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AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 10

March 1977

A.S.B.S. Council

President	Prof. Roger Carolin, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006.
Vice-President	Dr. Trevor Whiffin, Department of Botany, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083.
Secretary	Mrs. Karen Wilson, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000.
Treasurer	Mr. Mike Lazarides, Herbarium Australiense, CSIRO, Box 1600, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601.
Councillors	Mr. Jim Armstrong, National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. Mr. Alex George, Western Australian Herbarium, Dept. of Agriculture, George Street, South Perth, Western Australia 6151.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

This publication, the official newsletter of the Society, is to be produced four times a year starting from 1977. Deadlines for copy are now the last day of February, May, August and November.

Please send contributions, preferably typed in duplicate, to the Editor at the address below. Any items from any source and of interest to members is acceptable and will be incorporated with acknowledgement in the newsletter.

Please Note Next deadline is 31st May, 1977

Fees for 1977 now due. See Fees Notice on page 11.
Call for Papers at ANZAAS in Melbourne.
Call for nominations for ASBS Council for 1977/79.

Editor: Mr. Rod Henderson
Queensland Herbarium
Meiers Road
Indooroopilly
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KAREL DOMIN'S COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

by A. Kanis, Canberra.

During my recent term as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, I made a six weeks' tour of continental herbaria, mostly looking for types and other historical collections from Australia. One of the institutes visited was the Botany Department of the National Museum in Prague (PR), the repository of Karel Domin's Australian Herbarium. I realise that some of my predecessors also went there and that Australian botanists are generally aware of Domin's work. However, I wanted to take this opportunity to gather more general information about that herbarium, suitable for a wider distribution among colleagues. Dr. J. Soják, the Director of the Botany Department, and Miss B. Deylova were very helpful in providing such information as was readily available. I have added some estimates of my own, based on experiences in certain families, which they accepted as realistic.

Domin collected intensively in Queensland and briefly in New South Wales for about six months in the period 1909-10, partly assisted by such well-known botanists as F.M. Bailey and J.H. Maiden. His collections have formed the basis, at least to a large extent, for his publication "Beiträge zur Flora und Pflanzengeographie Australiens" in Bibliotheca Botanica 85 (1913-5) and 89 (1921-9) and more than a dozen shorter papers on Australian plants. There is no doubt that his publications form a major contribution to our knowledge of the Australian flora, particularly to that of the warmer regions, even though the opinion prevails that many of his new taxa do not stand up to further critical studies.

Domin was appointed Professor of Botany at the University in Prague at a relatively young age and he stayed on until its closure in 1939. His collections were all incorporated in the herbarium of this university (PRC), with the exception of the Australian ones which were kept separately for ready reference. When the University reopened in 1945, he relinquished his chair for personal reasons and retired, taking home his Australian herbarium as private property. It was already deposited in the National Museum in Prague before he died in 1953, but it was not until 1960 that it was officially taken over. Still kept separately, it was moved together with the general herbarium of the Museum to the Botanical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and housed on a country estate in Průhonice near Prague.

Some statements about the size of Domin's herbarium did intrigue me, as the figures seemed rather high considering the length of his stay in Australia. Index Herbariorum II (Collectors A-D) gives a number of 20,000, but this could well be a misprint as some 10,000 Queensland collections are mentioned in the introduction to his "Beiträge". Judging from the present size of his herbarium this is again an estimate too large by a factor of two. Apparently he did not number his collections in the field or afterwards and therefore he had no easy means of determining the total figure.

After Domin's private herbarium was accepted by the Museum, it was arranged in folders by families, genera and species in the same numerical sequences as used in the "Beiträge". The specimens were also numbered throughout in a new, independent series, as well as in a parallel series of institutional acquisition numbers. The highest number given to any specimen is 8564, but one should realise that there are sometimes two or three different collections to a sheet each with its own number, so that the total number of sheets is less than this figure. More, importantly, however, there are some collections mounted on more than one sheet, each sheet being individually numbered also, which means that the total number of distinct collections is likewise less than the quoted one.

