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AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED

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ASBS Web site

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Loose-leaf inclusions with this issue

- Payment of ASBS membership fees (Membership Renewal) form
- Application for Membership of ASBS form
- ASBS Council Survey on taking Newsletter electronically
- Botanical Books from CSIRO Publishing (advertising brochure)

Publication dates of previous issue
Austral.Syst.Bot.Soc.Nsltr 116 (September 2003 issue)

Hardcopy: 29th Oct 2003; ASBS Web site: 29th Oct 2003

ASBS Inc. business

2003 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Systematic Botany Society, Inc.

5:15 pm, Wednesday 1st October, Commerce Theatre 1
The University of Melbourne, Victoria

Starting time: 5:30 pm. The vice-president welcomed the 44 members present.

Present: John Clarkson (Vice President), Anthony Whalen (Treasurer), Brendan Lepschi (Secretary – Minutes), Darren Crayn (Councillor-elect), Marco Duretto (Councillor-elect), 44 members.

Apologies: Steve Hopper (President), Bob Makinson (Councillor; outgoing)

1. Minutes of the 2002 Annual General Meeting

Proposed that the minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting (as published in the *Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter* Number 113) be accepted. **Proposed: Tim Entwisle; seconded: Barry Conn. Carried.**

2. Business arising from minutes

Nil.

3. President's report

Presented by John Clarkson on behalf of Steve Hopper[1]. See Attachment 1.

4. Treasurer's report

Presented by Anthony Whalen. See Attachment 2.

Pauline Ladiges suggests email reminders to non-financial members to encourage them to remain financial. Credit card payment may also be an option for members. David Mabberley suggests direct debit as another means of making payment of fees easier for members, but Pauline Ladiges and John Clarkson indicate this method may create more problems than it solves. Peter Wilson raised the difficulties encountered by overseas members in paying fees.

ACTION: Anthony Whalen to examine payment options and other related issues. Proposed: Brendan Lepschi; seconded: Anthony Whalen. Carried.

Proposed that the financial statement for the Society for 2003 be accepted. **Proposed: Annette Wilson; seconded: Peter Wilson. Carried.**

5. Newsletter & web page report

Summarised versions of both presented by Robyn Barker and Brendan Lepschi (on behalf of Murray Fagg) respectively. Vote of special thanks from the floor for Bill and Robyn Barker and Murray Fagg for their efforts in producing a high quality newsletter and maintaining the Society website (respectively). See Attachments 3 and 4.

6. Eichler Research Fund

Four applications received for 2003, all presently being considered by the Eichler Research Fund Committee. Results should be known shortly.

7. Any other business

a. Reimbursement of student expenses (for those presenting papers at ASBS Conferences).

Partial reimbursement of $100 towards conference registration expenses was presented to nine students who prepared and presented seminars and posters at the conference.

- Ann Bohte (Uni of Melbourne)
- Jenny Tonkin (Uni of Melbourne)
- Juergen Kellermann (Uni of Melbourne)
- Rodney Jones (Uni of Melbourne)
- Siti Ariati (Uni of Melbourne)
- Lachlan Copeland (UNE)
- Mark Harrington (James Cook Uni)
- Teguh Triono (Australian National Herbarium)
- Mohammad Fatemi (UNE)

b. Subscription rates. To remain at current levels, possibly rising in 2005.

c. Next AGM. To be held in Canberra or Sydney, probably in May 2004. Likely to be in conjunction with a workshop aimed at preparing a new version of a book dealing with Australian plant families.

8. Election Results

Three positions vacant due to the stepping down of one Councillor at the conclusion of their term, and the resignation of another Councillor and the

[1] Steve had to return to Perth, but was able to attend the ASBS Council meeting.

Public Officer. Returning Officer (Brendan Lepschi) indicated that the number of nominations received were the same as the number of vacancies. The following members elected (without voting) to the positions indicated and took office from the close of the AGM.

President:	Steve Hopper
Vice President:	John Clarkson
Secretary:	Brendan Lepschi
Treasurer:	Anthony Whalen
Councillor:	Darren Crayn
Councillor:	Marco Duretto

Council also appointed Kirsten Cowley as the new Public Officer.
The Vice President (John Clarkson) thanked the Council for their efforts over the previous year, on behalf of the President (Steve Hopper).

Meeting closed: 6:20 pm

Attached:

- President's Report (Attachment 1)
- Treasurer's Report and audited accounts for year ended 31st December 2002 (Attachment 2)
- Newsletter Report (Attachment 3)
- Webpage Report (Attachment 4)

Attachment 1: President's report

Presented by the Vice-President John Clarkson on behalf of the President Stephen Hopper.

Constitution

The revision of the ASBS Rules/Constitution was finally completed this year. The response to the postal vote was surprising. It seems an awful lot of members appreciate the need for clear unambiguous rules to guide the business of the Society.

The final procedural matters such as lodging the amended rules with the ACT Registrar general have been completed.

On behalf of the members I would like to convey a final thank you to Bill Barker and Barry Conn who carried the bulk of the work on this and who I am sure are glad to see the task behind them.

Brown celebrations

2002 was the key year in the bicentenary of the Matthew Flinders' great voyage. I fear some of you might be Browned out. In the lead up to the bicentenary, Council made the decision that the science of the voyage should not go unnoticed. The centrepiece of our celebrations was a series of lectures by David Mabberley.

Stephen alluded to how widely David had travelled on our behalf. I doubt whether there were many members who did not have the opportunity to hear him speak on Brown and Bauer. I can't think of anyone better qualified to speak on these two men.

The extent of David's contribution can be gauged when you consider that in a 15 month period he spoke in 16 venues Albany, Esperance, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Launceston, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns, Pennefather River, Weipa, Cooktown and Darwin. In many places David spoke twice. About 22 lectures were delivered.
I heard David deliver the first lecture in Albany in 2001 and over the course of 2002 was lucky enough to hear some others. Not once did David's enthusiasm for his subject waver.

Society members were active in association with the lecture tour and the Society thanks those members who spent a lot of time preparing displays. Robyn Barker especially put in a fantastic effort.

The lecture tour gave the Society the opportunity to get its name before groups of people who probably had no idea what plant systematics is and what systematists do. We should also acknowledge the other groups who assisted with the costs associated with the lecture tour. All of the State Herbaria, the Austrian Embassy, The Royal Society of Tasmania, the Gladstone City Council, The Royal Geographic Society of Queensland, James Cook University, The Northern Territory Museum, The South Australian Art Gallery and the Albany and Esperance Wildflower Society branches.

Eichler Research Fund

The Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund has gone from strength to strength over the past decade. This year the Society will award research grants for the 7th year. This year's applications are currently being assessed with the announcement of the successful applicants to be made by the end of this month (October)

Over the past 6 years the Society has made grants to 20 students. It is pleasing to see that many of the grant recipients have completed their studies and gone on to find employment in plant systematics and many remain members of the Society.

Council wishes to express its thanks to Peter Weston, Robyn Barker, Barry Conn, Tim Entwisle, Terry McFarlane and John Clarkson. These people were members of the original research committee that guided the research fund through its early years. These people have now stood down and have been replaced by Barbara Briggs, Betsy Jackes, Rod Henderson, Tom May and Chris Quinn. The vice president chairs the committee and provides a link to council.

ABRS and Herbarium closures

The recent financial cuts to ABRS and the announcement that the QRS Herbarium in Atherton is to close within 2 years and the collection removed to Canberra is viewed with some concern. Council feels that as a professional society representing scientists directly effected by these cuts, the time may have come for ASBS to become more outspoken on these matters.

Melbourne conference

Thanks to Jim Ross and his committee for organising this conference. Council has very little to do with organising conferences such as this and relies heavily on local groups to plan and run these on the Society's behalf.

Council news

I would like to thank the councillors and the Newsletter editors for the effort they have put in over the past year. In particular I would like to thank Bob Makinson and Andrew Rosefelds who are not standing for re election this year. The rest have fronted for another year.

The year ahead

Annual meetings

There is a requirement that the Society holds its AGM within the first 5 months of the end of its financial year. Our financial year runs from January to December. We have severely tested the patience of the ACT Registrar General over the past several years by holding our AGM in the second half of the year. There have been practical reasons for this but we have been told that we will not be granted extensions in the future. We have two options:

- Move the AGM to the first half of the year - This will happen next year
- Change our financial year to June-July - Council will consider the advantages and disadvantages of this before the next AGM

Society honours

The Society now has several ways it can recognise the efforts of its members on behalf of the Society and significant contributions to Australian systematic botany.

- Life membership may be awarded to members who have made a significant contribution to the work of the Society. The numbers of life members the Society can have at any time is limited by the Society's rules.
- The Society can also recognise significant contributions to plant systematics in Australia by the award of the Nancy Burbidge Medal. The first recipient of the medal was Judy West. Normally no more than one medal would be awarded in any one year but this year Council made the extraordinary decision to award two medals.
- Outstanding student members can be recognised by the award of a grants from the Hanjörg Eichler Research Fund.

Council is developing guidelines which will explain how these awards will be dealt with. When they are finalised they will appear in the Newsletter.

Product development

At its meeting in September Council discussed the possibility of producing a book on the Australian Vascular Plant Families. The concept is very much in the planning stages. We hope to have ideas firmed up soon and to hold a workshop involving key players next year in association with the AGM.

Attachment 2: Treasurer's Report

1. Introduction

It is my pleasure to present the annual financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2002. The finances of the Society are run on the calendar year so the figures being presented are for the year 01 Jan 2002 to 31 Dec 2002.

2. Membership

It has been encouraging to see a steady increase in the number of students joining the Society. At the other end of the demographic scale, there continues to be a slight movement of Ordinary members taking up the concessional fee as they retire from full time work. We have written off 17 unfinancial members who have not paid their dues since 2001 and two other members have resigned and the Society regrets the loss of Keith Ingram who died earlier this year. 11 new members have joined since the last AGM in late 2002 (see list below).

Approximately 30% of members remain unfinancial, exceeding the proportion from last year by nearly 10% (Table 1). Late payments continue to be a problem for the Society, and I urge all members to ensure they annual subscriptions payments are paid promptly in fairness to other members. One issue maybe the general requirement for members to provide cheques for subscription payments. The option of paying by credit card is being explored and this may well be an option for the 2004 calendar year, an option that would hopefully speed up sub payments.

Table 1. Membership of ASBS as of 26 September 2003 (unfinancial members in brackets)

Fee	Full	Concessional	Gratis	Total
Ordinary	179 (61)	NA	0	179 (61)
Student	NA	46 (15)	0	46 (15)
Retiree	NA	47 (5)	0	47 (5)
Institutional	12 (5)	NA	15	27 (5)
Life	NA	NA	2	2
Total	**191 (66)**	**93 (20)**	**17**	**301 (86)**

The following new members for late 2002 and 2003 are welcomed to the Society:

- Ms Jennifer Barker, Adelaide University, SA
- Mr Andrew Craigie, Flinders University, SA
- Ms Ruth Fleming, Ainslie, ACT
- Ms Adele Gibbs, University of Melbourne, Vic.
- Mr Niels Klazenga, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Vic.
- Mr Peter McCrorey, Crooked Corner, NSW
- Mr Tupac Otero, Australian National Herbarium, ACT
- Ms Evelyn Poole, Spencer Institute of TAFE, SA
- Ms Elizabeth Rickwood, Australian National University, ACT
- Mr Teguh Triono, Australian National Herbarium, ACT
- Mr Nicolas Yee, Belmont, Vic.

3. General Fund

3.1 Income

Neil Weaver, a Canberra accountant, audited the 2002 books in September 2003. Change from the previous auditor Acumen was made for financial reasons; Neil Weaver's quote being $1,000 cheaper.

Overall interest rates on all Society accounts continued to be low from the high rates experienced in 2000. For 2002, the Society actually spent more than it made. The General Fund finishing the year in deficit, down by $3,600.

Subscription fees from members were down in 2002 by just over $1000 from 2001. This is not as dramatic as it sounds, the audited statement for 2002 for the first time separates the subscription fees from donations to the Eichler fund. There has been no problem separating donations from subscriptions in previous years but it was decided to make it a little clearer in the audited statements.

Sale of books remained steady in 2002, with the *History of Systematic Botany* continuing to be popular. The lack of new productions is a concern and I would encourage the Society to consider the support of potential new products, as our current holdings are diminishing (see Current Assets section below).

3.2 Expenditure

Conference expenditure actually exceeded the newsletter expenses, traditionally the General Fund's most expensive outlay. The expenditure on conferences for 2002 totalled $9,090. Most of the conference costs for 2002 relate to supporting the Robert Brown Symposium. This Symposium cost $8579, $3,500 of which was reimbursed through conference earnings and donations, leaving the Society with an overall cost of $5,079. Most of these costs related to the transportation of Dr David Mabberley to most major centres around Australia to present his lecture series. Although the Symposium was an expensive outlay for the Society, it proved to be highly successful with feedback overwhelmingly positive.

The cost per newsletter in 2002 was actually 20% cheaper than it was in 2001, thanks to our newsletter editors Robyn and Bill Barker choosing cost effective printing and packaging companies. Four newsletters were printed in both 2001 and 2002, the average cost per issue was $1340 in 2002 as compared to $1640 in 2001.

The Society also paid $360 for the constitutional change mail-out which helped bring the Societies constitution in line with the Incorporations Act.

2003 has been a quieter year in terms of expenditure, though I have made an effort to bring the Society up to date in a few areas. Firstly the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), of which the ASBS is a financial member of, expect subscription payments at the start of each

financial year. FASTS subs were paid twice this year to bring us financial until June 2004. We are now also up to date with royalty payments for the *History of Systematic Botany* publication. Financial partners in this publication were paid $1,088, providing their share of the sale profits from the last 3.5 years.

3.3 Current Assets in the General Fund

The Society held at the close of 2002 assets of $39,856 ($38,482 in cash, $1,374 in books). This as previously mentioned is $3,600 less in assets than the Society totalled in 2001, this is largely due to the Robert Brown Symposium expenditure.

This year I completed a stocktake of the books the Society owns or partially owns, held by Katy Mallett (ASBS sales) and state conveners. We currently own:

- 60 copies of *History of Systematic Botany in Australasia* (partial share)
- 1 copy of *Ecology of Southern Conifers*
- 4 copies of the *Proceedings of the Dampier 2000* conference
- 16 copies of *Systematic Status of Large Flowering Plant Genera*
- 75 copies of *Evolution of the Flora and Fauna or Arid Australia* (partial share)

4. The Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund

In terms of the investment growth it has been a slow few years, interest rates fell significantly in 2001 and stayed low in 2002. Whilst most accounts produced moderate gains, one account the Commonwealth Bank's Growth Fund registered a loss of $3,979 in 2002. This account is the Eichler Fund's high-risk account, which is balanced by a low risk Bond Fund that has shown steady growth. I am pleased to say the Growth Fund in 2003 has started to show recovery.

I have reviewed the account structure of the Eichler Fund, which has not been significantly changed since 1997. As of July 2003 the Eichler Cash Management Trust (CMT) held just over $80,000. It was agreed by the Council that this is too much money to keep in this type of account. The Commonwealth Bank's financial services provided guidance as to where funds may be redirected. A Colonial First State (owned by the Commonwealth) Diversified Fund account was set up with $55,000. This is a medium-high risk account, aimed at holding the funds for a minimum of 5-7 years. The diversification of the Research Fund across its five account types will hopefully help to reduce risk whilst still providing an increasing pool of funding for student support.

Net assets increased from $166,201 to $184,343 in the twelve months ended 31st December 2002; most of the Research Fund's surplus coming through members' generous donations. Three grants totaling $3,000 were awarded to students in 2002.

Periodic reviews will be conducted of the Eichler Fund to ensure the proper balance between good rates of return and risk minimisation is maintained.

5. Taxation

Vice President John Clarkson recently reconfirmed the Societies tax-exempt status with the Australian Taxation Office. Thanks to John for the considerable time and energy he put into organising this.

Despite the Society being charged about $1,600 in GST through its various 2002 expenses, the Society continues as a non-GST collecting entity. We do have the option of switching to a collecting entity; I feel however, that this would be more trouble than it is worth. Most GST income raised would be from subscriptions, impacting on members' annual fees.

Organisers of conferences are reminded that ASBS is not registered as a GST gathering entity. Planners of large conferences need to obtain an ABN and the relevant status or work through a registered institution (such as a herbarium). Smaller conferences and workshops can be run through the Society as long as no GST is charged or recovered.

6. Summary

2002 was a somewhat expensive year for the Society; the drop in interest rates and active conference support has seen the Society end the year with reduced General Fund assets. This Treasurer has endeavoured to keep General Fund spending tight in 2003, whilst bringing us up to date with financial commitments. My recommendation is for 2004 to be another year of minimal spending to bring the General Fund back into surplus. It is also my hope that the 2003 restructure of the Eichler Fund accounts will allow for a steady increase in assets for future student support.

