

# AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 18

March 1979

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### ASBS Council

- President* Dr. John Jessop, State Herbarium of South Australia,  
North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000.
- Vice-President* Professor Roger Carolin, School of Biological Sciences,  
University of Sydney, Sydney N.S.W. 2006.
- Secretary* Mrs. Judy West, Dept. of Botany, University of  
Adelaide, Adelaide, S.A. 5001.
- Treasurer* Mr. Mike Lazarides, Herbarium Australiense, C.S.I.R.O.,  
P.O. Box 1600, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601
- Councillors* Mr Andrew Mitchell, Alice Springs Herbarium, Dept. of  
Industrial Development, P.O. Box 2134, Alice Springs,  
N.T. 5750
- Mrs Karen Wilson, National Herbarium of New South  
Wales, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney N.S.W. 2000

This publication, the official newsletter of the Society, is produced four times each year and deadlines for copy are the last day of February, May, August and November.

Please send contributions, preferably typed in duplicate, to the Editor, at the address below. Items from any source and of interest to members are acceptable. Items incorporated in the newsletter will be duly acknowledged.

Please note; Next deadline is 31st May, 1979.

Subscriptions for 1979 were due 1st January.  
(Members in Australia \$4.00 if paid by 31st March  
\$6.00 thereafter  
Overseas Members US\$8.00 or equivalent).

Editor: Mr A.S. George  
Western Australian Herbarium  
George Street, South Perth  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6151

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A.S.B.S. 5th General Meeting  
Sydney University, 19.1.1979

The meeting was opened at 1.10 p.m. by the President, Prof. Carolin, with 20 members present.

Apologies: M.Lazarides, R.Henderson, M.Hindmarsh, J.Waterhouse.

Minutes of 4th General Meeting accepted.

Treasurer's Report

In the Treasurer's absence, Miss Canning presented his report and financial statement. The incentive to pay subscriptions early has been generally successful. Dr Jessop moved (seconded Mrs West) that the report be accepted. Carried without dissent.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Mr George reported that : "Since the last General Meeting there have been six issues of the Newsletter, making a total of 17 to date. After number 15, the editorship passed to me from Rod Henderson (BRI). We owe a great deal to Rod and his predecessor as editor, Des Boyland, for launching and developing the newsletter during its first four years. Thanks are due also to Karen Wilson for processing copy and seeing it through production.

Council has decided to provide copies of the newsletter to the government herbaria in each State as well as the A.C.T. and N.T.

The newsletter depends on contributions from you, the members. Council and standard items will not maintain it. For two years we have been able to have 4 issues annually, but several of these have been rather thin. If there is no increase in the contributions the number may need to be reduced to 3 per year. That would be unfortunate, and I hope it will not happen. We have over 300 members and for many of them it is an important link with others. We must not allow the newsletter to languish."

It was felt that it would be unfortunate if we had to reduce the number of issues p.a. and various ways of cutting costs were suggested, e.g. thinner paper and covers; bulk posting of newsletter to institutions. The Newsletter Committee is to investigate.

Central Australian Flora

Dr Jessop reported that an Editorial Committee meeting had been held the previous day and that he is to send authors a sample treatment and detailed instructions. All manuscripts are requested for the middle of 1979 as the publisher (Reeds) have set a deadline of the end of 1979 for receiving the complete manuscript. Illustrations can be provided in Adelaide but authors need to notify Dr Jessop soon of their requirements. Having contacted all authors, he reported that about 15-20% of these species are covered by manuscripts already received, c. 60% are covered by manuscripts promised for mid-1979 and 20-25% are in families for which authors have still to be found or for which the authors have not replies to his letters. Authors are needed for the following families: Euphorbiaceae, Labiatae, Apocynaceae, Ehretiaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Gentianaceae, Primulaceae, Onagraceae and Plumbaginaceae.

### Australian Botanical Liaison Officer

Mrs Wilson reported that she had written to the Australian Agricultural Council about the possibility of providing a reference library for the A.B.L.O. and that the Council had passed on her letter to CSIRO. Council is to contact CSIRO direct having had no acknowledgement so far. Dr Eichler suggested contacting Dr Milton Moore at the CSIRO Scientific Liaison Office in London. Dr Eichler reported that the CSIRO review of the functions of the A.B.L.O. is still continuing and that administration of the position will probably go to the Australian Biological Resources Study when it is firmly established. He said that he anticipated that CSIRO will continue to administer the position beyond 1980-81 which is the earliest that administrative responsibility could change. Dr McCusker said that CSIRO intends to propose to the incoming ABRS Advisory Committee that A.B.R.S. take over from (and include) the 1980-81 Liaison Officer term. Dr Eichler said that the most important function of the A.B.L.O. is liaison, i.e. helping other Australian botanists, and when that function is fulfilled he may spend any remaining time on his own research.