It is equally difficult to estimate what percentage of collections in the herbarium is Domin's own. In the introduction to the "Beiträge" it is mentioned that he was given a duplicate set of Mrs. A. Dietrich's Queensland collections, estimated at 2000 numbers, and these were all apparently incorporated. He also reports studying the collections of Capt. A.A. Dorrien Smith and Dr. E. Clement from Western Australia while at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K). It appears that he obtained a rather complete set of duplicates of the latter ones, which were also incorporated. Index Herbariorum 11 quotes the number of Clement's at K as 700. If one leaves out the specimens collected by others, and allows for some duplication, it appears reasonable to assume the total number of Domin's Australian collections to be in the order of 4000.

It would be interesting to compare this estimate with an actual count of the specimens cited in the "Beiträge". It is known, however, that certain specimens collected and quoted by Domin are still missing from his herbarium. These were presumably sent to specialists, but there is no record of Domin's loans. A limited number of grasses was in fact returned in recent years and these were naturally not included in the numbered series of specimens.

Domin's herbarium is rather important for its size because of the relatively high percentage of types among the specimens. He worked for a period at Kew, also visiting the British Museum (Natural History) (BM), and therefore it has sometimes been assumed that those of his holotypes collected by others should necessarily be found in these institutions. Unfortunately, Domin did rarely - if ever - annotate specimens other than in his private herbarium and one should not indicate a holo- or lecto-type elsewhere unless one knows that a relevant specimen is not held at PR or missing from there. In the case of Clement's collections, the relevant specimens at K are most probably only isotypes, whereas this is practically certain in regard to those of Amalia Dietrich in the Institute for General Botany in Hamburg (HBG).

Doubtlessly, Domin's own collections form the most valuable part of his herbarium as sets of duplicates have never been distributed. Considering that he may have made 4-5000 collections in 4-5 months of actual fieldwork, it is not surprising that these are usually not sufficient to be split up into adequate replicate specimens. Besides, since the incorporation of the herbarium

as a whole in the National Museum, this can no longer be contemplated for reasons of institutional policy.

The text on Domin's herbarium labels is in Latin and tends to provide less information about the specimens than their quotations in relevant publications. I also noted that the text on the labels of his Dietrich specimens is less complete than on those of the original set in HBG, particularly concerning localities. Some of the Dietrich collections have been distributed more widely from Melbourne by Ferdinand Mueller, but very probably these can not be matched satisfactorily with Domin's types in most cases because of their very scant annotations.

In his "Beiträge", Domin provides illustrations of a number of species by means of photographs of herbarium specimens. According to his introduction, these were made in Prague. He does not quote the actual collections that were depicted but, in the cases I checked, it was possible to find all corresponding specimens in his herbarium. It appeared that some of Clement's and Dietrich's collections had been used as well as some of his own. One should realise that not all specimens on any one photograph are necessarily mounted on one sheet and may even belong to different collections of the species concerned.

It may be of interest to mention here that collections of the Czech traveller and botanist F. W. Sieber, sometimes quoted by Domin, are deposited in the general herbarium of the National Museum (PR) as well as in that of the University (PRC) in Prague.

Finally it is pleasing to note that Domin's herbarium is in a good condition and well curated, although its safety in the present building leaves something to be desired from the point of fire protection. The Director has again expressed his willingness to lend material for research purposes to bona-fide institutions. He added that he prefers to send larger consignments rather than a few odd specimens and he would certainly welcome a pooling of requests.

REJECTION OF SPECIFIC SPECIES NAMES

It is now generally known that the wording of Article 69 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature was changed at the 12th International Botanical Congress, Leningrad in 1975, with the intention of having certain species names rejected.

The exact wording of the accepted proposal for Art. 69 is as follows: -
"A name must be rejected if it has been widely and persistently used for a taxon not including its type. Names thus rejected shall be placed on a list of nomina rejicienda".

It seems pertinent to bring to the notice of taxonomists or others likely to be confronted by a situation where rejection may appear a perhaps easy way out of a dilemma, the words of the Secretary of the General Committee for Nomenclature of I A P T, published in the Association's journal Taxon (vol. 25 (4): 512, 1976).