Anthony Whalen
Honorary Treasurer

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to promote systematic botany in Australia.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus for the year ended 2002 amounted to $ 14,539 (2001: $32,451)

	Sep 2003	2002	2001	2000
	$	$	$	$
Research Fund	[2]n.av.	18,142	32,806	28,120
General Fund		-3,603	-355	5,651
		14,539	**32,451**	**33,771**

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Council.
S. Hopper (President)
A. Whalen (Treasurer)
Dated this 10th day of September 2003

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
2000–2002 (audited figures) and to Sep 2003

RESEARCH FUND

	Sep 2003	2002	2001	2000
Income				
Donations to Research Fund	20,000.00	20,252.98	20,822.00	24,840.88
Investment income	n.av.	5,725.82	4,261.89	6,662.07
Income transferred from the Asset Revaluation reserve (see Note 1)	n.av.	0.00	11,058.19	0.00
		25,978.80	**36,142.08**	**31,502.95**
Expenditure				
Research Grants	[3]0.00	[4]3,960.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Loss on Bond and Growth Funds	n.av.	3,846.42	336.14	0.00
Bank Charges	n.av.	30.00	0.00	383.01
		7,836.32	**3,336.14**	**3,383.01**
Surplus for the year		**18,142.48**	**32,805.94**	**28,119.94**

[2] n.av. = Not available. Since accounts for 2003 are not complete many figures are unavailable
[3] $3,000.00 to be transferred to General Fund for 2002 Eichler Award recipients, paid in 2003. Note: no grants as yet awarded for 2003
[4] Grants paid in 2002 for 2001 Eichler Award recipients

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
2000–2002 (audited figures) and to Sep 2003

GENERAL FUND

	Sep 2003	2002	2001	2000
Income				
Sales				
Merchandise	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
History books	95.00	554.00	523.00	704.50
Miscellaneous books	177.00	0.00	19.80	0.00
	272.20	**554.00**	**542.80**	**704.50**
Less cost of goods sold				
Opening stock - books	n.av.	840.00	940.00	1,040.00
Closing stock - books	n.av.	-1,374.25	-840.00	-940.00
		-534.25	**100.00**	**657.00**
Gross Surplus from Trading		1,088.25	442.80	604.50
Advertising	0.00	150.76	0.00	50.00
Conferences	0.00	1500.00	8,864.10	8,044.70
Investment income	n.av.	1,523.52	1,431.56	1,644.15
Subscriptions to ASBS Inc	[5]6,705.00	8,795.00	9,835.20	7,940.00
Donations Eichler Fund	20,548.00	631.00		
Postage recovery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundry income	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Total Income		**17,648.53**	**20,573.66**	**19,187.85**
Expenditure				
Transfer of Members donations to Eichler	[6]1,038.30	252.98	0.00	
Auditors remuneration	700.00	935.00	792.00	350.00
Bank fees	n.av.	65.80	47.87	43.42
Conference expenses	[7]813.99	[8]9,087.71	[9]11,781.38	4,500.00
Science Meets Parliament Workshop	0.00	0.00	451.00	0.00
Eichler Award Students	2,980.00	3,910.00		
Student conference participation	0.00	100.00		
Newsletter expenses	[10]3,975.94	[11]5,370.59	[12]6,563.59	[13]7587.66
Royalties - History Book sales	[14]1,088.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions (FASTS)	[15]2,211.00	[16]1,105.50	0.00	1056.00
2002 constitutional change mail out		359.21		
Registrar General returns	52.00	52.00		
Miscellaneous Expenses (eg. postage)	[17]73.05	13.50	1,293.10	0.00
Total Expenditure		**21,251.79**	**20,928.94**	**13,537.08**
Surplus (Deficit) for year		**-3,603.26**	**-355.28**	**5,650.77**

[5] Approximately 30% of members are late in paying dues for 2003
[6] Relates to Eichler Fund donations from 9/01/2002 – 5/03/2003
[7] Conference costs relate to the *Robert Brown 200*
[8] Conference costs relate to 2002 AGM councillor travel expenses $1,244.20; 2003 Melbourne conference advance $2,500.00; *Robert Brown 200* $5,343.51
[9] *6th Bryological Workshop* $8,012.40; *Robert Brown 200* $2,243.46; *Flora Malesiana* student support $600; councillor airfares $925.52.
[10] 3 issues of Newsletter – covering 113-115
[11] 4 issues of Newsletter – covering 109-112
[12] 4 issues of Newsletter – covering 105-108
[13] 5 issues of Newsletter – covering 100-104
[14] History Book royalties 01/2000 - 12/2002
[15] 2 annual FASTS subscriptions, dating from 1/07/02-30/6/04, FASTS operates on a Financial Year
[16] Annual FASTS subscription for 1/07/01-30/06/02 financial year
[17] Includes medal engraving $20.00; newsletter and book postage $53.05

BALANCE SHEET
2000–2002 (audited figures) and to Sep 2003

	Sept 2003	2002	2001	2000
Current Assets				
(Cash and Investments)				
Research Fund				
Cash at bank	20,920.55	920.55	697.29	692.72
Investments				
Cash Management Fund	25,181.78	76,852.96	58,590.36	44,356.63
Australian Bond Fund	62,049.71	60,389.07	56,753.44	44,724.57
Growth Fund	46,261.17	46,181.15	50,160.16	50,660.20
Diversified Fund	[18]52,800.00			
	207,213.21	**184,343.73**	**166,201.25**	**140,434.12**
General Fund				
Cash at bank	2,406.00	3,877.14	3,381.56	21,673.47
Investments				
Term Deposit	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Cash Management Account	25,083.41	24,605.02	29,094.11	15,220.86
	37,489.41	**38,482.16**	**42,475.67**	**46,894.33**
Debtors	0.00	0.00	144.00	0.00
Inventories				
General Fund				
History of Systematic Botany	n.av.	1,374.25	840.00	940.00
Total Current Assets		**224,200.14**	**209,660.92**	**188,268.45**
Net Assets		**224,200.14**	**209,660.92**	**188,268.45**
Members' Funds				
Research Fund				
Accumulated surplus at end of year	n.av.	184,898.19	166,755.71	133,949.77
Asset Revaluation Reserve	n.av.			11,058.19
		184,898.19	**166,755.71**	**145,007.96**
General Fund				
Accumulated surplus at end of year		39,301.95	42,905.21	43260.49
Total Members' Funds		**224,200.14**	**209,660.92**	**188,268.45**

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
This report is a special purpose financial report in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT).

No Australian Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been intentionally applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Membership
Membership is recorded on a cash basis.

[18] Colonial First State Diversified Fund, established 19/08/2003: $2,200.00 establishment fee deducted from initial investment of $55,000.00

Income Tax
Under present legislation the association is exempt from income tax accordingly no provision has been made in the accounts.

Asset Revaluation Reserve
In prior years the movement in the Bond and Growth Funds have been recorded as asset revaluations. In 2001, management have decided to recognise these movements as income. The balance of the asset revaluation reserve was transferred to income in the 2001 year.

Comparative Figures
Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with the changes in presentation for the current year.

Members Funds
In accordance with the rules of the association accumulated funds are not available for the distribution to members.

	Sep 2003	2002	2001	2000
2. INVESTMENT INCOME				
Research Fund				
Interest Received				
Cheque account	n.av.	0.28	4.57	2.78
Distributions				
Cash Management Trust	[19]1,521.33	2,222.60	1,590.85	1,328.79
Australian Bond and Growth Fund	n.av.	3,502.94	2,666.47	5,330.50
Total Research Fund		**5,725.82**	**4,261.89**	**6,662.07**
General Fund				
Interest Received				
Cheque account	11.12		182.97	33.12
Term deposits	216.98	512.61	375.34	825.36
	228.10	512.61	558.31	858.48
Distributions				
Cash Management Trust	[20]478.39	1,010.91	873.25	785.67
Total General Fund	**706.49**	**1,523.52**	**1,431.56**	**1,644.15**
Total Investment Income		**[21]7,249.34**	**5,693.45**	**8,306.22**
3. ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
Research Fund				
Accumulated surplus (start)		166,755.71	133,949.77	105,829.83
Surplus / (deficit) this year		18,142.48	32,805.94	28,119.94
Accumulated surplus (end)		**184,898.19**	**166,755.71**	**133,949.77**
General Fund				
Accumulated surplus (start)		42,905.21	43,260.49	37,609.72
Surplus / (deficit) this year		-3,603.26	-355.28	5,650.77
Accumulated surplus (end)		39,301.95	42,905.21	43,260.49
Total Accumulated Surplus (end)		**224,200.14**	**209,660.92**	**177,210.26**
4. RESERVES				
Asset Revaluation Reserve				
Balance at beginning of year			11,058.19	6,632.39
Transfers this year			-11,058.19	4,425.80
Balance at end of year			**0.00**	**11,058.19**

[19] Cash Management Trust, distribution income for 3rd Quarter not included
[20] Cash Management Trust, distribution income for 3rd Quarter not included
[21] Actual total displayed, $6,736.73 in audit represents a error in calculation

5. COUNCIL MEMBERS

The names of the Council members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

President	Barry Conn	To Sep 2002. Ineligible for re-election
	Steve Hopper	Appointed Sep 2002
Vice President	Bill Barker	To Sep 2002. Ineligible for re-election
	John Clarkson	Appointed Sep 2002
Secretary	Brendan Lepschi	Re-elected
Treasurer	Anthony Whalen	Re-elected
Councillors	Andrew Rozefelds	Re-elected
	Bob Makinson	Re-elected

6. RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Australian Systematic Botany Society is an approved research institute. The approved membership of the Research Committee comprises:

Terry Macfarlane	Peter Weston
Barry Conn	Robyn Barker
John Clarkson	Tim Entwisle

INDEPENDENT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

Scope

I have audited the special purpose financial statements of The Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc. (the Society) for the financial year ended 31 December 2002. The Committee members are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the special purpose financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of these special purpose financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Society.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the special purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the special purpose financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements [and relevant statutory requirements and other requirements][22], in Australia so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Society's financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

As is common for organizations of this type, it is not practicable for the Society to maintain an effective system of internal control over the receipt of revenues until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, my audit was limited to the amounts recorded.

Qualified audit opinion

Subject to the above qualification, in my opinion:

a) The special purpose financial statements of the Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc. are properly drawn up:
   i) so as to give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities of the Society as at 31 December 2002 and the income and expenditure of the Church[23] for the financial year ended on that date and the other matters required by Subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act to be dealt with in the financial statements;
   ii) in accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act; and
   iii) in accordance with proper accounting standards.

b) I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit; and

[22] sic!

[23] sic!

c) Proper accounting records and other records have been kept by the Society as required by the Act.

[Signed "*Neil B. Weaver*"]
Neil Weaver
Registered Company
Auditor
10 September 2003

Attachment 3: Newsletter Report

Bill and Robyn Barker continued editing of the ASBS Newsletter for 2002/2003. Since the last AGM in September 2002 they have edited four issues, 112-115. The Newsletter is now also projected electronically as a pdf through the ASBS web site and we thank Murray Fagg for his promptness in placing the material on the web. Date of publication of the hard-copy issue and the web-site issue are included on the inside cover of the following issue.

Again there has been no lack of material for the Newsletter in this time and the members who have contributed items over this period are thanked. Regular contributions from the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer (ABLO) in Kew and from Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) are appreciated as well as the contribution from the Federation of Australian Science and Technology Societies (FASTS). It was also good to have reports from the Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria (CHAH).

Having got back on track with respect to publication in the appropriate month, there has been some slippage over the last 2 issues of the Newsletter. Much of this delay can be put down to Bill's workload, but for issue 115 it was exacerbated because of problems with a computer upgrade.

Electronic vs hard copy

It was discussed at the AGM in Adelaide in 2002 whether those who chose to receive the newsletter in hard copy should receive a discounted subscription rate. The general feeling of the relatively small meeting was that those who did choose to receive the newsletter in electronic format only were still happy to pay the same amount as those who receive the Newsletter as hardcopy, in the interests of the Society.

This decision needs to be put to all members and the easiest way of doing so would be to include this question on the subscription notice sent out with the December issue of the Newsletter.

Overseas members

The question of the cost of posting the newsletter to overseas members of the society has arisen. The relatively few of overseas newsletters posted account for a third of the postage costs for each issue. A full annual subscription of $40 probably just pays for the 4 newsletters per year plus their postage. However of the 29 newsletters posted overseas, only 13 of the subscriptions are presently financial (and 2 of these are gratis copies, and 2 are concessional memberships!). Nine of the 29 subscriptions are presently 2 years in arrears. Five of the eight libraries are in arrears. Consequently our overseas members are presently a substantial cost to the society and the membership should decide whether they are willing to bear this cost in the interests of maintaining the links. In their defence, it is often difficult to pay the society's subscriptions in Australian dollars from overseas because we do not have credit-card facilities. Should this situation change, then the status of these members may well change.

A number of options can be considered

- raise the subscription for overseas members to cover the extra postage costs
- postage at a lower rate and consequently longer delivery time
- not to send the newsletter at all, but email a message when it is available on the web (this would presumably not suit the libraries but perhaps a more official invoice can be sent to them in order to raise the number paying their subscriptions)
- remain with the status quo, but be more vigilant in collecting subscriptions, with failure to pay by March/June of the financial year meaning cessation of the Newsletter

Product reviews

ASBS editors have established relations with a number of book publishers who provide copies of their products free in exchange for a review in the Newsletter. Members thought to be appropriate for a review are asked if they are willing and have the time to undertake this. In the majority of cases excellent reviews are the result, but we have had some cases where reviews have not been forthcoming. The failure to produce a review causes embarrassment to the editors since they are responsible for forwarding copies of these reviews to the publishers. If you find you cannot provide a promised review, please contact the editors and return the product as soon as possible, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

We are always open to suggestions and so if you have any comments on the newsletter and how it

might be improved, please don't hesitate to contact us. Volunteers to act as news gatherers in each state would be appreciated and we would encourage our student members to make use of the Newsletter in order make themselves known to the wider botanical community – it all helps in finding those scarce jobs for that rare and endangered breed, the systematist.

Robyn & Bill Barker
22nd September 2003

Attachment 4: Webpage Report

The Society's webpage continues to be hosted by the Australian National Botanic Gardens server, and is maintained by Murray Fagg. As in previous years, traffic to the webpage is relatively high, with an average of 300-350 hits per day, based on extrapolations of figures for a period in September 2003.

Activity shows a distinct weekly pattern, with mid-week (Wednesday) the busiest time, and weekends the slowest. All pages on the website have been requested at sometime or other, but the Newsletter pages are by far the most often visited, especially the book reviews. Notably, the 'miscellaneous' pages, such as the cladistic glossary and geological time scale, are also well patronised.

Brendan Lepschi on behalf of Murray Fagg
Australian National Herbarium, Canberra
29th September 2003

Science meets Parliament 2003

Anthony Whalen and Chris Cargill
Australian National Herbarium, Canberra, ACT

Science meets Parliament (SmP), is an annual gathering organised by the Federation of Australian Science and Technology Societies (FASTS), with ASBS being one of these societies. This event is designed to provide a concentrated, unified voice to the Federal Government, lobbying on the importance of science to the future of Australia. On behalf of the ASBS, Chris Cargill and Anthony Whalen from CANB attended this two day event. Each scientist was paired up with two others (often from disparate disciplines) to form teams to meet with one or more Parliamentarians.

The first day, at the National Press Club, involved briefings from FASTS representatives, journalists and past participants. The day also included an entertaining debate between the Federal Science Minister, Peter McGauran and the Shadow Minister, Kim Carr on future directions in science and education. However, the main purpose of this day was to instruct the participating scientists on the most effective way of lobbying politicians. FASTS prepared a simple three-pronged message for participants to sell in their meetings:

- public investment in higher education should be set and funded as a percentage of GDP

New Service – Credit-card payment of Membership fees

Members are reminded that it is the time of year to pay your annual fees. You will be pleased to learn that the Treasurer has provided you with the option of paying fees by the more common credit cards.

Hopefully this will remove the impediment of high bank fees for bank cheques as a possible reason for delays in fee payment.

Council survey on receipt of Newsletter in electronic form

Council is also investigating providing the opportunity to members to forego their hardcopy Newsletter, which would be a cost-saving for the Society, by providing a survey slip with this issue. As indicated in the Newsletter Report to the last AGM (p. 11), several members at the Adelaide AGM indicated that they would want no reduction in fees in taking up this option.

