



Forum Botanicum

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Watch out for this killer alga

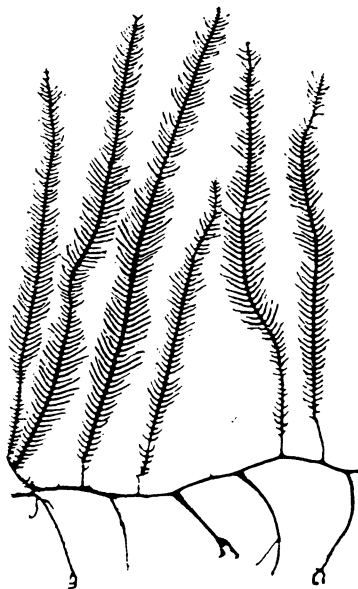
Roy Lubke

Schonland Botanical Laboratories, Rhodes University,
Grahamstown, 6140 South Africa

In the 1970's *Caulerpa taxifolia* was first discovered at the Tropical Aquarium in Stuttgart as a decorative alga for tropical aquaria. Since then it was accidentally released into the Mediterranean at the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco in 1982 and has spread to sites throughout the Western Mediterranean on the shores of France, Italy and some the islands. *Caulerpa taxifolia* is toxic to man and animals, and able to survive cold waters, is an extreme aggressive coloniser: at various depths and ousts indigenous *Caulerpa prolifera* and other indigenous seaweed. This year patches of the species were discovered in Florida in the USA and in New South Wales, Australia. It poses a threat worldwide to rocky where marine life because of its prolific nature and ability to change whole ecosystems, as well as its dispersal from and propagation from small pieces of the thallus. Should this alga be identified on our rocky shores it should be eliminated immediately.

Alexandre Meinesz has documented the disaster of this alga's dissemination in a

book "Killer algae, the true tale of a biological invasion".



Caulerpa taxifolia

Nominations for one council member 2001/2

Nominations for **one** SAAB council member are called for; and should reach the Secretary not later than 10 January 2001.

The vacancy is to replace Mr Frans Weitz who resigned.

According to the constitution, all council members retire after a term of office of two (2) years, with the exception of the President. Retiring members may be re-elected if they consent, provided they have not served more than two consecutive terms of office.

Nominations must be signed by the proposer and the nominee and should include a short CV for inclusion with the ballot papers.

Marianna Smith (Secretary)

Nominations

Details of nominee:

Title, initials and surname: _____

Postal address: _____

Postal code: _____

Present position: _____

Is this nomination endorsed by a regional committee? Yes/No

Signature of candidate: _____

Name of proposer: _____

Postal address: _____

Postal code: _____

Signature of candidate: _____

Date: _____

Send nominations to: Dr M Smith

P O Box 3117

Matieland

7602

e-mail: forsaab@mweb.co.za

He observed and predicted the invasion from his institute, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, but unfortunately the maritime authorities would not take his warnings seriously. It is thus extremely important to communicate scientific knowledge to the managers and decision-makers so that timely and appropriate actions may be taken. (With Acknowledgements to Mira Heesackers and Erik-Jan Malta 2000 "*Caulerpa*: Killer alga on the loose. *Coastline* 9: 4-6). See also Lubke, RA 1998. Marine Algae page 70 in Lubke, Lubke, Roy and de Moor, Irene (1998). *Field guide to the Eastern & Southern Cape Coasts*. U.C.T. Press. Cape Town

South African Association of Botanists

Minutes of SAAB Annual General Meeting, 26th Congress

Venue: Lecture Hall G10, Chris J Coetzee building,
University of Potchefstroom
Date: Friday, January 14, 2000
Time: 15h50

1. Welcome

The President, Prof. FC Botha welcomed all members and visitors present.