E.G. Voss pointed out that "when accepting a new wording for Article 69, which provides for a list of names rejected, the Nomenclature Section of the Leningrad Congress established no new procedures". Consequently the committee, through Voss, suggested that proposals to reject a name under Art. 69, when published be automatically referred to the existing Special Committees for the various groups of plants, for consideration of the merits of each case - exactly as is done under Art. 14.

In essence, the effect of the change is that we are to reject a name if, after publication, some unspecified (?large) numbers of its users misapply it to some species other than that intended by its author(s).

If we all agree that stability of names or the usage of names is the aim of I C B N, I suggest that the procedure outlined by Voss is, logically, the only procedure which should be followed if stability of names is to survive with minimal disturbance.

More specifically, I do not believe that interpretation of "widely and persistently used for a taxon not including its type" (i.e. the type of the name to be rejected) should be left to a single individual. In such a case a taxonomist may be influenced by recent past usage of the name in his (perhaps restricted) experience without consideration of all aspects of the particular case. This may be of little consequence for his endemic species but for wide-spread species, the confusion may not be common to all parts of the species range. Hence rejecting its correct name because it (the name) has been misapplied to some other species in some other areas, would create quite unnecessary change in the regions where the name has been correctly applied. Once a name is rejected it is to be rejected everywhere.

I believe that no one is entitled to reject a name for a plant before a proposal for such a rejection is published and preferably in the journal Taxon and then only on the recommendation of the special committee concerned. Any alternatives I foresee as leading to chaos.

R.J. Henderson,
Brisbane.

COMMITTEE OF HEADS OF AUSTRALIAN HERBARIA

The Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria first met in Canberra in 1973, its terms of reference being "to afford to Heads of Commonwealth and State Herbaria the opportunity to discuss herbarium functions, staffing, administration and co-operation". It has since met in Brisbane and Melbourne.

The 1976 meeting was held in the Western Australian Herbarium, Perth, on 30th September and 1st October. Delegates were:-

Dr. J.W. Green, Western Australia Herbarium - 1976 Chairman.
Dr. B.G. Briggs, National Herbarium of New South Wales.
Mr. G.M. Chippendale, Division of Forest Research, CSIRO, Canberra.
Mr. A.B. Court, Canberra Botanic Gardens.
Dr. H.J. Eichler, Herbarium Australiense, CSIRO, Canberra.
Dr. J.P. Jessop, State Herbarium of South Australia.
Dr. R.W. Johnson, Queensland Herbarium.
Mr. J.W. Parham, Tasmanian Herbarium.

Apologies were received from:-

Dr. D.M. Churchill, National Herbarium of Victoria.
Mr. P.K. Latz, Herbarium of the Northern Territory.

(a) The Australian Botanical Liaison Officer.

One of the major topics discussed was the function and future of the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer post. This resulted in an account of the history of this post being sent to CSIRO (which is responsible for its administration and part of its financing), with detailed explanations of the importance of the post and the need for its continuance. Suggestions have also been made for changing the system of nomination and for changing the timing so that Heads of Herbaria can discuss their recommendation at their annual meeting.

The role of both CSIRO and Standing Committee on Agriculture in organising and assisting with financing this post is particularly appreciated as it makes it possible for government botanists to gain overseas experience which would generally not otherwise be feasible and provides an invaluable source for overseas information to Australian botanists.

(b) A.B.R.S. and A.B.S.

The role of the Australian Biological Resources Study Interim Council and its successor, the Australian Biological Survey, was discussed and a resolution passed expressing appreciation to the Minister for Science for the

work done by these bodies and pointing out that cuts in funds to several projects supported by A.B.R.S. would be detrimental to various studies on the Australian flora.

(c) Current Taxonomic Research Projects.

It was considered wasteful for both A.S.B.S. and C.H.A.H. to produce separate surveys of taxonomic projects. It was agreed that Dr. Johnson should continue to list current taxonomic projects in Australian herbaria and suggested that A.S.B.S. should be responsible for listing other Australian taxonomic projects.