If there were a fee reduction, this would require a resolution at the next Annual General Meeting, and as not everyone can be there it is important that you forward your views to Council.

Please help Council by completing this survey!

- in comparison to the OECD average, Australia needs to double its public investment in research
- more attractive tax concessions are needed to encourage private investment in R&D

The second day was dominated by the teams of scientists meeting their allocated politicians throughout the day. Chris Cargill spoke with Greg Hunt (House of Representatives – Liberal) and Senator Brian Greig (Australian Democrats). Anthony Whalen met with Anna Burke (House of Representatives – Labor) and the Hon. Kevin Andrews (Minister for Employment and Work Place Relations). Most other Federal politicians were involved in some form of SmP meeting; and historically this event has been well supported by Parliament.

Talking to scientists during the day after their meetings showed the variety of responses encountered. Depending upon status and other commitments, politicians were available from as little as ten minutes to as long as an hour.

For future participation as representatives of the ASBS, it would be of great benefit to have pamphlets and contact information to pass onto the politicians. One MP was eager for information; whilst another who did not seem interested at the time was observed to be reading recently acquired SmP pamphlets during the Senate sitting!

SmP 2003 was certainly an opportunity for scientists to meet face to face with our politicians and speak about issues of concern, however it is difficult to gauge what real impact was made. FASTS strategy of selling the message of a healthy science industry to Parliament each year must help reinforce its importance. We would encourage future ASBS involvement in *Science meets Parliament*. Future participants should not go in with preconceived ideas upon how you will be received; expect the unexpected!

Articles

References to the Australian flora in the *Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles Report*

Peter Bailey
89 Bemersyde Drive, Berwick Vic. 3806

The first volume of the *Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles Report* was published between the years 1879 and 1901. Most parts are a report for the previous year (exceptions being 1882 report published in 1884; 1883 in 1885; 1895 in 1897; 1896 in 1898; 1898 in 1900; 1899 in 1901) with each successive report continuing pagination from the previous issue.

There are 22 parts to volume one and *S.* ×*townsendii* Groves & J.Groves, the only name associated with the Australian flora, should be cited as *Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles Report* 1: 37 (1881). When giving the full title, as used in the Australian Plant Name Index, it may be reasonable to add the part number, i.e. 1(2): 37. While the part numbers are not included in the original, neither was it known as volume one. It was only after the publication of the second volume that it was considered as the first volume.

From volume two the name was changed to *The Botanical Exchange Club and Society of the British Isles*. Some new botanical names were published in supplementary papers, but as they are included in the associated part without separate page numbering they could be considered part of that issue. The use of supplement in citations is therefore unnecessary.

From volume four the name was changed to *The Botanical Society and Exchange Club of the British Isles*. As with volumes 2 and 3, taxonomic names were also published in supplementary papers; again they have contiguous page numbers and as previously mentioned, the use of supplement in citations is unnecessary.

The appended table (Table 1) details of new names or combinations for Australian plants published in the series. Other Australian plants are mentioned as adventives in Britain but these are not listed here.

Acknowledgment

Detailed correspondence from Professor Clive Stace, Professor of Plant Taxonomy, University of Leicester concerning Botanical Exchange Club Reports led to this communication.

pbailey@connexus.net.au

Table 1: List of Australian species published in the Report of the Club under its various titles

The Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles. Report (Vol.1)

[BPH 220/1, BPHS 52416, p.163, Bot. Exch. Club Brit. Isles Rep.]

1(2) (1881) report for 1880

J.Groves, Notes on plants received, pp.28-42
- *Spartina ×townsendii* H.Groves & J.Groves, p. 37

The Botanical Exchange Club and Society of the British Isles (Vols 2 & 3)

[BPH 220/2, BPHS 52417, p.163, Bot. Exch. Club Soc. Brit. Isles]

3(3) (Jun. 1913) report for 1912

G.C. Druce, Plant Notes for 1912, etc., pp.151-186 including an extract from a letter from Thellung dated December 1912.
- *Lepidium peregrinum* Thell. in Druce, p.153

3(5) (Feb. 1914) report for 1913

G.C. Druce, Notes on Nomenclature: New Combinations, pp.413-426
- *Cryptostemma calendula* (L.) Druce, p.416
- *Limnophila indica* (L.) Druce, p.420
- *Matricaria suffruticosa* (L.) Druce, p.421
- *Rothia indica* (L.) Druce, p.423

The Botanical Society and Exchange Club of the British Isles (Vols 4+)

[BPH 224/24, BPHS 52472, p.164, Bot. Soc. Exch. Club Brit. Isles]

4(1) (May 1915) report for 1914

G.C. Druce, Plant notes etc. for 1914, pp. 7-30.
- *Calotis hispidula* var. *sessiliceps* Thell. in Druce, p.15

4(5) (May 1917) report for 1916

G.C. Druce, New county and other records, pp. 469-511
- *Acaena anserinifolia (J.R.Forst. & G.Forst.) Druce, p.484*

4(6) (Jul. 1917), second supplement to report for 1916

G.C. Druce, Nomenclatural Notes: chiefly African and Australian, pp. 601-653
- *Acomis acoma* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.602
- *Ammannia indica* (Willd.) Druce (1917) non Lam. (1792), p.603
- *Amperea xiphoclada* (Sieber ex Spreng.) Druce, p.604
- *Andersonia axilliflora* (Stschegl.) Druce, p.604
- *Andersonia echinocephala* (Stschegl.) Druce, p.604
- *Andersonia simplex* (Stschegl.) Druce, p.604
- *Angianthus phyllocalymmeus* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.604
- *Anisacantha anisacanthoides* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.605
- *Anthocercis anthocercidea* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.605
- *Asterolasia asteriscophora* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.606
- *Asterolasia hexapetala* (A.Juss.) Druce, p.606
- *Astroloma ciliatum* (Lindl.) Druce, p.606
- *Astroloma epacridis* (DC.) Druce, p.607
- *Astroloma serratifolium* (DC.) Druce, p.607
- *Athrixia athrixioides* (Sond.) Druce, p.607
- *Athrixia nivea* (Steetz) Druce, p.607
- *Athrixia pulverulenta* (Lindl.) Druce, p.607
- *Atylosia pauciflora* (Wight & Arn.) Druce, p.607
- *Azorella fragosea* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.607
- *Azorella ranunculacea* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.607
- *Baeckea crenulata* (F.Muell.) Druce (1917) non (Sm.) DC. (1828), p.608
- *Baeckea imbricata* (Gaertn.) Druce, p.608
- *Baeckea preissiana* (Schauer) Druce, p.608
- *Bergia verticillaris* (F.Muell.) Druce (1917) non Willd. (1810), p.608
- *Billardiera latifolia* (Turcz.) Druce (1917) non Putt. (1839), p.609
- *Blennodia blennodioides* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.609
- *Blennodia nasturtium* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.609
- *Blumea lanceolaria* (Roxb.) Druce, p.609
- *Bossiaea obcordata* (Vent.) Druce, p.610
- *Brachyscome lineariloba* (DC.) Druce, p.610
- *Caladenia catenata* (Sm.) Druce, p.611
- *Calotis multicaulis* (Turcz.) Druce, p.611
- *Calytrix cuspidata* Druce nom. nud., p.611
- *Candollea enervia* (DC.) Druce, p.612
- *Centaurium australe* (R.Br.) Druce, p.613
- *Chiloglottis reflexa* (Labill.) Druce, p.614
- *Chorizema glycinifolium* (Sm.) Druce, p.615
- *Citriobatus spinescens* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.615
- *Cladium tenax* (Hook.f.) Druce, p.615
- *Colobanthus apetalus* (Labill.) Druce, p.616
- *Corynotheca micrantha* (Lindl.) Druce, p.616
- *Corysanthes aconitiflorus* (Salisb.) Druce, p.617
- *Cotula cotuloides* (Steetz) Druce, p.617
- *Crassula sieberiana* (Schult. & Schult.f.) Druce, p.618
- *Cryptocarya bowiei* (Walp.) Druce, p.618
- *Cyathodes juniperina* (J.R.Forst.& G.Forst.)Druce, p.618
- *Cyathodes petiolaris* (DC.) Druce, p.618
- *Deeringia arborescens* (R.Br.) Druce, p.619
- *Dicrastylis exsuccosa* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.619
- *Dillwynia dillwynioides* (Meisn.) Druce, p.620
- *Dillwynia retorta* (Wendl.) Druce, p.619
- *Discaria pubescens* (Brongn.) Druce, p.620
- *Dracophyllum dracophylloides* (Sond.) Druce, p.620
- *Enchylaena tamariscina* (Lindl.) Druce, p.621
- *Eragrostis polymorpha* Druce (1917) non Roem. & Schult. (1817), p.621
- *Eremaea pauciflora* (Endl.) Druce, p.622
- *Eremophila serrulata* (A.Cunn. ex A.DC.) Druce, p.622
- *Fagraea fagraeacea* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.623
- *Fimbristylis fimbristyloides* (F.Muell.) Druce, p.623

Galaxia fugacissima (L.f.) Druce, p.624
Galenia pubescens (Eckl. & Zeyh.) Druce, p.624
Gazania linearis (Thunb.) Druce, p.624
Geijera paniculata (F.Muell.) Druce, p.624
Gnephosis gnephosoides (F.Muell.) Druce, p.624
Gomphrena cunninghamii (Moq.) Druce, p.625
Graptophyllum excelsum (F.Muell.) Druce, p.625
Grevillea cuneata (Endl.) Druce, p.625 [basionym nom. inval.]
Grevillea linearifolia (Cav.) Druce, p.625
Grevillea pilulifera (Lindl.) Druce, p.625
Guichenotia angustifolia (Turcz.) Druce, p.625
Gynandropsis cleomoides (F.Muell.) Druce, p.625
Helichrysum hookeri (Sond.) Druce, p.626
Helichrysum ramosissimum (F.Muell.) Druce (1917) non Hook. (1848), p.626
Helichrysum roseum (Lindl.) Druce (1917) non Ballion (1882), p.626
Helipterum australe (A.Gray) Druce, p.627
Helipterum demissum (A.Gray) Druce, p.627
Helipterum glutinosum (Steetz) Druce (1917) non Hook. (1848), p.627
Helipterum pygmaeum (Turcz.) Druce nom. inval., p.627 [combination not made by Druce]
Heterachne abortiva (R.Br.) Druce, p.627
Hibbertia ovata (Labill.) Druce (1917) non Steud. (1845), p.628
Imperata cylindrica var. *koenigii* (Benth.) Druce, p.628
Isopogon dubius (R.Br.) Druce, p.629
Isotoma hypocrateriformis (R.Br.) Druce, p.629
Jacksonia aphylla (Turcz.) Druce, p.629
Keraudrenia corollata (Steetz) Druce, p.629
Kunzea ambigua (Sm.) Druce, p.629
Kunzea phylicoides (A.Cunn. ex Schauer) Druce, p.629
Kyllinga cephalotes Druce, p.630
Kyllinga colorata (L.) Druce, p.630
Lachnostachys eriobotrya (F.Muell.) Druce, p.630
Lagenifera bellioides (Cass.) Druce, p.630
Lagenifera stipitata (Labill.) Druce, p.630
Lasiospermum bipinnatum (Thunb.) Druce, p.631
Latrobea abnormis (F.Muell.) Druce, p.631
Lechenaultia grandiflora (Benth.) Druce (1917) non Lindl. (1 Dec. 1839) nec DC. (late Dec. 1939), p.632
Leptochloa decipiens (R.Br.) Druce (1917) non (R.Br.) Stapf ex Maiden (1909), p.632
Leptomeria drupacea (Labill.) Druce, p.632
Leptospermum brachyandrum (F.Muell.) Druce, p.632
Leucopogon villosus (Cav.) Druce (1917) non (Labill.) R.Br. (1810), p.633
Lhotskya alpestris (Lindl.) Druce, p.633
Logania albiflora (Andrews) Druce, p.633
Lysicarpus angustifolius (Hook.) Druce, p.634
Lysiosepalum involucratum (Turcz.) Druce, p.634
Macaranga tomentosa (Blume) Druce, p.634
Macropidia fuliginosa (Hook.) Druce, p.634
Marsdenia australis (R.Br.) Druce, p.634
Melichrus procumbens (Cav.) Druce, p.635
Melicope octandra (F.Muell.) Druce, p.635
Mentha affinis (Hook.f.) Druce, p.635
Micromyrtus ciliata (Sm.) Druce, p.636
Mollugo molluginis (F.Muell.) Druce, p.636
Monotoca glauca (Labill.) Druce, p.636
Moschosma moschatus (R.Br.) Druce, p.637
Muehlenbeckia juncea Druce nom. nud., p.637 [basionym nom. nud.]
Myoporum cordifolium (F.Muell.) Druce, p.637
Myoporum myoporoides (F.Muell.) Druce, p.637
Nepenthes mirabilis (Lour.) Druce, p.637
Nertera granadensis (Mutis ex L.f.) Druce, p.637
Oxylobium lanceolatum (Vent.) Druce (1917) non Daveau (1893-1899), p.638
Philotheca salsolifolia (Sm.) Druce, p.639
Phyllanthus triandrus (Hook.) Druce (1917) non Müll.Arg. (1865), p.639
Pityrodia axillaris (Endl.) Druce, p.640
Pityrodia loxocarpa (F.Muell.) Druce, p.640
Poa poiformis (Labill.) Druce, p.640
Podolepis arachnoidea (Hook.) Druce, p.640
Pollinia contorta (Brongn.) Druce, p.641
Pratia concolor (R.Br.) Druce, p.641
Pultenaea capitata (Turcz.) Druce, p.642
Pultenaea subalpina (F.Muell.) Druce, p.643
Rochelia plurisepalea (F.Muell.) Druce, p.644
Rottboellia rottboellioides (R.Br.) Druce, p.644
Salicornia triandra (F.Muell.) Druce, p.644
Sarcocephalus coadunatus (Roxb. ex Sm.) Druce, p.644
Scaevola albida (Sm.) Druce, p.644
Scaevola calendulacea (Andrews) Druce, p.644
Scholtzia involucrata (Endl.) Druce, p.645
Scyphocoronis major (Turcz.) Druce, p.646
Seringia arborescens (Dryand.) Druce, p.646
Siebera lanceolata (Labill.) Druce, p.647
Platysace lanceolata (Labill.) Druce, p.647, in obs.
Sphaerolobium lineare (Benth.) Druce, p.648
Sprengelia monticola (A.Cunn. ex DC.) Druce, p.648
Sprengelia sprengelioides (R.Br.) Druce, p.648
Spyridium microphyllum (F.Muell. ex Reissek) Druce, p.648
Stenotaphrum compressum Druce, p.648
Sterculia australis (Schott & Endl.) Druce, p.648
Sterculia paradoxa (Schott & Endl.) Druce, p.649
Striga coccinea (Hook.) Druce, p.649
Stylidium majus (Sm.) Druce, p.649
Styphelia pulchella (Stschegl.) Druce (1917) non (Sond.) F.Muell. (1867), p.649
Synaphea reticulata (Sm.) Druce, p.650
Trachymene ornata (Endl.) Druce, p.650
Trachymene setulosa (F.Muell.) Druce, p.650
Trichinium lanatum (A.Cunn. ex Moq.) Druce (1917) non Lindl. (1838), p.651
Triglochin triglochinoides (F.Muell.) Druce, p.651
Verticordia plumosa (Desf.) Druce, p.651
Waitzia suaveolens (Benth.) Druce, p.652
Westringia fruticosa (Donn ex Willd.) Druce, p.652

5(1) (Sep. 1918) report for 1917

A.Thellung, Plant notes etc. for 1917, pp.14-64
Erodium brachycarpum (Godr.) Thell., p.17

The Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles

R.M. Barker
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The Botanical Exchange Club of the British Isles (1897-1910), later The Botanical Exchange Club and Society of the British Isles (1910-1914), and then The Botanical Society and Exchange Club of the British Isles (1914-1947), operated through the late 1870's to 1947. It grew out of the earlier-formed Botanical Society of London (dissolved in 1857), and there was apparently a brief, but detached, history of this earlier society accompanying the 1910 *Report* (Britten 1911, p. 352); however this history is not included in the 13 volumes of the *Reports* held by the Library of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Adelaide.

The object of the Club as expressed in their Report of 1915 (volume 4(1), p. 2) was to:

- stimulate the study of critical plant species and varieties of British Plants
- facilitate the exchange of dried specimens
- conduce to intercourse between British Botanists
- encourage the interchange of ideas

The collection and distribution of British plant specimens was the major driving force in the early years, much of the emphasis being on the exchange of specimens. The first Reports are primarily notes concerning the specimens collected and distributed to members, but in later issues shorter articles dealing with such items as new County records, recent publications, excluded species in the British flora, obituaries, the number of specimens collected in a particular year and who collected them, all begin to appear. There are no indices in any of the *Reports* or their collected volumes (13 in all) and so if you had to find information about a particular plant it would be extremely difficult. Where species do have a number before them in later volumes, this is usually a reference to the number of the species as it appears in Druce's *List of British Plants* (Druce 1908).