1.1 Attendance and apologies

The following members were present at the meeting. Botha CEJ, Botha FC, Boucher C, Bredenkamp CL, Bredenkamp G, Buys MH, Cilliers SS, Cowan AK, Cramer M, Dilika F, Du Plessis S, Govender D, Grobbelaar JU, Hockett BI, Jacobs SM, Kellner K, Kruger GHJ, Ligavha M, Lubke R, Marais B, Mathekgga ADM, Moteetee A, Mucina L, Netnou NC, Netshiluvhi TR, Peacock N, Retief E, Singh Y, Smith GF, Smith M, Smith VR, Tilney PM, Tshishikawe MP, Van der Merwe CF, Van der Westhuizen AJ, Van Staden J, Van Wyk B-E, Venter IJT, Vorster P, Watt DA, Willis C

Apologies received from the following members:

Bajjnath H, Esler KJ

2. Additions to Agenda

- 2.1 Midyear meeting of council
- 2.2 Duration of posters being presented at congress (Dr B Hockett)

3. Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting, held on January 16, 1999 at Unitra. Prof. JU Grobbelaar proposed to accept the minutes as been read and correct and was seconded by Prof. J van Staden.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

4.1 SAAB trust

The chairman asked Prof JU Grobbelaar to report on this matter. Prof. Grobbelaar revealed that near closing of the trust, the matter of Durban SPA become known and it is almost impossible to trace the roots of this matter. He received the last of the trust documents at the annual congress in Potchefstroom and council gave him the right to dissolve the trust, which he will proceed to do.

5. Presidents report, January 1999– January 2000

Prof. J U Grobbelaar took the chair while the president read his report, giving an overview of the past year's activities. The report will be published in *Forum Botanicum* 37:1. Prof. J U Grobbelaar thanked Prof. Botha and handed the chair back.

6. Treasurers report

Dr Mike Cramer presented the financial statements, budget and proposed membership structure. He pointed out that travelling costs for meetings is the most expensive item on the budget that can be reduced by abolishing the mid-year council meeting. Prof. van Staden wanted to know if the Eloff travel expenses is a regular expense, as he is one of the editors and wanted to know if he can also claim for travel, which is not the case.

Prof. Roy Lubke stated that the mid-year meeting is very important and maybe EXCO must try to meet at times when as many other council members as possible will be in Stellenbosch to attend.

Prof. Valdon Smith enquired about the importance of student members, as 84 students of which seven were SAAB members, attended the congress. SAAB has a total of 35 student members. He pointed out that only SAAB members should be in line for the student prizes. Prof. J van Staden agreed with him

and this will be rectified from next year on. The constitution states that only SAAB members may be awarded the prize for the best young scientist. This will be implemented in the year 2001. Prof. Valdon Smith expressed his fear that there will be no competition in 2001. Dr Mike Cramer pointed out that from 2001, the registration fees will be registration and membership fees for non-members. All congress delegates will therefore become members. This money must be paid over to SAAB; the congress organisers will not receive it. Dr. Hester Kriel asked the 2001 organisers to make this announcement clear in their first circular and Dr Klaus Kellner supported this by suggesting students must be aware of the prizes and their status to become eligible for one of the prizes.

Prof. Frikkie Botha summarised by asking the chairperson of the Local Organising Committee for 2001, Prof. Ben-Erik van Wyk, to take note that registration for 2001 for non-members will be registration plus membership and this money will be paid over to SAAB.

SAAB cannot really afford to have too many student members, as student members are heavily subsidised by the organisation. Prof. Ted Botha proposed that student members will be given the chance to join, receiving the journal or not. Student membership with the journal will be R80 and without the journal R50 (or the exact figure must be calculated by council). This was seconded by Prof. AJH Pieterse and unanimously accepted by the members present. A question arose if members wanted a journal altogether. Prof. Frikkie Botha said council would do an investigation into this matter.

Another way of balancing SAAB's books is to increase the membership fees:

The Membership fees will be as follows:

- Retired membership R30 increased to R35
- Student membership R45 increased to R50
- Affiliate membership R85 increased to R100
- Ordinary membership R110 increased to R125
- Family membership R160 increased to R185
- Institutional membership R420 increased to R500
- Life membership R2200 increased to R2500

Prof. J van Staden supported the increases and was seconded by Prof. CEJ Botha.

Prof. JU Grobbelaar proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Cramer and was seconded by Prof. van Staden.

7. SAJB

Professor George Bredekamp presented the annual report (Addendum B). Dr Matt Buys asked if referees may send their reports by e-mail and Dr Bettie Marias stated that the comments and manuscripts were sent back by post, in the past. Dr Piet Vorster wanted a self addressed stamped envelope included with the manuscripts sent to the referees. The president said comments on manuscripts might be sent by e-mail. Prof. CEJ van Staden proposed to accept the report and was seconded by Prof. JU Grobbelaar.