(d) Loans Manual.

Mr. John Parham tabled a draft Loans Manual, which had been prepared at the request of the Committee. It has since been finalised and distributed as "Guidelines for the Preparation of Loans".

(e) Tasmanian Herbarium.

Mr. John Parham reported on his work in organising the Tasmanian collections housed in the University of Tasmania. Mr. Parham returned to Queensland towards the end of 1976 and, when he left, no permanent curatorial post had been created or decision taken on the future of the Herbarium.

The Committee passed a number of resolutions for transmission to the Trustees of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, the Professor of Botany at the University of Tasmania and the Minister for Education of the State of Tasmania. These expressed the Committee's appreciation for what has been done for the valuable Tasmanian collections, but stated its regret that a satisfactory arrangement had not been made for their long-term curation.

(f) The next meeting will be held in Adelaide, with Dr. Jessop as Chairman for 1977.

John Jessop,
Adelaide.

ASBS COUNCIL ELECTIONS: 1977-1979 TERM

In accordance with the Constitution of the Society, nominations are called for all positions on the Council for 1977-1979; President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Councillors.

Each nominee must be proposed by 2 members and his/her acceptance of nomination must accompany the nomination itself (nomination paper is at the back of this newsletter). All nominations should be in the hands of the Secretary,

Mrs. Karen Wilson, at the National Herbarium of N.S.W., Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000, by 6th May, 1977.

Ballot papers will be sent out with the June newsletter if necessary, and results of the election will be announced at the Society's 4th General Meeting to be held during the ANZAAS Congress in Melbourne, August 1977.

PAPERS FOR ANZAAS

The A.S.B.S. is arranging the programme for two half-day Botany sessions of the forthcoming ANZAAS Congress to be held in Melbourne from 29 August to 2 September 1977. One session will be a symposium on a selected topic with invited speakers. The other session will consist of contributed papers presented by volunteers. These papers may be on either taxonomic or related botanical topics - the scope of the session will depend on the papers offered.

Would all people wishing to present a paper please notify me as soon as possible, giving their name, title, institute, and title of the proposed paper. Thank you.

(Miss) Helen I. Aston
Convener.

(Address:- National Herbarium of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens,
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria, 3141.)

INTERESTED BRYOLOGISTS

INVITATION

During ANZAAS on August 29 - September 2, 1977, in Melbourne it is planned to have a morning session set aside for a Symposium on Bryology. All we need are people interested and anxious to give a short paper or lead a discussion. If you have suggestions for what you would like in such a session or are willing to contribute please let me know.

The first part of the morning could be devoted to papers (10-15 minutes in length) while post-morning tea to lunch time could be arranged for exhibits, slides of interesting specimens, a discussion of problems or sharing of knowledge in an informal way.

There will be no special field trip for bryologists but some of us hope to go on the proposed weekend to the Grampians with other botanists. If you are hoping to come to ANZAAS and would like to contribute in any way please let me know by the end of March if possible so that I can organise a suitable programme.

Dr. H.P. Ramsay.

First Year Biology Teaching Unit
University of New South Wales,
P.O. BOX 1,
KENSINGTON, N.S.W. 2033

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Morley, B. (1976). The Robert Brown Material in the National Herbarium, Glasnevin, Dublin. Contributions from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. 1:12-39.

The discovery of 936 specimens in the Irish National Herbarium collected by Robert Brown (1773-1858) on the Flinders Voyage (1801-1805) may be of interest to Australasian botanists. The material, housed at Glasnevin, in Dublin, has not been previously listed by Lanjouw and Stafleu (1954). Regnum Vegetabile 2:101.

A list of the specimens by Sister Martin Powell with herbarium label data, and largely following the nomenclature of Bentham follows an introduction by Brian Morley. The value of the Glasnevin material as isotypes or topotypes awaits determination.

B. Morley, Adelaide Botanic Gardens,
Adelaide, South Australia.

Clifford, H.T. & Watson, L. (1977). Identifying Grasses. University of Queensland Press: Brisbane. Price - approx. \$25.00.