Membership was of two basic kinds, ordinary or non-contributing and exchange or contributing, the latter paying a higher yearly subscription to donate and receive dried specimens. The role of the Distributor and the associated referees, the latter responsible for expert identification of the collections, was pivotal to the organisation of the club. Some of the referees, as for instance A. Thellung, K.Domin, N.L. Britton, C.H. Ostenfeld, E.Hackel and R. von Wettstein, were overseas experts afforded honorary membership of the club.

Specimens collected, preferably with up to 30 duplicates, were sent to the Distributor, who was then responsible for having the identifications checked by referees and finally distributing the duplicates to exchange members. Given that in one year the average number of collections was usually around 4000 (not including duplicates), but could be as high as 8656 (in 1913), and the number of exchange members could be as high as 50, this was an enormous job; it is not surprising that the job of Distributor had a high turnover rate. Even the task of assembling the notes from the collections for the report each year was enormous. With time, there was a gradual shift in emphasis away from the exchange club activities to the more familiar botanical society interests of today.

The name of the society was changed on the 25th October 1947 to The Botanical Society of the British Isles and it continues today in many of the aims expressed above, but without the emphasis on the exchange of dried specimens. An impressive website can be found at www.bsbi.org.uk and the society publishes the journal *Watsonia*. The dried specimens still exist in BM, K, OXF and CGE, and also in regional collections such as that of the Hull University Herbarium, the Ida Roper Herbarium at the University of Leeds, the Manchester University Herbarium (MANCH) and the herbarium of the Thurso Museum in Caithness (see Caithness Field Club Bulletins 1981), and no doubt others.

What has all of this got to do with Australian plants? G. Claridge Druce, a pharmacist of Oxford and the Druce of the Fielding-Druce Herbarium of Oxford University, was secretary of the Exchange Club from 1903 to 1932. He was responsible for the gradual changes in name and content of the Reports of the Club. In his obituary of Druce, Pugsley (Pugsley 1932) recorded that these changes of name of the Club were not universally popular, drawing criticism from James Britten, the editor of the *Journal of Botany* at this time. Britten (1914) considered that the *Report* "becomes yearly less and less connected with the Club, and more and more a medium for the expression of the views of Mr Druce, the Secretary, upon various botanical matters, and above all for the publication of the 'comb. nov., ' of which he is so expert – we had almost said so unscrupulous - a manufacturer." It is the new combinations he published in the Australian flora which concern us here.

Most of the new combinations published by Druce relate to differences in nomenclatural interpretation at that time. As expressed by Druce (1917), in the introduction to the article where most of the Australian changes are published:

> Recently I have had occasion to arrange and examine a large number of African and Australian plants, and to consult rather critically the Floras of these two great British possessions that have been compiled by those able Botanists, Bentham and Hooker, as well as that by Harvey and Sonder. The method of nomenclature of the Hookerian school differed from the continental plan in not insisting upon the permanence of the trivial name when changed into a different genus.
>
> In order to comply with the 'Actes,' numerous alterations in them have been found necessary, some of these have already been made by other writers, but I am unable to find the following combinations, which seem to be rendered incumbent, in the pages of Index Kewensis or its Supplements. Some may have been formed elsewhere which have escaped attention; others may have to be united to different generic names. I have thought it well to bring together such as seem to have priority, so that trouble may be saved to those working at the various genera which are involved.

In adopting the ruling of the priority of the earliest epithet as laid down in the first code of nomenclature from Vienna in 1905, Druce ensured his name appearing in the authorship of a number of African and Australian plants. The vehicle for their publication is the oddity.

In the previous article Peter Bailey has extracted a list of combinations published by Druce for Australian plants as well as documenting the correct title of the publications in which they appear. There is also a description of a new species of *Lepidium* published by Thellung in this series.

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An alternative view to ICBN Proposal 1584 to conserve the name *Acacia* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae) with a conserved type

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Orchard & Maslin (2003) have published a case for conservation of the name *Acacia* with the conserved type *A. penninervis* Sieber ex DC., an Australian species, to replace the original type *A. scorpioides* (L.)W.F.Wight, an African species currently regarded as a synonym of, and known as, *A. nilotica* (L.)Delile. The main purpose of this proposal is to prevent adoption of the generic name *Racosperma* for species currently in *Acacia* subg. *Phyllodineae*, as proposed by Pedley (1986). Orchard & Maslin (2003: 362) refer to '... the nomenclatural turmoil that it would entail'.

The vast majority of taxa that would be placed in *Racosperma* are Australian, with the exception of about 20 in the Pacific and Asian regions, Madagascar and the Mascarene islands (Maslin *et al*. 2003). If Orchard & Maslin's proposal is accepted, then the 960 species of *Acacia* subg. *Phyllodineae* would retain their present *Acacia* names, and approximately 161 species of *Acacia* subg. *Acacia* in Africa and the Americas would be transferred as new combinations into the genus *Vachellia*. About 231 *Acacia* species not in these two subgenera will change their names regardless of whether Orchard & Maslin's proposal is accepted or not. In Pedley's (1986) scheme, all would have been transferred to *Senegalia.* Under the proposed subdivision of *Acacia* into five genera in the classification put forward by Maslin *et al*. (2003), the 231 species would be divided between a modified *Senegalia* (203 species), *Acaciella* (15 species) and a new genus yet to be named (13 species).

Mr Maslin has led opposition to Pedley's proposal to divide *Acacia* and transfer most Australian species to *Racosperma*. Initially 'the question of group ranking is what is at the core of the debate' (Maslin 1987) with the large number of name changes also mentioned as a matter of concern. Subsequently Maslin (1988) expanded his arguments against the splitting of *Acacia* by raising the following issues: (a) 'Does the available evidence permit recognition of higher order taxa within *Acacia sens. lat*.?' (b) 'What is

the appropriate rank and name for higher order taxa that are recognised?' and (c) 'Is the name *Racosperma* validly published?'. Pedley (1987, 1989) accepted that 'Accumulation of more data and its appraisal is required by those not convinced of the merit of my proposal'. Molecular studies (Miller & Bayer 2001, 2003; Murphy *et al*. 2003) have confirmed the correctness of Pedley's (1986) taxonomic proposals and indeed Maslin *et al*. (2003) now recommend recognition of five genera to accommodate species formerly placed in *Acacia sensu lato*. *Racosperma* is accepted as a validly published name.

In support of their proposal, Orchard & Maslin give several significant reasons and point out what they regard as serious, unfortunate, disadvantageous consequences if it is rejected and Pedley's (1986) proposal adopted. These reasons can be summarised as follows:

1. At specific and subspecific levels, about 1150 name changes of (largely) Australian species into *Racosperma* are required under Pedley's (1986) proposal. With Orchard & Maslin's proposal, no changes will occur with the Australian species of *Acacia* subg. *Phyllodineae* but about 200 specific and subspecific names of (largely) extra-Australian species will be transferred into *Vachellia*. None of these figures include the 231 name changes into *Senegalia*, *Acaciella* and a currently unnamed new genus which will occur irrespective of whether Proposal 1584 is accepted or not.
2. As *Racosperma* is neuter and *Acacia* is feminine, many specific and subspecific epithets will have spelling changes to their endings if transfers to *Racosperma* are made.
3. A large number of economically important species would have name changes and the effects would be felt by '... a large number of countries, users and industries...'.
4. If Pedley's classification is adopted, about half the African species remain in *Acacia* and the rest are transferred to *Senegalia*. Orchard & Maslin (2003) comment 'The two genera are broadly sympatric across a considerable part of their range in Africa and confusion can be expected over which of two adjacent species changed and which did not'. A similar situation exists in the Americas where both *Acacia* and *Senegalia* occur.
5. The literature on *Acacia* is huge and any change of nomenclature will have profound repercussions. Orchard & Maslin (2003) suggest that their proposal will cause least disruption to the body of literature as the majority of taxa will retain their existing names.
6. There has been virtually no adoption in the literature of the approximately 280 names currently available in *Racosperma.*

As presented, these are all reasonable propositions. However, there are additional comments that can be made about them to see Proposal 1584 in a different light. These are dealt with below in the order of the items given above:

1. *Numbers of name changes*. It is accepted that the total number of name changes is about six times larger (1150 versus 200) if the generic name *Racosperma* is accepted than if it is not and the Australian taxa retain their *Acacia* names. Recently Pedley (2003) transferred an additional 834 taxa to *Racosperma*, bringing the total to 976 species and 130 infraspecific taxa. Large numbers of name changes can be made readily available, with lists of equivalent old and new names, as pages on the Internet and with reference to recently published works such as the *Acacia* volumes in the *Flora of Australia* series (Vols 11A and 11B) and Pedley (2003). Numbers of changes *per se* no longer pose the problem they once would and most people interested could have lists of equivalent names readily accessible by computer. Name changes would take some time to filter down into current literature, catalogues, etc but in a relatively short time such sources would accommodate the new names as demonstrated for example by the rapid acceptance of *Allocasuarina* L.A.S. Johnson and *Corymbia* K.D.Hill & L.A.S. Johnson. It should be noted that between 1987 and 2001 a large number of new taxa of *Acacia* were described from Australia (Orchard & Wilson 2001a, b), about 204 species, 56 subspecies and 27 varieties. Had Pedley's (1986) proposal been accepted then, new combinations would not have been needed for most of these taxa.
2. *Changes to gender ending of specific epithets*. Most Australian *Acacia* epithets would change their endings if transferred to *Racosperma*. This is not seen as a permanent problem. There is no doubt that spelling errors will occur. However, mistakes in Latin spelling and grammar occur constantly in the literature but we do not see this as a reason to avoid name changes based on sound taxonomic investigations. More readily available lists should help in this matter.
3. *Large number of economically important species names affected*. Changes and updating of all sorts, in technology, equipment,

methods, legislation, labelling, policy, and so on are experienced by all industries on a continuing basis. In industries associated with living organisms, some of the changes and updates are associated with advances in taxonomic understanding of the organisms concerned and the nomenclatural changes resulting from these new taxonomic concepts. In the present case, once lists of equivalent old and new names are in circulation, the necessary changes in industry can be implemented and will become the norm. This updating is much preferable to the literature disruption discussed in 5 below.

4. *Confusion in Africa between* Acacia *and* Senegalia. If Pedley (1986) is adopted, roughly half of the African, Asian and American species of *Acacia* (including the type of *Acacia* subg. *Acacia*) retain their current *Acacia* names; with Proposal 1584, all these species change their names. Will the postulated confusion in Africa, Asia and the Americas be any greater between sympatric species of *Acacia* and *Senegalia* (or *Senegalia*, *Acaciella* and the new genus) if *Racosperma* is adopted, than between sympatric species of *Vachellia*, *Senegalia*, *Acaciella* and the new genus if Proposal 1584 is adopted? Maslin *et al*. (2003) have commented that '... it might be less confusing if all taxa change their names simultaneously, rather than just half'. The reverse could be argued that, having different generic names, these sympatric species may be less confused with the remaining *Acacia* species than they are currently, when all have names in *Acacia*. However, in the opinion of the present authors, any confusion that may occur will diminish with time and neither of the alternatives mentioned above is very convincing.
5. *Profound repercussions of name changes in the huge* Acacia *literature*. Maslin *et al*. (2003) summarised the nomenclatural and taxonomic history of *Acacia*. From this summary, it is clear that, at least since Bentham (1875) divided the genus into six series, *Acacia* has been seen as a genus containing a diverse group of species. Maslin *et al*. (2003) stated '... it was generally recognised in 1986 that *Acacia* was probably polyphyletic...'. Orchard & Maslin (2003) briefly outlined the typification of *Acacia* in 1913, with *A. scorpioides* (L.)W.F.Wight as the type, now regarded as a synonym of *A. nilotica* (L.)Delile. For almost 100 years, the vast *Acacia* literature has been based on the premise that *Acacia* has *A. nilotica* as its type. Moreover 'the generic name *Acacia* is an ancient one, having been used by the Greek physician Pedanius Dioscorides (fl. 20--70) for some prickly wattles from Egypt' (George 1999). The original generic description of *Acacia* Miller was based on the "Egyptian Thorn" (Ross 1973). *Acacia nilotica* is widespread in Africa, the Middle East and western Asia. To change the type of *Acacia* to the phyllodinous Australian *A. penninervis* would alter the present appropriate usage of the name and destroy its historical context.

   Differences have often been highlighted between Australian *Acacia* species and those elsewhere in the World. In our fields of plant pathology and mycology, differences in pathogens occurring on African, Asian and American species of *Acacia* in the strict sense and on Australian species placed in *Acacia* have been referred to in several publications, including Pedley (1986) and Walker (2001). The rust fungi have been used as taxonomic discriminators between Australian and non-Australian *Acacia* species and, more broadly, between the three legume families (El-Gazzar 1979, 1981). El-Gazzar (1979) listed the three *Acacia* subgenera and noted the presence of the rust genus *Ravenelia* on subgenera *Acacia* and *Aculeiferum* in Africa, Asia and the Americas and its complete absence on subgenus *Phyllodineae* (as *Heterophyllum*) over its geographic range. Walker (1996) quoted Pedley's (1986) hypothesis and raised the question of the origin of the uniquely Australasian rust genus *Uromycladium* on ancestral subgenus Phyllodineae. Much of the applied literature on *Acacia* makes similar sorts of distinctions between Australian and non-Australian taxa and all this literature is based on the current type concept. If Orchard & Maslin's (2003) proposal is accepted and the type of the generic name *Acacia* is changed to the Australian *A. penninervis*, there will be a profound hiatus in the literature. In future, with workers (especially applied workers) unaware of the present debate, many difficulties in literature interpretation will occur. The concept of the genus *Acacia* will have changed drastically, but its name will have remained the same. For the present authors, it is much clearer and less confusing for all present and future workers if the stable concept of *Acacia sensu stricto* on which the literature of the past 90 years is based is retained and the Australian taxa segregated off into *Racosperma*. The name changes are then directly indicative of the taxonomic results obtained. The segregation of a genus differing from *Acacia sensu stricto* is a logical and widely understood step, being the normal procedure when a genus is split. In our opinion, this is much less confusing than

applying the name *Acacia* in a totally new sense by retypification, and having a literature to be interpreted in two different ways, depending on its date of publication. We thus agree with Orchard & Maslin's (2003) contention that the literature will be affected whatever happens but interpretation of the literature will be less confused if the current type concept is retained than if it is changed.

6. *No adoption of available names in* Racosperma*.* Since at least 1988 (Maslin 1988, 1989), strong arguments have been put forward for the thorough examination of Pedley's (1986) reasons for the segregation of *Racosperma* and *Senegalia* from *Acacia*. Maslin (1989) stated 'It is therefore considered ill-advised to accept the split of *Acacia* as proposed by Pedley'. He went on to suggest a number of fields of study which could yield data for a more informed judgment. In 2003, Maslin *et al*. (2003) said '... we consider it inappropriate that any new combinations involving species of subg. *Phyllodineae* be made' until a more detailed assessment of the position had been made. For the past 15 years, the argument has been put forward for not taking up *Racosperma* names until the position was clarified. Workers have obviously taken note of these arguments and adopted a conservative approach to the problem. It is thus quite inconsistent for the authors of the proposal to argue now that, because their efforts were successful and workers have been careful, this is a reason against the present adoption of *Racosperma*. It seems to us that, now that there is a 'Consensus among specialists in this group... that the formal division will take place in the near future' (Orchard & Maslin 2003) and the formal nomenclatural changes made (Pedley 2003), it is the right time to take up *Racosperma* with enthusiasm and to congratulate those who have exercised such restraint over the past 15 years of detailed examination of the case. *Racosperma* has already been widely adopted overseas in the forestry and plant pathology/mycology literature e.g. Khasa *et al*. (1994, 1995), McKenzie (1998), Takemori *et al*. (2000).

A final point is that Pedley's (1986) study will come to fruition with acceptance of the genus *Racosperma*. He wrote in 1989 that 'The treatment of *Acacia* (Pedley 1986) is a reasonable and responsible interpretation of available evidence' (Pedley 1989). Subsequent work has largely supported his claims. We consider it important that sound, insightful taxonomic studies such as Pedley's (1986, 2003) be given the recognition they deserve.