Prof. Gideon Smith reported on the finances of the SAJB.

He started by pointing out that SAJB costs SAAB so far only R13 250 per annum (R12 000 – editor's assistants + ca. R1 250 - for administrative costs). Smith and Raper (Addendum C) discuss the background to the financial discussion of SAJB in their report.

Prof. Gideon Smith proposed several ways to cut costs in order to cover the R33 000. It included the following.

- To cut on the number of issues from six per annum to four.
- To cut the number of pages printed per annum, in order to cut wastage to a minimum.
- To produce the journal electronically. This will result in a saving on printing, but salaries will still have to be paid.
- To increase page fees from R125 (this price was set in 1993) to R180.
- To place advertisements in SAJB (a company has been appointed to source advertisers).
- To source more subscribers.

Prof. J van Staden thanked Prof. Smith for his proposal and suggested as follows:

- The immediate, proposed savings methods should be accepted.
- The secretary must send notices to members, canvassing their view on SAJB.
- Status of the journal must be increased soonest.

Prof. Bormman will source overseas (e.g. Ireland) printers, who can do it much cheaper than in SA. Himself and Prof. George Bredekamp will review it. He asked for a mandate by SAAB to let the three editors of SAJB handle this matter. Prof. CEJ Botha agreed and was seconded by Prof. JU Grobbelaar.

It was decided that EXCO and the permanent secretary would deal with notices sent to members, asking their feelings about SAJB and to look into suggestions by them, for cutting costs. They should also investigate if members still see a need for the journal and if so, what do they think the page fees should be. Prof. George Bredenkamp revealed that they looked at printing costs before and to print it privately on a printer will cost about the same as professional printing by BSP.

8. Forum Botanicum

Council asked Gavin Hellstrom to give up editorship of Forum and asked Marianna Smith, the permanent secretary to take this task over. She started in April 1999 and brought out three issues. The report was up on the notice board for the duration of the congress.

Prof. JU Grobbelaar thanked Marianna Smith for her efforts concerning Forum during 1999.

9. Regional Branch Reports

No regional branch reports were received.

10. SAAB Congresses

Year 2001

This congress will be at RAU in Gauging, the chairperson will be Prof. B-E van Wyk and the Botany department. Prof. Van Wyk promised a three-day conference from Wednesday, 17 to Friday, 19 January 2001. They are planning to have the conference in the form of a number of innovative symposia and the first circular should be out before the end of February 2000. He heartily invited everybody present to come to Johannesburg.

Year 2002

Rhodes University in Grahamstown will host this congress.

Year 2003

This will be a joint congress by the University of Pretoria/NBI.

Year 2004

Prof. Frikkie Botha invites takers for this congress.

11. General

11.1 Midyear meeting of council

Prof. Frikkie Botha suggested EXCO meet midyear and invite council members who can make it to

Stellenbosch on their own cost. This announcement was blessed by the whole meeting.

11.2. Duration of posters being presented at congress

Dr Barbara Hockett raised the point that many of the posters were on display for a short time, some even just for a day. Overall they were put on late, and taken down early, denying interested people the chance to ask questions about them. Prof. Van Staden agreed that posters must be accessible at all times to everybody for the duration of the conference. Prof. B-E van Wyk promised to look into this matter at the 2001 congress.

Closure

The President thanked members for attending the meeting and reminded the council about the council meeting directly afterwards.

Prof. George Bredenkamp thanked the organisers for a well-organised congress.

Prof. Johan Grobbelaar thanked Prof. Frikkie Botha for his good work and the competent way in which he dealt with the issues.

The meeting closed at 17h45.

Letters to the editor

Dear Dr Smith,

I have just been shown Forum Botanicum 37:3. It is extraordinary that a such a project, which I feel started from such naive ideas (speaking for myself), has survived for nearly forty years.

Thanks for remembering its beginnings and I wish it a long and useful future.

John Jessop

In Memoriam

Mr HJW Gless from Windhoek, Namibia passed away on 28 September 2000 at the age of 90 years. SAAB expresses their deepest sorrow to his family.