A general account of the procedures employed for identifying plants with special reference to the grasses. In particular, emphasis has been placed on anatomical data and coded descriptions have been supplied for all indigenous and introduced Australian genera.

H.T. Clifford, Botany Department,
University of Queensland,
Brisbane.

Hassall, D.C. (1976). Numerical and Cytotaxonomic Evidence for Generic Delimitation in Australian Euphorbieae. Aust. J. Bot. 24: 633-640.

David has concluded that Chamaesyce S.F. Gray is a genus distinct from Euphorbia L. sensu strictu, and has made fourteen new combinations under Chamaesyce.

- Ed.

Ross, J.H. (1976). The Collection of W.H. Harvey's Australian Algae at the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL), Melbourne, Australia. Taxon 25 (4): 525-526. This, in effect, is a follow-up paper to that reported in our No. 7 newsletter and published in Taxon 24 (5/6): 628 (1975). Jim indicates that numerous Harvey specimens are at MEL but exactly how many is unknown as a number of sheets have been badly damaged and others lost.

- Ed.

Telopea 1 (2): 87-138 (1976).

This issue of the New South Wales National Herbarium's journal contains an obituary of O. D. Evans and three papers on mainly Australian plants as follows:

K.V. Kramer & M.D. Tindale. The Lindsaeoid Ferns of the Old World VII. Australia and New Zealand. A taxonomic revision of Lindsaea (14 spp.) for Australia and New Zealand (3 spp.) is presented. A new section of the genus is described.

N.S. Lander. Actites, A new Genus of Compositae from Australia. Actites is distinguished from the related Sonchus and Embergia. Two names are typified and a new combination made.

V. May. Changing Dominance of An Algal Species (Caulerpa filiformis (Suhr) Hering). Distribution of this introduced species in the Sydney area is discussed.

Telopea 1 (3): 139-224 (1976).

This issue includes two papers as follows:

J. Thompson. A Revision of the Genus Tetratheca (Tremandraceae). 39 species are recognized including 12 new species and one new sub-species. A new name is provided for an existing species and four existing names typified and correctly applied.

D.G. Frodin. Studies in Cryptocarya (Lauraceae) I. Taxonomy and nomenclature of certain Cryptocarya species in Northern New South Wales is discussed.

- Ed.

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

ASBS SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1977 ARE NOW DUE

Members in Australia: \$6 or
\$4 if paid by 31 March, 1977.

Members Overseas (individuals & institutions): US \$8 or equivalent

Payment to be sent to the Treasurer (address on page 1)

NEW JOURNAL - EXPERIMENTAL MYCOLOGY

A new International Journal entitled "Experimental Mycology" is to be published quarterly from 1977 by Academic Press. The journal is expected to cover experimental investigations which relate structure and function to growth, reproduction, morphogenesis and differentiation of fungi and their traditional allies.

Fungal cytology, biochemistry, physiology, genetics and phylogeny are also to be covered. Three classes of manuscripts are acceptable: Articles, Brief Notes, Reviews.

Enquiries in Australia may be addressed to:

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Group (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.
P.O. BOX 300, North Ryde, N.S.W. 2113.

NEWS

Congratulations to Dr. Winifred Curtis, Hobart, on receiving an AM (member of the Order of Australia) in the recently announced Australia Day honours list. Dr. Curtis will be known to most members by her Students Flora of Tasmania, the fourth volume of which is to appear shortly, and her monumental work "The Endemic Flora of Tasmania" with Margaret Stones. Five parts of this have been published.

Dr. Chris Page, Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, who has an interest in Pteridophytes (especially Doodia, Cheilanthes, Adiantum) and Conifers, visited eastern Australia (Brisbane and Hobart) in December on his field trip to study these groups. His trip also included visits to Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, The Philippines and New Zealand. In 1968-70, Dr. Page was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Queensland University, Brisbane where he worked on Queensland Pteridophytes.