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News

Dennis Morris awarded an honorary Doctor of Science

On Tuesday 16th of December 2003 the well liked and eminent plant taxonomist Dennis Morris was bestowed with a honorary Doctor of Science Degree by the University of Tasmania. The degree was conferred in recognition of Dennis' life long contributions as a scholar and teacher of the Tasmanian flora. [24]

Dennis has been an honorary member of staff at the Tasmanian Herbarium for more than 25 years, and in that time has authored many critical texts on Tasmanian botany (for example, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, with Winifred Curtis) and many other scientific papers. His contribution as a scientist, specialist of grasses and exotic flora, and taxonomist has been enormous. Dennis' office is a mecca for all that are interested in plants. He has trained generations of field botanists, assisted farmers, land managers and foresters, and dealt with many interesting and challenging plant identification cases for Quarantine and the Police. It is no exaggeration to say that without the unstinting support of Dennis across a whole range of activities Tasmania generally would be a poorer place. Those who have the privilege of knowing Dennis can also vouch for his humour, general knowledge and skills as a raconteur.

Dennis Ivor Morris was born in 1924 at Tunbridge Wells, England. He was educated at The Worshipful Company of Skinners School at Tunbridge Wells. Dennis served in the British and Indian Armies from 1942 to 1947 before migrating to Australia in 1950.

In 1961 Dennis joined the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture. In his position as Weed Officer, he became familiar with Tasmania's introduced flora, a familiarity that soon developed into an expert and unique knowledge. Whilst in this position, Dennis wrote and illustrated handbooks

Fig.: Dr Dennis Morris in his official robes with granddaughter Harriet Morris-Baguley Ph. M. Baker

[24] The above article also appeared in the December issue of *Tas.Weeds Newsletter* (21: 2-3).

and educational material on weed-related subjects. He contributed directly to documenting the weed flora in Tasmania, and provided botanical advice to the extension services operated by the Department of Agriculture. Dennis retired from the department in 1985.

In the early 1960's, whist working for the Department of Agriculture, Dennis met Dr Winifred Curtis. Their shared interests in plants developed into a close friendship and a productive scientific collaboration in preparing the *Student's Flora of Tasmania*, the definitive handbook of the flowering plants and conifers of Tasmania. They published a revised edition of *Part I* in 1975. Through his work on the Tasmanian native flora, Dennis became a highly skilled and greatly respected taxonomist. He discovered and formally named many Tasmanian taxa, and contributed to the description of others for colleagues in other herbaria. He also became fluent in the formal aspects of Botany and Plant Nomenclature, and continues to provide advice to others in this area. His publications and those of his colleagues were invariably illustrated with high quality, ink drawings and examples of his artwork are displayed in the Tasmanian Herbarium building on the University of Tasmania's Sandy Bay Campus.

On the 30th January 1985 Dennis was appointed as an Honorary Botanist at the Tasmanian Herbarium. In 1994, Dennis completed *Part 4B* of *The Student's Flora of Tasmania* (with Dr Winifred Curtis). This documents Tasmania's monocotyledon flora (excluding the Orchids). In his honorary capacity at the Tasmanian Herbarium, his taxonomic expertise in the monocotyledons, in particular the grasses and sedges, has continued to be used by a range of Tasmanian Government agencies including Nature Conservation Branch and Weeds Section, Parks and Wildlife Service, and also researchers in Geography and Plant Sciences at the University of Tasmania. His experience in the identification of introduced plants is continually sort by a large number of government departments and individuals. He has also provided advice of a quarantine and forensic nature to AQIS and the Police Department, and his unrivalled status as an outstanding Botanist was often called upon in legal matters. Dennis is an Honorary Research Associate with the School of Plant Science, and Honorary Research Associate and part time lecturer with the School of Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania. His ongoing commitment to studying the Tasmanian flora over his lifetime is clearly evident. He is at present working on updating *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, as well as providing a world-class weed identification service. His enthusiasm, willingness to help, generosity of spirit and wit have endeared him to students and colleagues, both here in Tasmania and interstate. The Herbarium remains his base today, and Dennis is regarded as an integral member of the small close-knit team of Botanists and Curators.

Dennis' office doors remain open at all times whilst at the Herbarium and he welcomes all enquiries related to Tasmania's unique native and weedy flora.

Congratulations Dr Morris!

Matthew Baker
Tasmanian Herbarium

CANB head back at helm

Judy West returned to head the Australian National Herbarium on 8th December after a successful year with the Australian Government's Science and Innovation Mapping Taskforce undertaking the whole-of-government Science and Innovation review instigated by the Prime Minister.

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Canberra's plant biodiversity research alliance 10 years old

The Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research in Canberra celebrated its tenth birthday on 22 November last year. In 1993 the legal Agreement to establish the CPBR was signed between the Director of National Parks, Dr Peter Bridgewater, and the Head of CSIRO, Dr John Stocker, at a ceremony at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. The first Agreement was for 7 years, and following its success a second Agreement for a further 10 years was signed in 2000.

The Centre brought together the Botanical Section of the Australian National Botanic Gardens with Program U of CSIRO Plant Industry, and during that time we have seen the two herbaria CBG and CANB amalgamated, the two databases combined and the research and technical staff of both parent bodies working together as one organisation. The Centre has two major research programs, a) looking at systematics and biogeography and b) looking at conservation biology and utilisation of the Australian flora. A third program manages the Herbarium and the data associated with the collections, and plays an important role in Australia's Virtual Herbarium. The Centre also has a range of education and community liaison

projects, including the supervision of post-graduate students and the undergraduate Botanical Internship program.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary a dinner was held at Hudsons in the Botanic Gardens on 21 November attended by about 70 people who had worked at the Centre over the previous ten years or been part of the management Board. Speeches were kept to a minimum, but David Kay did talk about his role in its establishment and gloat a little about its success, Peter Cochrane read some words from Peter Bridgewater, and Judy West spoke as Director of the Centre. It was a great night and a nostalgic reunion for some staff who had retired during the previous ten years.

Murray Fagg
Australian National Herbarium

Justifying your Herbarium – lessons from America

From the *American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT) Newsletter* (ref. 1) comes useful information relevant to the recent herbarium closures or threatened closures in America. Most of the issues discussed are shared by Australian herbaria:

- As part of the ASPT Botany 2003 meeting last July a session was held considering the current challenges facing herbaria. The *Newlsetter* contains quite a long account of the session.
- Establishing a listserver for discussion of matters relating to herbaria was suggested. This has already been implemented (ref. 2) and by December had 260 subscribers.
- Further, there is an article by Vicki Funk listing 72 uses for an herbarium, the aim being to get to 100 to justify the title of her article. The list is included in the newsletter, or can be downloaded (ref. 3). Anyone can use the list, but extra suggestions should be sent to Funk.Vicki@nmnh.si.edu .
- An NSF-sponsored workshop hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History in November 2003 was aimed at developing a decadal vision for taxonomy and natural history collections. Its comprehensive website lists the discussion topics (ref. 4). Results of these discussions will form a report to the NSF, with some to also to appear on the website.

And from the American Association of Museums (AAM) (ref. 5) – its Board of Directors issued a position statement from its November meeting concerning the current difficult situation faced by many university natural history museums and collections. AAM is concerned

> That a significant number of America's natural history museums and collections affiliated with universities are currently threatened with severe financial cutbacks, dispersal of collections, and outright closure.

The statement (ref. 6) urged university administrators and others involved in funding to preserve and continue to provide public access to these collections.

> Temporary financial difficulties must not be allowed to interfere with the overriding responsibility of the governing authority to be effective stewards of these collections and to safeguard the public interest by assuring continued access to them.

AAM also urged that a national dialogue be held to promote the long-term stability of university natural history museums and collections.

References

1. www.inhs.uiuc.edu/~kenr/ASPT/current.html (*ASPT Newsletter* on-line address)
2. (http://scarab.science.oregonstate.edu/mailman/listinfo/herbaria)
3. www.inhs.uiuc.edu/~kenr/ASPT/100uses.html
4. www.flmnh.ufl.edu/taxonomy_workshop
5. www.aam-us.org
6. www.aam-us.org/pdf/univcollstatement.pdf (full text of the AAM statement)

Robyn Barker

Local and political opposition to Atherton Herbarium closure

Opposition in north Queensland to the pending closure of CSIRO's Herbarium at Atherton (QRS) resulted in a series of press releases by the national Labor Party and reports on ABC radio news nationally, during December. The closure has been forced on the Australian National Herbarium by CSIRO budget cuts. (*See also p.2. – in President's Report to ASBS AGM*).

Celebrating the first mapping of Australia 400 years ago

There are moves out of Western Australia to celebrate across Australia the arrival of the *Duyfken*, a ship belonging to the Dutch East Indies Company[25]. In March 1606, four years after the formation of the Company, the crew from the VOC ship *Duyfken*, while on a voyage of exploration commanded by Willem Janszoon, landed on the western side of Cape York Peninsula.

[25] The Dutch called it Verenigde Oost Indische Compagnie or VOC, translated as the United East India Company

> In the course of this journey, Janzsoon charted over 300 kilometres of Australia's coastline - effectively putting Australia on the world's maps for the first time event (www.voc.iinet.net.au/).

A group of Australians linked with the VOC Historical Society, located in Perth, Western Australia, have established a non-profit private company "Australia on the Map 1606-2006" to celebrate this event (www.voc.iinet.net.au/). The Dutch Government is also seeking ways to support this event.

Bill Barker

GBIF visit to Australia

Dr Jim Edwards, Executive Secretary of GBIF, visited Melbourne, Canberra (see ABRS Report), and Sydney in December 2003. He spoke on the organisation as a mega-science facility and the relevance of Australia in a global biodiversity context.

We were fortunate to attend the Sydney meeting and gained a much better appreciation of the organisation's goals (see www.gbif.org). In the first instance GBIF is focused on primary data such as from herbarium and natural history collections.

The Australia's Virtual Herbarium was applauded as an exemplar information system meeting the GBIF criteria for participating information nodes, being a distributed systems giving control of data custodians, being based on non-proprietary software built on common standards and protocols, enabling uninhibited sharing of data and partnerships with other information networks.

He noted two other on-line facilities linking distributed natural history collections. The Australian Museums have now developed to proof-of-concept their OZCAM Virtual Museum, based on the AVH functionality (its on-use does involve a commercial licence) – it is only available to Museum-accredited users (www.ozcam.gov.au/). CONABIO of Mexico links 700,000 collections from 25 institutions (www.conabio.gob.mx/). Its data and mapper are also of restricted access.

Bill and Robyn Barker

Obituaries

Vale Ted Moore

Many in Plant Industry and the Herbarium as well as the wider Canberra botanical community were saddened to learn recently of Ted Moore's death at the age of 95[26]**.** In his latter, post-retirement years Ted was a familiar figure in the Herbarium as he worked on his collections made over a period of almost 60 years. We remember his many contributions with admiration as we esteem the person that many of us got to know.

Some biographical details

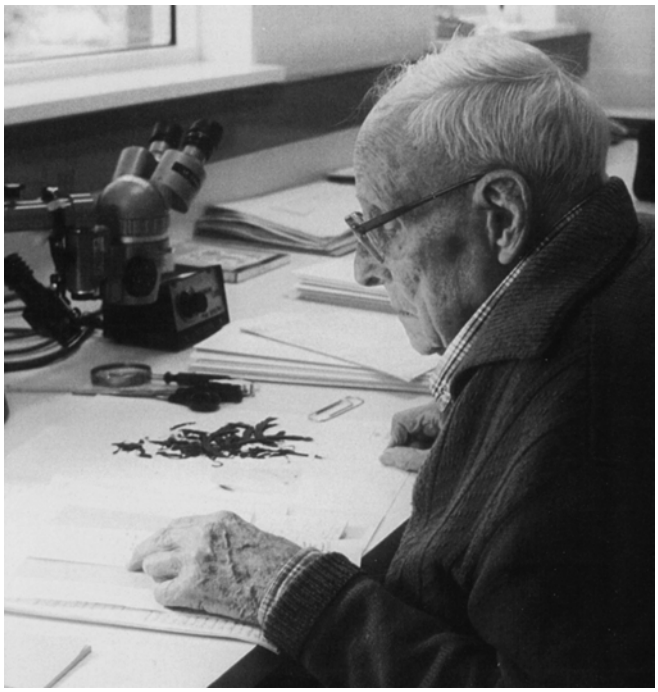
Ted Moore was born at Dunedin in the South Island of New Zealand and attended Lincoln College, near Christchurch, from which he gained a B.Agr.Sc. in 1933. He moved to Canberra in 1935 and joined CSIR Division of Plant Industry in the early 40s. During the war years Ted worked as a Technical Officer on *Taraxacum kok-saghyz* from Russia, as a potential source of latex for rubber. Subsequently, in the mid 40s he began to work on the wallaby grasses (*Danthonia* spp. *sens.lat.)* in the Agrostology Section of PI. This group included many ecologists who became notable subsequently for their surveys of Australian vegetation and the floristic changes to those vegetation types incurred by continuous grazing. Following that tradition, Ted made his mark early by surveying the vegetation of the southeastern Riverina (see Moore 1953a, 1953b). This project earned him a M.Agr.Sc. degree and promotion to Research Officer status. During the Riverina survey Ted collected many plants for the developing Plant Industry herbarium, then curated by Nancy Burbidge. The quality of those early descriptive papers and the collections he made in the Riverina testify to Ted's consummate botanical skills and insights into a vegetation that initially must have seemed very strange to a South Island New Zealander!

Ted's geographical area of interest then moved further north from the Riverina to the Western Division of New South Wales, the area that Noel Beadle had surveyed and mapped some years earlier. This shift northwards was after the time when the former Agrostology Section had changed to become the Ecology Section, with Ted as its Chairman. Ted Moore's interest in the vegetation of the western region around Cobar developed, especially in relation to the "woody weed" problem that was worsening as a result of the high rainfall levels in the mid 50s. The increasing dominance of shrubs over herbs led to reduced stocking levels and thereby lower income for the region's graziers. Thus began Ted's contact with that region and some of its graziers – especially the owners of "Tundulya" at Louth –

[26] From an internal newsletter circulated to staff of Australian National Herbarium and CSIRO Plant Industry.

that was to continue well into his retirement years.

By this time Ted as Chairman of the Ecology Section was as meticulous in his Divisional administrative role as he was in collecting plants. Just as Ted's botanical interests had widened to include the Western Division of New South Wales so too were the research interests of the Ecology Section changing and widening. The earlier concentration on vegetation surveys was replaced by increasing interest in weedy species and their control, such as bracken (John Carnahan), oxalis, thistles and barnyard grass (Peter Michael) and skeleton weed (Donald McVean and Richard Groves), as well as an interest in water stress in eucalyptus forests (Eddie Pook) and, increasingly, aspects of land use in the upper Shoalhaven catchment as they related to water yield. The latter project was led by Alec Costin who was by then (in the early 70s) an Assistant Chief in PI.



The position of Officer-in-Charge at the CSIRO Pastoral Laboratory (then part of Plant Industry) at Deniliquin became vacant when John Leigh moved to the Ecology Section at Canberra and Ted enthusiastically took up the position at Deniliquin for a period. At that time too, Richard Groves replaced Ted as Chairman of the Ecology Section. The job at Deniliquin took Ted back to the Riverina region that he had surveyed over 20 years before and, although the roads north from "Dennie" were in a worse state (especially when it rained) than those from Canberra, it was geographically closer to the Cobar-Bourke area where he was then working. Ted's involvement with that region and its major land-use problem attracted several of the Deniliquin staff, such as Ken Hodgkinson and Jim Noble, to investigate other aspects of the overall problem, a research interest that continued for many years after Ted left Deniliquin and returned to Canberra in 1973 to live in retirement.

Ted had come to Australia in the 30s as a single man but in his early years in Canberra he married Dorothy and they had two children Michael and Robin, who grew up in the house at 80 David Street, Turner, where Ted continued to live in retirement. That house always had dogs as much loved members of the household. One such dog (a boxer) even used to come to work with Ted and snore and snuffle loudly under Ted's desk, which made even the simple request to sign a leave form a somewhat daunting experience. It was sad that Dorothy died early in Ted's long period of retirement, although soon thereafter Robin moved into the family house to live with her father and, increasingly, to look after him in a most selfless way.

Plant collections in the Canberra herbarium

Ted's prolific plant collecting started with herbarium specimens lodged in the Australian National Herbarium dating back to August 1945 (Table 1). During his long career in CSIRO and after he retired in 1973, he collected systematically and extensively throughout western New South Wales and to a lesser degree in and around the ACT. He even made collections on his several holidays to New Zealand and around Mackay, Queensland. Ted collected close to 9,500 specimens with the last specimen being collected from his garden in Turner in March 1998. That's close to 53 years of collecting which is rather impressive!

