the name(s) to be registered clearly identified, to be registered clearly identified, to any registering office designated by the International Association for Plant Taxonomy.'

To demonstrate the feasibility of a registration system, the International Association of Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) undertakes a non-mandatory trial of registration for a two-year period, starting 1 January 1998 (Borgen et al. 1997). Details of the proposed implementation of the registration requirement (Borgen et al. 1998) will be considered by the St Louis Congress in July 1999. Since May 1998, a searchable demonstration database containing all names trial-registered after January 1998 can be freely consulted on the internet.

<http://www.bgnm.fuberlin.de/registration/QueryForm.htm>

## REGISTRATION CENTRES

As part of the registration procedure of new plant names it is important to establish a national Registration Office (RO) in as many countries as possible. This would enable editors and authors to register new plant names and combinations in their own or a neighbouring country. It is possible that the registration of all new plant names would become mandatory in future, with effect from (but not before) 1 January 2000.

The National Botanical Institute (NBI) was recently approached by the IAPT to serve as RO for South Africa. The Institute was contacted in view of its permanence, national role, reliable communication system (telephone, fax, E-mail, [postal services] and permanent filing and library facilities. The NBI provisionally accepted this invitation on behalf of all South African botanists. In the case of new names and combinations for fungi, however, the authors have liaised with Alice Baxter of the National Fungal Collection, and after consultation with her staff she has agreed that the NBI act as RO for those names as well.

## ACCREDITED JOURNALS / SERIES

An enumeration of 119 journals or series accredited with the IAPT appeared in *Taxon* 47: 498, 499 (1998). This list is being regularly updated as new journals are added and is available on the Web (<http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/iapt/registration/journals.htm>). It will be published annually in the journal *Taxon*.

After consultation with some of the editors, it is proposed that the following journals should receive preference when botanists working on the local flora establish new names for plant taxa:

1. *Aloe* (journal of the Succulent Society of South Africa).
2. *Botalia* (biannual house journal of the National Botanical Institute)
3. *Contributions from the Bolus Herbarium* (occasional publication of the Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town).
4. *Flora of southern Africa* (occasional publication of the National Botanical Institute).

5. *Flowering Plants of Africa* (biennial publication of the National Botanical Institute).
6. *Palaeoflora of southern Africa* (occasional publication published in the *Strelitzia* series of the National Botanical Institute)
7. *South African Journal of Botany* (two-monthly journal jointly published by the National Botanical Institute and the South African Association of Botanists).
8. *Strelitzia* (occasional publication of the National Botanical Institute).

Editors of other South African journals who would like their publication to be added to this list should contact G. F. Smith as a matter of priority

## Contributors to this issue:

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Editor