Professor Theodore Hymowitz, Crop Evolution Laboratory, Department of Agronomy, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, has recently visited Australia under the auspices of the Australian - U.S. Binational Research Program, in connection with his genetic and taxonomic studies in Glycine (Fabaceae). Centres visited included Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Sydney and islands off the northeast coast of Queensland.

Mr. David Symon, Waite Institute, Adelaide, left in early March to spend a couple of months studying Solanum material in several European herbaria. He is then going to New Guinea to collect and examine the New Guinea members of the genus.

In November Elise Wollaston and Ann Mitchell, Botany Department, University of Adelaide, visited New Zealand to check material of Antithamnion and related genera from the major herbaria and to collect specimens of the same groups along the coast.

The Second Australian Geological Convention was held at Monash University early in February. Dave Christophel and Dave Flac burn, Botany Department, University of Adelaide, participated in a very successful symposium entitled "The Evolution of the Australian Flora-Cretaceous to Recent (with emphasis on the angiosperm record)". Their particular paper was concerned with the Eocene Flora from Maslin Beach, South Australia.

Karen Wilson, Secretary of the Society, expects to work on Cyperus material in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, during tenure of a French Government Professional and Technical Scholarship, from August to October this year. Karen plans to study material at Kew for a month (June) prior to taking up the scholarship. Jim Armstrong will replace her on the Newsletter Committee in her absence; any other correspondence should be addressed to the President.

Bruce Maslin, Western Australian Herbarium, Perth, is to succeed John Maconochie as the next Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew later this year. Bruce's term there will extend to about August 1978. His studies centre mainly round the genus Acacia in Western Australia.

Production of the manuscript for the Heads of Herbaria index of Current Plant Taxonomic Research in Australia is in an advanced state. Its compiler, Dr. Bob Johnson, Brisbane, hopes it will be available shortly. Information has been supplied from it to ASBS for addition to the Society's world index of research being carried out on Australian plants.

All members will be saddened to hear of the death of one of Australia's best-known botanists. Dr. Nancy Burbidge died in Canberra on 4th March after a long illness. An obituary will be published in a later newsletter.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF A.S.B.S. COUNCIL MEETING

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, 1.ii.1977

Present: Carolin, Lazarides, George, Armstrong and Wilson.

Apology: Whiffin.

Publication Committee:

The bulletin "Preparation of Botanical Taxonomic Papers" has been published and distributed to members. The Secretary is to contact Mr. Paul Wilson, chairman of the Publication Committee, to find out whether any comments had been received from members which would necessitate further work by the Committee. If not, and if Mr. Wilson could see no further purpose for the Committee, the Secretary is empowered to write to all members of the Committee, thanking them for their efforts and formally disbanding this Committee.

Index of Current Taxonomic Research on the Australian Flora (ICTRAF):

Mrs. Wilson relayed to the meeting Dr. Whiffin's report on the current state of the project. Dr. Whiffin received from Dr. Bob Johnson the list of Australian workers compiled by the latter and is now combining this with his own list of overseas workers. The Index should be ready for publication in about 3 weeks time. The Heads of Herbaria are still putting out their own list of research this time. Dr. Whiffin will discuss with Dr. Johnson the possibility

of financial assistance with publication of future issues, when it is assumed that ICTRAF will be the sole list of Australian taxonomic research work, jointly published by the Heads of Herbaria and ASBS.

ANZAAS:

The Programme Committee for the ANZAAS Congress to be held in Melbourne in August 1977 is as follows:-

Miss H. Aston - National Herbarium of Victoria.

Dr. H. Swart - University of Melbourne.

Last year Dr. Whiffin booked the following time slots with the ANZAAS Section 12 committee:-

1 evening session - for ASBS General Meeting

½ day session - for symposium

½ day session - for contributed papers on taxonomic subjects.

These day sessions are to be organized by ASBS through the Programme Committee. The Section 12 committee is organizing another ½ day of contributed papers of general botanical interest.