Ted also had a way of finding many interesting plants and six new species were named in honour of him, namely:

Calotis moorei P.S.Short
Heliotropium moorei Craven
Tetragonia moorei M.Gray
Chamaecrista moorei Pedley
Convolvulus tedmoorei R.W.Johnson
Spergularia moorei L G.Adams ms

Ted always made excellent collections and they have provided valuable information for ecologists and botanists, especially those interested in the

Table 1. A summary of Ted Moore's main collecting activities.

Date	C.W.E. Moore collecting numbers	Main collecting areas (New South Wales botanical regions are abbreviated)
Aug. 1945 – Sept. 1951	1-1497	NSW: CWS-NWS north to Coonabarabran and Gunnedah; CT around Bathurst; SWS-SWP west to Deniliquin, Riverina area
Nov. 1951 – Dec. 1962	1498-3522	NSW: throughout the Southern Tablelands including the ACT
Oct. 1964 – March 1972	3535-6155	NSW: SWP-NWP-NFWP from Deniliquin in the south to Cunamulla, Qld in the north, including the properties of Tundulya and Mt Mulyah near Cobar, along the Darling River to Tilpa and around Wanaaring to the west.
April-Sept. 1972	6156-6236	NSW: CC, around Gosford; QLD: around Charleville; VIC.: around Heathcote and Rochester
March 1973 – Oct. 1982	6237-8308	NSW: NWP-NFWP between Bourke, Wanaaring, Tilpa along the Darling River and Nyngan including the properties of Tundulya, Mt. Mulyah, Winbar, Westmere, Pelora and others.
Jan. 1983	8309-8362	New Zealand: around Lake Lyndon and Arthur's Pass
Oct. 1983 - May 1988	8363-8672	NSW: NWP-FNWP between Bourke and Wanaaring, and Louth along the Darling River including the properties of Tundulya, Mt. Mulyah, Winbar, also around Broken Hill and Silverton to the west.
Sept. 1988 – Oct. 1992	8673-9354	NSW: NWP around Warialda, North Star and Yetman including the properties of Lisgar, Tullinga Downs, Mungle and Warivan; NWP around Cobar including the properties of Tundulya, Winbar and Mt Mulyah.
Aug. 1994	9361-9421	QLD: Mackay and surrounds
Nov. 1994	9422-9432	New Zealand: Christchurch
Mar., Sept. 1996	9434-9468	QLD: Mackay and surrounds

flora of western New South Wales (see Moore 1984). He was also very happy to share his detailed knowledge of the flora and the areas collected with all those who might request it. During his retirement when Ted wasn't off collecting he would come into the Herbarium everyday and spend much of his time updating his older collections and processing the newer ones. By then in his 70s, he was keen to have an electronic record of all his collections, and he became adept at entering his collection data into the herbarium specimen database. Ted also added latitude and longitude coordinates to most of his earlier collections, because as he quite rightly put it 'he knew where he was at the time of the collection' and herbarium technical staff have been grateful for this ever since.

Looking for a challenge once he had his collections in order, Ted took up the curation of the family Caesalpiniaceae. Due to his earlier experiences with the arid shrublands he became very interested in the taxonomy of the native genus *Senna* (originally segregated from *Cassia* by Miller). Regrettably, although he appears to have had strong ideas on the subject, he never managed to publish any solutions to the ongoing taxonomic problems plaguing this complex group.

Ted has been an inspiration to herbarium staff over the years with his determination to continue on with his botanical interests.

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Richard Groves
CSIRO Plant Industry &
CRC Australian Weed Management

Jo Palmer & Laurie Adams
Australian National Herbarium

John Parham, 1929 –2002

Attention is drawn to the extensive obituary in *Austrobaileya* by Gintaras Kantvilas (2003).

John is noted for his work in herbaria of Suva, Brisbane and Hobart.

Reference

Kantvilas G. (2003). Obituary. John W. Parham, 1929—2002. *Austrobaileya* 6: 575-579.

Book reviews

Still naming those flowers

Reviewed by Christina Flann
The University of Melbourne, National Herbarium of Victoria

Name That Flower: The Identification of Flowering Plants (2nd ed.). *Ian Clarke and Helen Lee. Melbourne University Press. November 2003. ISBN 0-522-85060-X. Paperback $34.95*

The first edition of *Name That Flower* has been a well loved resource of many different people. Professional botanists, other biologists, students in particular, horticulturists and members of the general public with an interest in plants, including gardeners have all benefited from the book's clear diagrams and well presented information since 1987. There have been ten reprints produced before this updated second edition, a testament to the enthusiasm with which *Name That Flower* has been embraced. So how does the new version stack up?

The content of the original book was wonderfully clear and easy to use. The fear when a new edition is produced is that a complete overhaul could lose some of the good points. The other worry is that nothing substantial will be added and all that will be different is the addition of "2nd ed." to the title. Thankfully in this case, neither is applicable. The new material is summarised in the revised introduction and includes updated nomenclature following *Flora of Victoria* and *Flora of New South Wales*. The changes made are also collected in an appendix at the end of the book, which is a nice touch. An enlarged bibliography (sounds painful) and routes through keys in recent texts are also provided for many of the families, a welcome addition. Throughout the book simple small changes have been effected, such as the updating of number of genera referred to the Proteaceae and a nice little introductory note for the Process of Identification chapter instead of jumping straight into equipment, for example. Larger changes are detailed below.

The introduction has been slightly modified, additional headings have been employed and emphasis has been added using bullet pointed lists for important points instead of embedding them in the text. There is also a useful paragraph dealing with guidelines for pronunciation, a perennial issue for those of us attempting to communicate our plant knowledge. And I personally did not realise there were texts on the matter and am probably guilty of their suggestion that "sometimes it is the loudest voice that holds sway."

Additional information is included in the plant classification section, explaining briefly that there are different classifications used and the concept that some plant families are less similar to ancestral plants than others. Two new families are described: Solanaceae and Myoporaceae and additional information is included for the Chenopodiaceae, detailing floral structure. A discussion of eucalypts and corymbias is included in the Myrtaceae section. This is frank and honest, not coming down on any side, but showing that vital and ongoing debates occur in taxonomy.

Moving with the times, sections on Computer keys and relevant websites are now included, both in the family sections where appropriate and in the bibliography. This inclusion is, thankfully, not uncritical, noting a couple of times that images on the internet do not necessarily come with reliable identifications.

All of the black and white line diagrams are still there in their elegant simplicity and attention to detail, although many have moved down to the centre of the page. There is one helpful addition of seed detail to Figure 18. Although two new families are added, no new diagrams have been included, but additional plates cover these groups well. Four plates are added: Chenopodiaceae, Solanaceae and 'Myoporaceae and other families' and the monocot plate is expanded into two with additional examples. These all add useful information for some particularly tricky families (eg. Cyperaceae) and complement the data already present. The plates from the original are still there, with a small amount of tweaking. There is an emphasis on attention to detail in the changes: a different, more informative picture for *Physalis viscosa* here, a resizing of the Asteraceae images there.

The style and layout have been updated significantly resulting in a slicker look. There is a new more minimalist front cover featuring a nice exemplar of *Chamelaucium* on a greenish-yellow waxy cover. It is hard to tell if the font in the main text is smaller or simply lighter, but it is slightly harder work on the eyes. I assume the

font change and thinner paper is because more information has been included in a book exactly the same size as the old one. The systematic change of 'Aborigines' to 'Aboriginal people' is nice to note, as the latter seems to be more acceptable.

A particularly good point about the new layout is that more attention is paid to keeping all the information in one section (eg The Calyx) on the same page, adjacent to the relevant figures. The decision to cluster figures for each family at the end of the text relating to that family, including the enlarged key routes, a number of specific references and spotting characters is a good one. This avoids the breaking up of text that occurred in the first version. All of the plates are centralised (towards the back of the book) and are easily referred to.

The Bibliography has been substantially expanded from 93 entries to 241, plus seven CD-ROMs and eleven websites. The Glossary has been bolstered with more than forty new terms and the index has been expanded as well.

The only real fault I found (and this is scraping the bottom of the barrel indeed) is that the acknowledgements from the first edition seem to have been transcribed verbatim and Mr A. W. Beudel is still thanked for Plate 8i when this has become Plate 11i.

This is not a radically different book, which is a good thing, considering how useful the first edition has proven to be, but it is also not simply a repackaging – the additions and changes are warranted and well executed. It is a well loved book that has been updated carefully and lovingly by authors who are obviously keen to impart their knowledge in the clearest way possible and have demonstrably taken note of feedback over the years, not just said they have. And there has been no fixing of the unbroken. But whether you need the new edition if you own the old one I cannot easily answer. Personally I like to keep up to date and the expanded bibliography and neater layout make the book a very user friendly, attractive little package.

Catalogue and Bibliography – Fungi of Australia, Volume 2B

Reviewed by Pam Catcheside
State Herbarium of South Australia

Catalogue and Bibliography – Fungi of Australia, Volume 2B. *T.W. May, J. Milne, S. Shingles, R.H. Jones, National Herbarium of Victoria. (Editors: C. A. Grgurinovic & L. Cayzer.) Publisher CSIRO Publishing/ Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS).*
August 2003. ISBN: 0643069070. Hardback 484 pp, colour illustrations. Price:A$99.00.
Purchasing by email: publishing.sales@csiro.au

The *Fungi of Australia* volumes are modelled on those of the *Flora of Australia*. Sixty volumes are planned and these will provide a detailed catalogue and descriptions of the Australian mycoflora, both indigenous and introduced. Identification keys, distribution maps, discussions of taxonomy, ecology, inter-relationships will be included.

The present volume, *Fungi of Australia, Volume 2B: Catalogue and Bibliography of Australian Fungi 2,* is the companion of *Fungi of Australia, Volume 2A* and is the second of a multi-part *Fungi of Australia, Volume 2* to be published. *Volume 2* will provide lists of all names that have been applied to Australian fungi with citations and literature records for all taxa. *Fungi of Australia, Volume 2A* (May & Wood 1997) contained a detailed catalogue of many of the larger Basidiomycetes (fungi which discharge their spores from a club-like structure, a basidium), covering the Australian agarics (gilled fungi), boletes and their sequestrate relatives (fungi with closed fruit bodies which retain the spores until the fruit bodies decay or are eaten). *Volume 2B* deals with the remaining larger Basidiomycetes (including coral fungi, puffballs, earthballs, stinkhorns, polypores, corticioid and thelephoroid fungi, birds nest fungi and jelly fungi) and also the larger Myxomycetes (slime moulds). Future volumes will encompass groups such as the Ascomycetes (fungi whose spores are produced in sacs), water moulds, microfungal Basidiomycetes and microfungal Myxomycetes.

As with *Volume 2A* the present volume gives, for each taxon, its up-to-date accepted name, author citation and reference, synonyms used in Australian literature with author citation and references, country or state of type locality, Australian literature relating to the taxon, references to illustrations and variant spellings. It includes taxa which have been misidentified in the literature, references to works consulted and brief discussions on taxonomic problems posed by such genera as *Clavaria* and *Tulostoma*. Explanations of the format for each taxon are given in the front endpapers. In all, 1391 accepted names and 318 genera are listed in the catalogue.

The book is easy to use. As with previous volumes, the typeface is clear. The index is well laid out, citing authors for each species and distinguishing between the up-to-date accepted names (in bold) and their synonyms (plain type). In the main text, each taxon's name stands out from its synonyms and the literature records. The comprehensive bibliography is invaluable and has over 1800 entries with references not only to taxonomic publications but also to those relating to medicine, agriculture, forestry, chemistry, ecology and general biology.

The departure from the dust cover of the three previous hard-back volumes of the series is welcome. Dust covers are so easily damaged and the new hard-back format, printed with one of Katrina Syme's lovely illustrations, is pleasing to handle. The illustration is repeated in a small block on the spine which will help distinguish this from other volumes in the series, if the format is continued. The present volume contains 55 excellent photographs, although a number of these have previously appeared in *Fungi of Australia, Volume 1A*.

The authors and editors are to be congratulated on their production of *Fungi of Australia, Volume 2B: Catalogue and Bibliography of Australian Fungi 2*. The compilation of such a catalogue involving gathering, cross-referencing and checking data, spellings and punctuation, is a mammoth task. The book is a welcome and essential reference for all taxonomists working on Australian fungi and for those wanting to use up-to-date names for Australian fungi.

On a general note, the *Fungi of Australia* series documents a much neglected and often overlooked group of organisms. Fungi are essential in all environments as recyclers and as mycorrhizal partners. They play important roles in food production, pharmaceutical drugs and as scientific tools. Pathogenic species attack humans, animals and plants, resulting in death and huge economic loss. The importance of this project to publish the *Fungi of Australia* volumes cannot be over-emphasised and it is to be hoped that the series receives the financial and practical support that it deserves and needs. Such a series of publications provides the literature to foster the furthering of knowledge and the understanding of our ecosystems so that we can better manage our environment, our health and our welfare.

Australian Tropical Rain Forest Plants. Trees, Shrubs and Vines

Reviewed by John Clarkson
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Centre for Tropical Agriculture, Mareeba

Australian Tropical Rain Forest Plants. Trees, Shrubs and Vines. *B.P.M. Hyland, T. Whiffin, D.C. Christophel, B. Gray and R.W. Elick, CD-ROM & Manual. CSIRO Publishing 2003. ISBN 0 643 06872 4. $120.00 plus $15 postage and handling from CSIRO Publishing, PO Box 1139, Collingwood, Vic. 3066. (Discount applies for buyers of the earlier version).*

Introduction

Interactive keys are becoming almost commonplace. *Australian Tropical Rain Forest Trees* (Hyland & Whiffen 1993), the precursor to *Australian Tropical Rain Forest Plants*, or simply *The Rain Forest Key* as it is known to its many users, was amongst the vanguard of these. Since the first edition appeared in 1993, the key has been refined and added to and continues to lead the way in providing a simple yet effective way to identify plants from closed forest communities in tropical areas of Australia. This current version of the key has been eagerly anticipated by professional and amateur botanists alike.

Scope of the work

With the addition of the vines, the current version of the key now deals with 2154 taxa. It is designed to assist in the identification of rain forest trees, shrubs and vines in northern Australia in an area extending from Townsville to Torres Strait in Queensland and westward as far as the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. But there's more! The package also contains a wealth of information on the distribution, ecology and natural history of the taxa included. It is also a very useful starting point to track common names, synonyms and taxonomic accounts.

In the sense used by the authors, rain forest encompasses a wide variety of closed forest communities commonly referred to as monsoon forest, softwood scrub, vine thicket, gallery forest, scrub, jungle and vine forest. Mangrove forests are specifically excluded although structurally these are closed forests and the key would be enhanced by their inclusion. There are places in Far North Queensland where the transition between rain forest and mangrove forest is barely obvious and taxa left out of the key, because they are mangroves, grow side by side with taxa which are included. The expansion of the key to include the 40 or so mangrove taxa which would ensure the key encompassed all closed forests would not be an onerous task and

one the authors should consider for future editions. Five mangrove taxa are already included.

The authors define a shrub as "a single or multi-stemmed plant, more than 1 m but less than 6 m tall, which flowers and fruits within that size range". While botanical glossaries and dictionaries are often at odds over an acceptable height class and whether the plants need be multi-stemmed or single stemmed, without exception, they include only woody plants as shrubs. Choosing an arbitrary height class and not requiring plants to be woody, has resulted in an eclectic assemblage of taxa such as the orchids *Calanthe triplicata* and *Phaius tancarvilleae*, the daisies *Ageratum conyzoides* and *Eclipta prostrata* the sedges *Cyperus involucratus* and *Hypolytrum compactum* and the grasses *Ancistrachne uncinulata* and *Paspalum paniculatum* being included as shrubs. Although making presumptions can be fraught with danger, it is difficult to imagine these plants being considered shrubs by many users of the key. Until the key is expanded to include life forms such as herbs and graminoids, and this is planned, it might have been preferable to omit these dubious taxa. On the other hand, they provide a teaser for things to come.

Presentation

The package comes neatly presented in a book-like plastic box measuring 190 x 135 x 14 mm containing 2 CDs and a small *User Guide*. The user guide is worth skimming through, even by those with an aversion to reading manuals. It provides a useful introduction to the program and what the authors expect it to deliver. If the user can't resist the temptation to load the program and start pounding on the keys, all of the information given in the manual is reproduced in electronic form and is available from the help command. Lovers of books might be disappointing to note that, in the course of the evolution of the *Rain Forest Key*, the printed documentation which accompanies the electronic key has decreased from the 2 volumes with a total of 867 pages which accompanied the 1993 edition, supplemented by the *Leaf Atlas* of Christophel & Hyland with 260 pages, to the single volume of 95 pages which accompanied the 1999 edition, to the current 58 page booklet. The authors have assembled a vast amount of useful information on closed forest species and many times I would like to have been able to reach for a paper copy rather than having to turn on the computer, wait for the machine to start and the program to load, when what I wanted was information rather than access to the interactive key. I am probably not alone in preferring to turn to computers as required rather than being compelled to use them. However, I acknowledge that producing hard copy would have priced the key beyond the budget of many potential users.