Newsletter:

Letters had been received from Mr. John Maconochie and Dr. Andrew Kanis about the desirability of the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer receiving a copy of newsletters and any other ASBS publications so as to keep that person informed about events in Australia to in turn inform staff members at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It was agreed that a copy of any ASBS publication should be sent gratis to the Library at Kew (rather than to the A.B.L.O.), this being in recognition of the extremely valuable services rendered to Australian botany by that institution. It is to be regarded as the sole exception to our requirement of institutional membership of the Society as a means of obtaining our publications.

The Secretary reported that she and the Newsletter Editor had discussed the desirability of 4 numbers of the newsletter each year. She pointed out that sufficient material was available last year to justify 4 issues, a state of affairs which appeared likely to continue, and that it would mean news would have greater topicality. The Treasurer agreed that our funds would cover an extra issue per year as long as publishing costs did not rise markedly. The meeting agreed that 4 issues per year should be produced. Proposed closing dates for contributions were set at the last day of February, May, August and November since this would enable ANZAAS Congress reports to be topical and would also fit in with time margins for Council elections as set down in the Rules.

It was decided that the membership list should be published every second year in an issue of the newsletter.

Guide to Graduate Study:

For the information of members, the Secretary is to compile a list for publication in the newsletter, of taxonomic Ph.D. and M.Sc. theses completed to date in universities in Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand, together with any Honours theses of recent years which can be readily found. Honours theses are not generally available in University Libraries but it was felt that they are often of interest so it would be worth including them. This list is to be similar to, though not as complete as, a list put out for Canada & U.S.A. by the Botanical Society of America.

Correspondence:

The President reported that he had written on behalf of the Society to Senator Webster, Federal Minister of Science, about continuation of ABS (formerly ABRS) projects; to Mr Wran, Premier of N.S.W., about the need for a new state herbarium building; and to Mr. Neilson, Premier of Tasmania, about the need for a Government Botanist.

International Botanical Congress, 1981:

It was felt that there would be little for ASBS to do officially but that three main possibilities existed:-

- i. Organize excursions
- ii. Organize an evening function, e.g. a dinner
- iii. Organize a separate meeting on some taxonomic subject not covered at the Congress (the President suggested folk taxonomy as an example).

In addition our aim is to have the Central Australian Flora available by then. (A report on this project will be in the June newsletter - Ed.)

Taxonomic audio-visual programmes:

The President explained his idea of audio-visual programmes which go through each family of Australian plants genus by genus. He visualized these as being of use to new taxonomists as well as graduate students as a means of relatively quickly gaining familiarity with each family. These tapes would be used in conjunction with a synopsis of Australian genera interleaved with blank pages for notes. As a preliminary, he will prepare a programme on Rutaceae with Mr. Armstrong's assistance for display at the ANZAAS Congress in Melbourne and reaction to this will be assessed.

CHAPTER NEWS

CANBERRA

Programme for the remainder of 1976:

12 October, 1976: Dr. Charles Remington, Professor of Biology at Yale University, then visiting the Division of Entomology at CSIRO: "Hybrid Swarms in Plants and Insects: and the development of anti-hybridization mechanisms".

16 November, 1976: Mr. George Chippendale chaired a discussion on "The need for a Flora Australiensis". The discussion was led by Dr. Nancy Burbidge, of Herbarium Australiense, and Professor Dennis Carr, of the Research School of Biological Sciences, A.N.U.

A number of questions were raised and discussed. Dr. Burbidge established the need for a Flora of Australia, although Professor Carr debated this. He felt that State Floras would fill the need for the kind of information required in agriculture, conservation, etc. He also doubted the efficiency of team efforts. Both speakers felt that too few taxonomists are being trained, and that in any case there are too few positions for them to fill.

7 December, 1976: Mr. Doug. Boland of the Forest Research Division, CSIRO, spoke about activities of the Seeds Group of this Division. The talk included a preview of a TV Film made about this topic.

Programme so far arranged for 1977:

15 February, 1977: Dr. Geoffrey Hope, palynologist and Visiting Fellow in the Department of Biogeography and Geomorphology in the Research School of Pacific Studies, A.N.U.: "Historical Influences on the Botany of the High New Guinea Mountains".