System requirements

System requirements are not particularly challenging. A Pentium or higher processor will give optimum results but the program will run on a 486 machine. Any of the common Windows operating systems 95, 98, NT, ME, 2000 or XP will support the program. At least 16Mb of RAM are required for Windows 95 and 32Mb for NT, 2000 or XP but, as with most things to do with computers, more is claimed to be better. Only 25Mb of free hard disk space is needed for the basic installation. A SVGA monitor set at 800 x 600 resolution and 256 colours will work but better results will be got if a higher resolution and more colours are available. Most of my work with this version of the key has been on a PC with a 900Mh Pentium processor, 256 Mb of RAM with the screen resolution set to 1024 x 768 pixels and 16 bit high colour. Working within a government organisation where no PC is more than 2 years old, I was not able to find a PC with the minimum specifications to see how well the program performs on an older machine.

Installation

Three installation options are provided allowing the user to customise the extent to which the images are copied to the hard drive thus controlling how much hard disk space is required. Installing the program only requires a miniscule 25Mb. How times have changed. Not so long ago this exceeded the capacity of many hard drives! However, if this option is chosen, only the additional features, distribution map, information on the family and genus and the features coded for the taxon will be directly available from the pull down menu in the species window. It will be necessary to insert the CDs to access the leaf images, photographs, line drawings and seedling images. If working with seedlings and adult plants in the same session, it will be necessary to swap CDs to access adult and seedling images. The second option is to copy the program, photographs and leaf images to the hard drive. This requires about 675Mb of free space. To view the seedling images it will still be necessary to access one of the CDs. The final option is to install the program and load all of the images to the hard drive. If this is done the program is fully functional without need for the CDs. Even novice software pirates will be quick to realise the implications of this. This final option, which requires 1Gb of hard disk space, should not severely tax the hard disk space of most reasonably modern computers. I tested the program in all three configurations. All were perfectly acceptable although, if space is

available, I would recommend option three but only because it meant that there was no need to keep the CDs handy. This is very useful if the program is loaded on a laptop which is used in lots of different places. The CDs are sure to be somewhere else. If you find that you rarely, if ever, need to identify material from seedlings and you are pressed for space, then opt for the second option.

Installation itself is simple and straightforward and should not seriously challenge even avowed technophobes. Instructions are clearly set out on the back cover of the *User Guide* thus providing an excuse for not opening the booklet. A set up program on CD1 will install the program and set up the program in the Start menu ready to run. Simple screen messages along the way will prompt the user to select the desired installation option.

Working with the key

Starting the program, including loading information on leaf and seedling images is surprisingly quick – go to whoa less than 10 seconds on my PC. Unlike earlier versions, there will be no time to nip out to make a quick cup of tea. The first time the program is used a help screen will appear offering some useful hints for those unfamiliar with the key. This is worth reading at least once. It can then be turned off permanently so that it is not presented every time the program is started. Those familiar with the Lucid products such as *Wattle* and *AusGrass*, may find the appearance of the initial identification screen somewhat austere. There are no fancy screen colours, no hieroglyphics or terms like "*sets*", "*redundants*" and "*bingo*" to decipher, simply a blank black screen with a title bar and a menu bar at the top and a status bar at the bottom. This is a further temptation to launch into the program without reading the manual. However, the program is intuitive and wonderfully simple to use and, despite my earlier suggestion that users at least skim through the user guide, anyone vaguely familiar with Windows-based programs should be able to get started with no problems.

The identification process is simple. As character states matching the unknown specimen are selected, the number of possible taxa decreases. Success can be tracked by referring to the "taxa remaining" count in the status bar at the bottom of the screen. The strategy involved in carrying out identification is really up to the user and very much dependant on what material is available. Obviously, the more plant parts that are available the greater the likelihood of arriving at the correct name. However, the key works well enough when only sterile material is available. When only fruit is available it is usually possible to discern a few floral features from remnants of floral parts which persist on the fruit. The key will be used to best advantage once regular use has taught the best character sets to use and what are the most discriminating character states.

Context sensitive help is available for all features at any time by clicking *Help* on the status bar. Shortcuts to *Help* are available as readers of the user guide or born fiddlers will discover. Short descriptions of how the authors have interpreted the character states are given together with simple diagrams where appropriate. Users who think they have a reasonable understanding of botanical terminology are warned that some terms are defined in rather strange ways. For example a pulvinus is only interpreted as a fleshy swelling on the petiole at its junction with the leaf blade. A swelling at the junction of the petiole and the twig is not regarded as pulvinus. This is in stark contrast to the definition given in most botanical glossaries and dictionaries which define a pulvinus as a swelling at the base of a petiole or petiolule. A few extend the definition to also include a swelling at the junction of the leaf and the petiole or the leaflet and the petiolule in a compound leaf. I can understand the authors' desire to code for the presence of a swelling at the distal end of the petiole or petiolule only. For example, the key includes 41 taxa in the family Mimosaceae. This number is reduced to 11 if the character state "pulvinus present" (in the sense used in the key) is selected. However, this discards a suite of species which possess a pulvinus by the widely accepted definition. In the authors' defence, it should be pointed out that they clearly define their use of the term but they have been fallen into the trap of assuming that users of the key will lack any botanical knowledge and therefore be compelled to use their glossary. To avoid this confusion the use of the term pulvinus should have been avoided. There are a few other idiosyncrasies. For example, any translucent dot in a leaf, regardless of whether the translucency is due to oil or not, is referred to as an "oil dot". This material could be anything from cellulose or resin to mineral concretions such as silica or calcium carbonate. The use of a term such as "translucent" or "pellucid dot" would have described the character state more accurately.

Having narrowed the possibilities to one or a few taxa, one of the biggest problems facing the users of the key is to confirm an identification. Few users will have access to an herbarium or an adequate reference collection. The authors have addressed this well by providing descriptions, images and distribution maps for each taxon.

Used carefully and in combination these can be of great assistance.

Photographs are available for many, but not all, species in the key. In works such as this, it is not always the most visually pleasing photograph which best illustrates the key features required to confirm an identification. While many fine photographs have been included, some are not particularly useful for identification. For example, the key deals with 47 taxa in the family Moraceae. Photographs are provided for all but 9 of these. Some taxa have more than one photograph. In total there are 105 photographs but over half of these (58) are scanning electron micrographs which have limited use for identification. Nine taxa have no photographs other than SEMs.

There will be some who will attempt to make comparisons between the *Rain Forest Key* and the recent Lucid products. I have deliberately avoided heading down this path. There is no doubt the *Rain Forest Key* lacks many of the bells and whistles of the Lucid keys but it is simple, intuitive and will, with a little practice, deliver perfectly satisfactory results. Is this not the real test of a key?

Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants is a must have for anyone interested in closed forests in northern Australia. If you are in any way interested in the plants of tropical Australia's closed forest, and you have access to a personal computer, I suggest order a copy today. Once it arrives, set aside an hour or so and explore. The package has much to offer. You could even start with the picture on the front of the box. You should be able to correctly identify the plant using only the features you can see in the picture.

Reference

Hyland B.P.M. & Whiffen T. (1993). *Australian Tropical Rain Forest Trees* (CSIRO Publishing).

ABRS Report

Mary Colreavy
Director, ABRS

Global Biodiversity Information Facility

On 9 December 2003 ABRS hosted a visit from Dr Jim Edwards, the Executive Secretary of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). GBIF is a distributed facility, comprising a network of Participant nodes that:

- Share biodiversity data openly and freely
- Use common standards for data and metadata
- Encourage generation of additional content
- Assure that data providers retain control of their own data
- Gain access to others' data by sharing theirs

Dr Edwards was in Canberra to provide relevant government departments and agencies with an update on the progress of implementation with GBIF since its inception in March 2001. Australia is a major contributor to GBIF (both financially and scientifically) and signed an MoU in 2001 to provide funds to GBIF for the first five years of its operation. Dr Edwards also met with senior Executive staff from DEH, DAFF, DEST, ARC and NHMRC on Monday morning.

Work is progressing on the development of an Australian node for GBIF, to be managed by ABRS. A wide range of data providers have already declared their interest in participating in the distribution of data through an ABRS node including ABRS itself, Australia's Virtual Herbarium (AVH), Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums (OZCAM) - Australia's Fauna, the Australian Plant Pest Database (APPD), Australian Antarctic Division, Australian Heritage Database, and others.

ABLO

Annette Wilson has commenced working for at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, as the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer (ABLO). The ABLO services botanical enquiries from the Australian and New Zealand botanical community at Kew, and other European herbaria where possible, and assists with the curation of Australian collections at Kew.

New publications

Biologue

Biologue is a biannual newsletter providing information on the progress of the ABRS participatory program, and other ABRS activities. It contains information on research grants, contracts, software and publications.

Biologue is available online or can be downloaded in word, or pdf formats. Back issues can be obtained by contacting abrs@deh.gov.au.

You can subscribe to this free publication by contacting the Business Manager at ABRS via e-mail: abrs@deh.gov.au , by telephone on (02)

6250 9554 or (02) 6250 9556 or by faxing your details to (02) 6250 9555.

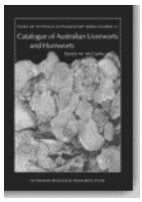
Publications update

ABRS list of currently available publications, order form and price list.

A Field Guide to the Mosses and Allied Plants of Southern Australia
D.Meagher & B.Fuhrer
Flora of Australia Supplementary Series, Number 20
Australian Biological Resources Study/The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, 2003
ISBN 0 642 56828 6

A richly illustrated, full-colour identification guide to almost 500 mosses, liverworts and hornworts in southern Australia. The book includes an introduction to the bryophytes, information on the collection, storage and naming of specimens, identification keys, descriptions, thumbnail anatomical sketches and more than 250 beautiful colour photographs (mostly half-page).

About the book
Size: 210 × 148 mm (A5), 280 pages, index, bibliography, glossary
Binding: soft cover, section stitched
Illustrations: over 250 colour plates, approximately 150 line drawings, 1 map
AUD 48.00 (price includes surface postage for overseas orders, and GST and postage within Australia. Booksellers should contact ABRS for bulk purchasing rates.)



Catalogue of Australian Liverworts and Hornworts
P.M.McCarthy
Flora of Australia Supplementary Series, Number 21
Australian Biological Resources Study, 2003
ISBN 0 642 56829

This catalogue lists 150 genera and 869 accepted species and infraspecific taxa of liverworts and hornworts from the eight States and mainland Territories of Australia. Genera and species are listed alphabetically, and about 1100 synonyms that have been applied to Australian specimens are inserted under the appropriate species name.
Nomina nuda, names of uncertain application and those reported in error from Australia are appended. Each species entry is accompanied by a list of post-1982 literature that provides locality details, descriptions, identification keys and/or habitat information.
This completes a modern trio of catalogues on the Australian lichen and bryophyte floras, together comprising more than 5000 taxa and representing a significant component of the national biota.

About the book
Size: 250 × 176 mm (B5), 138 pages, index, bibliography
Binding: soft cover, section stitched
Illustrations: 1 map
AUD 25.00 (price includes surface postage for overseas orders, and GST and postage within Australia. Booksellers should contact ABRS for bulk purchasing rates.)

ABLO Report

Early in September we had to curtail our Scandinavian tour since I became unwell while we were in Stockholm and, on medical advice, we returned directly to London. We did, however, fulfil several ABLO requests as well as make an assessment and begin data entry of the cryptogamic reprint collection at the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet (S), a collection almost overwhelming in its extent (more than 900 boxes). My time at S was made possible through HiLat funding provided by the European Commission. While there, Alex studied the holdings of *Verticordia* and *Calothamnus* (Myrtaceae) for his *Flora of Australia* accounts and updated the nomenclature on their material of *Banksia*, *Dryandra*, *Stirlingia* and *Synaphea* (Proteaceae).

Inquiries to the ABLO continued steadily during this period. As a result of experience in entering data on specimens imaged into Kew's HerbCat I was able to make suggestions for streamlining the operation of this database.

At Kew, much of my time has gone towards a review of the administration of the ABLO scheme as requested by ABRS. A number of recommendations were sent to ABRS and CHAH for consideration. At the request of the Keeper, Professor Simon Owens, I prepared a draft memorandum of understanding between Kew, ABRS and CHAH, aimed at setting the ABLO operation on a firm administrative footing. This will be refined by the appropriate people over the coming year.

There is now a scheme in place for storing both the electronic and paper-based ABLO records and, at the appropriate time, passing them over to the Archives at Kew. I prepared the records left by previous ABLOs for handing to the Archives (and many thanks to the unknown ABLO who had already put many papers in order).

I also developed an ABLO Manual to cover all aspects of the position. Its value was apparent during the week's overlap that I had with Annette Wilson, so that she was able to slip easily into the role from her first day on duty.

Visitors to Kew during this period included Peter Olde (Sydney, *Grevillea*), Mike van Keulen (Murdoch University, seagrasses), Paul Ormerod (Cairns, Orchidaceae) and Karen Wilson (NSW, Cyperaceae).

Hard work by Kew staff on public relations has led to good increases in visitors to both RBG Kew and its satellite Wakehurst Place. In October the latter exceeded 5000 visitors in one day for the first time. Children make up a significant proportion of the numbers at both sites. World Heritage status for Kew has also resulted in a large increase in the number of visits to the Kew web site.

The northern end of the Rock Garden, where there were a number of Australian plants, has been dismantled in preparation for constructing a new Alpine House. The old Alpine House will make way for extensions to the Jodrell Laboratory, due to start in 2004.

I have given a paper on our *Taxonomic Literature Cryptogamia* project and ABIF at Stockholm, Oxford University and the University of Portsmouth. Alex spoke on the effects of drought on the flora of south-western Australia (the subject of his book *The Long Dry*) at Portsmouth and at Wakehurst Place where one of the staff, Hugh Prichard, has undertaken research on drought effects.

All herbaria at Oxford are operational again, the Sherardian having been equipped with new cupboards and refurbished offices and working space. News from Berlin is that the Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem have survived their crisis but with much reduced funding.

During a visit to the Eden Project in Cornwall I noticed a severe problem with algae in the pond at the base of the waterfall which is part of a circulating water system in one of their great glasshouses. From my work with Dr Walter Adey at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, I was able to suggest that the use of an algal scrubber may be an avenue to explore for biological control of the microalgal blooms. Both the outdoor and glasshouse displays at Eden are most impressive, well worth visiting.

Alex continued his examination of archival papers on the ABLO scheme and now plans to see those in Canberra before completing his history of the scheme. He also saw papers on the discussions and decisions that led to the demise of the South African Botanical Liaison Officer scheme in the mid 1990s.

In July Alex was selected as a Horticultural Volunteer in the Gardens, in order to contribute something to the 'living' side of the organisation. Among his tasks in August was hand-watering beds affected by the drought. He had to resist the temptation to pull up plants such as *Portulaca oleracea* and *Eragrostis curvula*, both common weeds in Perth.

Rain finally returned to Kew on 29 October, after a 9-month period during which the Gardens received about a third of its average. After the hottest UK summer on record and a generally dry year, the autumn colours across Britain were some of the best ever. Then, to show the weather's fickleness, Annette Wilson arrived (prior to taking up her appointment as the 48th ABLO) on the wettest day of 2003. The following day was even wetter and, by the end of it, Kew Green, which had become Kew Brown during the drought, was more like Kew Marsh.

As I complete my year I acknowledge the strong support I have received at Kew, with a special thankyou to the secretarial and support staff within the Herbarium and the Information Services Department. I also acknowledge the support of Murdoch University and appreciate the funding provided by the Australian Government through ABRS. Simon Owens at Kew and Mary Colreavy, since her arrival at ABRS, have readily taken part in many discussions and communications on the management of the ABLO scheme.

Roberta A. Cowan

FASTS

"Reckless squandering of talent" hurts knowledge economy

Part of an article by Professor Snow Barlow, new President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), in the conScience column of the November/December 2003 issue of Australasian Science*. The whole article can be read at* www.control.com.au

The government must dramatically improve career paths for young scientists says Snow Barlow, new President of FASTS. Securing realistic careers for scientists after graduation is

the most challenging and unaddressed issue for Australia's labour force in science, engineering and technology (SET). Currently, markets for jobs in universities and CSIRO are stagnant, forcing postdoctoral scientists into accepting a succession of contracts for only 1-2 years. Chronic uncertainty regarding employment is devastating for scientists at an age where their peers in other fields are settling down on comfortable salaries, getting married, having children and buying a house.