15 March, 1977: Mr. Paul Wilson of the Western Australian Herbarium: "Samphires in Australia".

19 April, 1977: Mr. Jack Shepherd of the Division of Plant Industry (Ecology Section), CSIRO: "Chemical Aids to Fungal Taxonomy".

Estelle Canning
(Secretary)

ADELAIDE

The following meetings and field days have been planned for the first part of the year:

- 23 February: Mr. John Carrick, State Herbarium "A problem prostant-heroid".
Mr. David Symon, Waite Institute "Disjunction of arid Australian plants - some new thoughts on phytogeography in Australia".
- 6 March: Field trip to Black Hill Conservation Park in the Adelaide Hills to examine results and effects on the vegetation of a recent bushfire.
- 27 April: Mr. David Thomas, University of Adelaide. "Some problems of diatom phylogeny."
- 29 May: Field trip to "Watiparinga" - a National Trust Reserve with an active management plan encouraging regeneration of indigenous species. Certain sections of the reserve were planted with mainly Western Australian species by the donor Miss Alison Ashby in the late 1950's. The Society for Growing Australian Plants also participates with plantings. The results of these projects have been highly successful despite the fact that the planted species have had no water other than the natural rainfall.

Judy West, S.A. Convener.

BRISBANE

The first meeting of the Society for 1977 was held on Tuesday, 8 February in the Tea Room (G38/40) of the Botany Department, University of Queensland, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. N. Byrnes, Queensland Herbarium, spoke on "Combretaceae in Australia". This topic is dealt with in detail in a Contribution from the Queensland Herbarium expected to be published shortly.

The next meeting is planned for 19 April and to be held at the usual venue. Chris Bell, University of Queensland, will talk on his palynological studies.

Bronwyn Ashley & John Clarkson
(Convening Committee)

COMBRETACEAE IN AUSTRALIA

(Summary of talk given 8th February, 1977, to Brisbane Chapter)

The family Combretaceae is chiefly a tropical family, in the southern hemisphere occurring almost wholly north of about 22°S latitude. It includes some 19 genera and 600 species. In Australia it is represented by 4 genera and 36 species viz. Terminalia (29 spp.), Lumnitzera (2 spp.), Macropteranthes (4 spp.) and a single naturalized species of Quisqualis (Q. indica). It is a natural family, fairly well differentiated from Myrtaceae, perhaps its closest ally.

Early attempts at taxonomy in the family resulted in generally unsatisfactory treatments as, to early workers, the life cycles of the plants were not known. This was particularly so in Terminalia. Plants of this genus are basically deciduous, for some only one week or so. Young leaves are a lot smaller than older ones which herbarium specimens don't usually include. The fruit changes dramatically throughout its development. Problems arise because young fruit are always on specimens with mature leaves and mature fruits occur without leaves or with juvenile leaves. This resulted in one species being given three different names based on specimens of different ages.

Fruits are perhaps the most important diagnostic characters in taxonomy of Terminalia. The flowers are basically similar in all species. Fruits turn black on drying in most species so Mueller's "melanocarpa" for one species was hardly a characteristic name for it. For my treatment of this genus, keys have been constructed to identify the material one can expect to meet with. For this reason a key to flowering material and a key to fruiting material are presented. The two types of material are seldom found together on the one specimen. No attempt has been made to bring related species together in these keys - the most distinctive species are keyed out first. No geographical data are used as key characters as the pattern of the species distributions is not fully known. Bark characteristics are useful for diagnostic purposes in the field. These have not been dealt with in previous accounts.

N. Byrnes, Brisbane.

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

NOMINATION PAPER

(a separate nomination paper or a copy of same is required for each candidate)

We, the undersigned members of the Society, desire to nominate

as

President

Vice-President

Secretary

(Please cross out words that
do not apply)

Treasurer

Councillor

on the A.S.B.S. Council for 1977-1979.

Member's signature

Institution or affiliation

I hereby consent to my nomination for the position of

Signed _____

Date _____

* NOMINATIONS TO BE WITH THE SECRETARY BY 6.5.1977.

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