The nation needs a dramatic review of its education development and retention of SET personnel if we are to become competitive in the knowledge economy. This must be a key component of the next phase of Backing Australia's Ability. The provision of career paths for highly trained postdoctoral scientists in whom the nation has invested heavily, requires urgent attention. Otherwise, they may be lost to science at great personal cost to themselves and the nation.

From the October *FASTS Newsletter*

The full newsletter can be found at www.fasts.org/Fsite/News/newsletters/FASTSNewsletterOct03.pdf

Following the Annual General Meeting of FASTS, held on 16th October, Professor Snow Barlow began a two-year term as President of FASTS, succeeding Professor Chris Fell.

Professor Barlow is a plant scientist at the University of Melbourne, where he heads the School of Agriculture and Food Systems. He investigates the potential impacts of climate change on agricultural crops, particularly in Australia's important viticulture sector.

Professor Rob Norris, Dean of Science at Monash University and Associate Professor Judy Mousley of the Faculty of Education at Deakin University were elected Vice-Presidents of FASTS. Associate Professor John O'Connor of the University of Newcastle was re-elected to the position of Secretary, and Associate Professor John Rice of Flinders University was re-elected as Treasurer.

Executive Director moving on

Mr Toss Gascoigne will leave FASTS early in January, after more than nine years as Director. He is to take up a position as inaugural director of CHASS, the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Cautious response to proposed ARC changes

Media release from FASTS, issued on Saturday November 22.

Australia's peak Council for scientists and technologists [FASTS] has responded cautiously to proposals to change the way research funding is handled in Australia.

Education Minister Brendan Nelson Minister flagged possible changes to the processes of the Australian Research Council (ARC). The proposal includes replacing the present expert advisory committees with a 'college of experts'.

The Minister has also suggested that there should be 'broad community representation on the new body that will be assessing future grant proposals'.

His proposals were contained in a media release issued on Friday (see www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Nelson/2003/11/n533211103.asp).

Professor Snow Barlow, President of FASTS, said scientists can see advantages in using a multi-disciplinary panel to choose projects for funding.

"Many advances come from multi-disciplinary approaches, and may for instance involve chemistry and biology working together to solve a problem," he said.

"But we would be concerned if people without the necessary technical knowledge were involved in a panel to choose which science projects should be funded."

He said that Australia has a world-beating system of peer review, and underlined the importance of encouraging excellence across a broad base from mathematics to humanities.

"FASTS is warmly supportive of involving the broad community in Australia's science programs," he said.

"The Australian public should be involved in selecting our national research priorities, and needs to be confident in the broad directions of scientific research. But we are puzzled about the role non-experts might play in choosing between often highly technical science proposals."

Miscellaneous

The Global Taxonomy Initiative

This information has been taken substantially from a report to Taxacom by the American representative Scott E. Miller. Mary Colreavy, ABRS is the Australian contact

The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) was established by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to address the lack of taxonomic information and expertise available in many parts of the world, and thereby to improve decision-making in conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from genetic resources.

The GTI is specifically intended to support implementation of the work programmes of the Convention on thematic and cross cutting issues.[27]

Its second meeting was held in November 2003 resulting in a number of recommendations.[28]

The GTI now has a full-time program officer, Dr. Lucie Rogo, a Kenyan entomologist and conservation biologist. She can be reached at lucie.rogo@biodiv.org.

The CBD has requested countries to designate agencies and individuals ('national focal points') to help coordinate and communicate GTI activities and to provide a link between taxonomists and the CBD. These focal points will be increasingly important in helping the GTI reach its potential in promoting taxonomy internationally.

Intensive course in molecular systematics

23rd March – 2nd April 2004, University of Reading, United Kingdom

The Centre for Plant Diversity and Systematics at The University of Reading is offering an intensive Short Course in Molecular Systematics for the sixth time. The course provides in-depth coverage of the latest techniques in molecular systematics and comparative sequence analysis. The treatment of theoretical issues in formal lectures is coupled with practical workshops and seminars in four main areas:

- Practical issues of DNA extraction, PCR and sequencing are introduced. The handling of difficult material is discussed in a troubleshooting workshop.
- Skills in computer based sequence assembly, alignment and analysis are taught. The acquisition of DNA sequence from databases is introduced.
- Phylogeny reconstruction using distance, parsimony and likelihood approaches including Bayesian inference are introduced and skills developed through workshops.
- The interpretation of phylogeny to address biological questions is emphasised.

The practical element of this course includes guided project work involving the downloading and editing of DNA sequence, sequence alignment, analysis and interpretation of data.

Bookings for the course are now open. Details and course applications are available at www.plantsci.rdg.ac.uk/detailprog2004.htm and any enquiries at molecular.systematics@reading.ac.uk

Reminder on monographic revision prize

The closing date for the Augustin_Pyramus de Candolle Prize for a monographic revision in plant systematics, mentioned in Newsletter 115, is March 31st 2004.

www.cjb.unige.ch

Ebbie Nielsen Prize

Awarded annually to a promising researcher who is combining biosystematics and biological diversity informatics research that supports the objectives of GBIF in an exciting and novel way, entries close each year on December 15th.

www.gbif.org/GBIF_org/prize

Churchill Fellowships

Applications for 2005 fellowships close on February 29th. For more information and application forms see: www.churchilltrust.com.au

Australian Academy of Science International Scientific Collaborations program

Details of new rounds of applications for 2005 are not yet up on the web, but should appear in May 2004.

www.science.org.au/internat/exchange/contscix.htm

[27] For more information on the background of the GTI, see www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/taxonomy/

[28] See www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-07/official/cop-07-04-en.pdf (page 34). Background documents include www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-09/information/sbstta-09-inf-16-en.pdf

Another free biological on-line journal

The Milwaukee Public Museum has just started a new peer-reviewed series in natural history named INSIGHT.

The new publication series started September 22, 2003 with a review of GIS Technology by an entomologist, G.R.Noonan (2003).

For this paper or further information see www.mpm.edu/cr/insight/Papers/papers.html

Reference

Noonan, G. R. 2003. GIS Technology. A Powerful Tool for Entomologists. Insight. A Milwaukee Public Museum Series in Natural History. 1: 1-98.

Coming meetings

Meetings in 2004

International Conference on Botanical Gardens and Sustainable Development.. 1st - 3rd of March. Organized by Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences and in collaboration with BGCI and IABG. Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China.
http://biowest.ac.cn/Conference/BGSD2004.htm

Molecular Biodiversity. 11th-12th March, Copenhagen.
The Danish Biodiversity Information Facility. The conference will address questions like:

- What is molecular biodiversity? (genome, transcriptome, proteome, functional DNA data etc.)
- Bridges between molecular biodiversity and other levels of biodiversity, in particular diversity at the level of "whole organisms" and species, including but not limited to:
- DNA taxonomy
- "Barcoding" of species
- Phylogeny
- Phylogeography
- How do we manage molecular biodiversity, including its relations to other kinds of biodiversity information?
- What may we gain by connecting the different fields of biodiversity science?

More information will available on the DanBIF website in early January www.danbif.dk or contact Isabel Calabuig (icalabuig@zmuc.ku.dk)

The Second International Orchid Conservation Congress. 17th-22nd May, The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida USA
Topic: *Orchid Conservation Measures - The Conservation Balance*
www.selby.org/iocc/index.htm.

IXth Meeting of IOPB (International Organization of Plant Biosystematics) 16th-19th May, Valencia, Spain.
"*Plant Evolution in Mediterranean Climate Zones*" is the general topic. The meeting will be held at the Jardín Botánico de la Universidad de Valencia.
www.jardibotanic.org/iopb.html

First International Phylogenetic Nomenclature Meeting 6th-9th July, Paris, France.
The first circular was reproduced in ASBS Newsletter 116. To receive the second circular (which includes registration information), contact Michel Laurin by e-mail (laurin@ccr.jussieu.fr) and write in the "subject" field of the message "Phylocode 2004 meeting".

Asian Plant Diversity and Systematics. 29th July-1st August, Sakura, Chiba Pref., Japan
This symposium aims to review current research on various aspects of Asian plant diversity, with emphasis on the use of modern approaches and techniques. The symposium will include six symposium sessions and one poster session.
www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jsps/iapt2004/

Botany 2004: Alpine Diversity: Adapted to the Peaks. 31st July -5th August. Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.
Joint meeting of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, the American Fern Society, the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, and the Botanical Society of America.
www.botanyconference.org/

Fourteenth Australian Weeds Conference 6th-10th September. Wagga Wagga, NSW.
Topic: *Weed management: balancing people, planet, profit*.
www.csu.edu.au/special/weedsconference/

Sixth International Flora Malesiana Symposium. 20th-24th September, Los Baños, Philippines. To be held at the University of the Philippines - Los Baños (UPLB), about 65 km south of Manila.

Symposium sessions. The main symposium sessions shall be in the form of mini-symposia. These are being organised on the following topics:

- Non-Vascular Cryptogams;
- Pteridophytes;
- Tribute to Dr Elmer D. Merrill and plant collectors;
- Merrill's contribution to the Flora of the Philippines and Malesia;
- Ethnobotany;
- Conservation Biology and Endangered Plants;
- Phylogeny and Biogeography;
- Floristics and Ecology;
- Bioinformatics;
- Herbarium Development and Collections Management;
- Medicinal Plants and Natural Products;
- Orchids and Ornamentals;
- Progress in *Flora Malesiana*

Symposium workshops. Specialist workshops will take place on a number of plant families and plant groups and topics. These will provide opportunities for discussion of large complex families yet to be treated for *Flora Malesiana*. Proposals for workshop taxa are encouraged and should be forwarded to the addresses given below, preferably with name(s) of convenors and e-mail contacts.
Further details may be found in 2nd Symposium Circular and will also be available soon at: www.mountainet.ph
For more information, please contact:

flmales6@laguna.net
or
Dr Edwino S. Fernando
Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems
The University of the Philippines - Los Baños
e-mail: e.fernando@mountainet.ph or
esf@laguna.net
or
Dr Domingo A. Madulid
Division of Botany
National Museum of the Philippines
e-mail: dmadulid@info.com.ph

XXII International Congress of Entomology 15th–21st August, Brisbane, Australia
www.ccm.com.au/icoe/home/default.htm

XIX International Congress of Zoology 23rd–27th August, Beijing, CHINA
http://icz.ioz.ac.cn

Ferns For The 21st Century 12th–16th July, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
www.rbge.org.uk/rbge/web/science/news.jsp

Ecological Society of Australia (date unknown) Adelaide, South Australia
www.ecolsoc.org.au/

Meetings in 2005

17th International Botanical Congress 17th–23rd July, Vienna, Austria
The site has only been marginally updated from that reproduced in *ASBS Newsletter 114*. The registration form to receive the second circular is available at the address given here. The poster for the congress can be downloaded from this site and some photographs from the second IBC Congress in 1905 have been added.
www.ibc2005.ac.at

Meetings in 2006

VI International Solanaceae Congress and 90th Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America July 23-27, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Meetings in 2008

4th International Conference on Comparative Biology of the Monocotyledons (MONOCOTS IV). Institute of Botany, Copenhagen

ASBS Publications

History of Systematic Botany in Australia
Edited by P.S. Short. A4, case bound, 326pp. ASBS, 1990. $10; plus $10 p. & p.

For all those people interested in the 1988 ASBS symposium in Melbourne, here are the proceedings. It is a very nicely presented volume, containing 36 papers on: the botanical exploration of our region; the role of horticulturists, collectors and artists in the early documentation of the flora; the renowned (Mueller, Cunningham), and those whose contribution is sometimes overlooked (Buchanan, Wilhelmi).

Systematic Status of Large Flowering Plant Genera
ASBS Newsletter Number 53, edited by Helen Hewson. 1987. $5 + $1.10 postage.

This Newsletter issue includes the reports from the February 1986 Boden Conference on the "Systematic Status of Large Flowering Plant Genera". The reports cover: the genus concept; the role of cladistics in generic delimitation; geographic range and the genus concepts; the value of chemical characters, pollination syndromes, and breeding systems as generic determinants; and generic concepts in the Asteraceae, Chenopodiaceae, Epacridaceae, *Cassia*, *Acacia*, and *Eucalyptus*.

Ecology of the Southern Conifers
Edited by Neal Enright and Robert Hill.
ASBS members: $60 plus $12 p&p non-members $79.95.

Proceedings of a symposium at the ASBS conference in Hobart in 1993. Twenty-eight scholars from across the hemisphere examine the history and ecology of the southern conifers, and emphasise their importance in understanding the evolution and ecological dynamics of southern vegetation.

Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter

Back issues of the Newsletter are available from from *Number 27* (May 1981) onwards, excluding *Numbers 29*, *31*, *60-62*, *66*, *84*, *89*, *90*, *99*, *100* and *103*. Here is the chance to complete your set. Cover prices are $3.50 (*Numbers 27-59*, excluding *Number 53*) and $5.00 (*Number 53*, and *60* onwards). Postage $1.10 per issue.

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Evolution of the Flora and Fauna of Arid Australia
Edited by W.R. Barker & P.J.M. Greenslade. ASBS & A.N.Z.A.A.S., 1982. $20 + $5 postage.

This collection of more than 40 papers will interest all people concerned with Australia's dry inland, or the evolutionary history of its flora and fauna. It is of value to those studying both arid lands and evolution in general. Six sections cover: ecological and historical background; ecological and reproductive adaptations in plants; vertebrate animals; invertebrate animals; individual plant groups; and concluding remarks.

Special arrangement. To obtain this discounted price, post a photocopy of this page with remittance to:
Peacock Publications, 38 Sydenham Road, Norwood, SA 5069, Australia.

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These listings are published in each issue. Please inform the Editors of any changes

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED

The Society

The *Australian Systematic Botany Society* is an incorporated association of over 300 people with professional or amateur interest in botany. The aim of the Society is to promote the study of plant systematics.

Membership

Membership is open to all those interested in plant systematics. Membership entitles the member to attend general meetings and chapter meetings, and to receive the Newsletter. Any person may apply for membership by filling in a "Membership Application" form and forwarding it, with the appropriate subscription, to the Treasurer. Subscriptions become due on January 1 each year.

The ASBS *annual membership subscription* is $40(Aust.); full-time students $20. Payment may be by credit card or by cheques made out to *Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc.*, and remitred to the Treasurer. All changes of address should be sent directly to the Treasurer as well.

The Newsletter

The Newsletter is sent quarterly to members and appears simultaneously on the ASBS Web site. It keeps members informed of Society events and news, and provides a vehicle for debate and discussion. In addition, original articles, notes and letters (not exceeding ten published pages in length) will be considered.
Citation: abbreviate as *Austral. Syst. Bot. Soc. Nsltr*

Contributions

Send to the Editors at the address given below. They *preferably* should be submitted as: (1) an MS-DOS file in the form of a text file (*.txt* extension), (2) an MS-Word.*doc* file, (3) a Rich-text-format or *.rtf* file in an email message or attachment or on an MS-DOS disk or CD-ROM. *Non-preferred* media such as handwritten or typescripts by letter or fax are acceptable, but may cause delay in publication in view of the extra workload involved.

Formatting of submitted copy. Please use Word in formatting indents, bullets, etc. in paragraphs and for tables. Do not format primitively with tabs, which change with the Normal style sheet. If embedding tables or references or other Objects from other software (Excel, bibliographic software, etc.) ensure that these are converted to Word tables or paragraphs. Letters in abbreviations of Australian States (SA, WA etc., but Vic.) and organisations (e.g ASBS, ABRS) should not be separated by full-stops, but initials should be (e.g. W.R. Smith, not WR Smith).

Images: their inclusion may depend on space being available. Improve scanned resolution if printing your image is pixellated at a width of at least 7 cm (up to a 15 cm full page). Contact the Editors for further clarification.

The *deadline* for contributions is the last day of February, May, August and November. All items incorporated in the Newsletter will be duly acknowledged. Any unsigned articles are attributable to the Editors.

Authors alone are responsible for the views expressed, and statements made by the authors do not necessarily represent the views of the *Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc*. Newsletter items should not be reproduced without the permission of the author of the material.

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Advertising space is available for products or services of interest to ASBS members. The current fee is $100 per full page, $50 per half-page or less.

Fliers may be approved for inclusion in the envelope for products or services of interest to ASBS members. The current fee is $100 per flyer, plus the cost of inserting them (usually roughly $25-30). Fliers are not part of the Newsletter and do not appear with the Newsletter on the ASBS Web site.

A 20% discount applies for second and subsequent entries of the same advertisement. Advertisements from ASBS members are usually exempt from fees but not the insertion costs in the case of a flier. Contact the Newsletter Editors for further information.

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