### Australian Biological Resources Study

Dr McCusker reported one important recent news release from the Minister for Science and the Environment, namely the appointment of an Advisory Committee which will meet in the first week of March. Membership of the Advisory Committee is for a 3-year term but initially the terms for individual members have been staggered over 1-3 years to ensure continuity. The report of the A.B.R.S. Interim Council is now published but not yet available for sale - if interested, people should enquire at Government Sales Centres.

### President's Report

During the year the Society's membership reached 306 paid up members. Local Chapters are established at Townsville, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth all of which hold regular meetings. The Council met once during the year on 15th February, 1978.

The Society has made a number of approaches during the year to the Minister for Science with regard to A.B.R.S. We have particularly drawn attention to the fact that there is still no practising taxonomist appointed as leader of the Flora of Australia project. We have also urged that the A.B.R.S. Advisory Committee be appointed without undue delay. Undue delay has nevertheless taken place. Only on 4th December was a release made to the media detailing the composition of this committee. The release, unlike previous ones, was not sent to the Society. It is also disappointing that the Society's views were not canvassed on the composition of the Committee although individual members were consulted.

We have also made representations to various instrumentalities with regard to the "Undirected" Flora of Australia. A.B.R.S. still appears to have doubts about it but I would recommend that should it fail to take up the financial aspect of it we nevertheless give our full support to the Heads of Herbaria should they decide to operate a modified scheme. Should they, in turn, not see fit to support it, A.S.B.S. should consider taking it up itself.

The list of botanical taxonomic theses in Australian Universities was published by the Society during the year and we should congratulate Karen Wilson on its production. The various Universities interpreted "taxonomy" in rather different ways and consequently the coverage tended to be uneven - a drawback which can be remedied in future editions.

The Research Index has now been circulated for correcting and hopefully this will be distributed in 1979. The future of this Index needs serious thought at this stage, especially since the Heads of Herbaria have decided to produce another edition of their Index in time for the I.B.C. 1981 which serves much the same purpose.

The Flora of Central Australia is the largest of our present projects. I must emphasise that if we are going to produce this Flora on time copy must be in the hands of the editor by the middle of 1979. The response of members when we asked for contributors to this project was very good indeed, it is necessary to say now that dead-lines must be met. In connection with this, I have been acting on a suggestion of Bruce Maslin's that we produce a poster on Central Australian Wildflowers to commemorate the I.B.C. Various Government Agencies have expressed an interest but finance promises to be a problem in its production.

We presented a submission to CSIRO on its Review of Journals of Scientific Research. In particular we emphasised the importance of both Australian Journal of Botany and Brunonia in disseminating the results of taxonomic research. Furthermore we expressed some disquiet at the long time it took for papers submitted to Brunonia to appear in print.

During the year Clyde Dunlop suggested that the Society should run taxonomic workshops especially designed for "unqualified" people who are good botanists... but never get the opportunity or encouragement to do revisional work.'

I think that there probably is a need for this sort of operation although the workshops need not be run very frequently. It is worth thinking about. If the demand was there then it could certainly be mounted.

Many students on the subject ask me whether there are any courses available to them at which they can learn botanical Latin. There is none that I know of and it is difficult for individuals to provide them for their own students. Nevertheless it is still a skill taxonomists require since many of the older revisions are written in that language. The Society might be able to provide a self-teach system of botanical Latin which would go some way to fulfil this need. This is something we could discuss at the A.G.M. and through the Newsletter but to be successful we need several members co-operating in its production.

The Society is now well-established with a range of projects current. Members are drawn from a variety of botanists - by no means all of them being taxonomists. The trend after its formation has been towards the Botanical component of its title rather than the Systematic component since we have attracted very few animal taxonomists. It may be to our advantage on those local chapters which have not attracted general botanists, anatomists and morphologists in particular to suggest they might like to join.

Lastly I would like to thank all the Council members for their help during the last 3 years and to give our best wishes to the incoming Council.

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

The President reported that the Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria (CHAH) intends to produce a new edition of their research list in 1981, calling on local A.S.B.S. convenors for help in updating the information. Council recommended that A.S.B.S. should not continue with ICTRAF once the first edition was produced. The meeting felt that at least the first edition should be produced since it had been nearly completed, as long as it could

be done soon and with little extra expense. Council is to take up the matter with Dr Whiffin. Even if the project is scrapped, copies of the compilation to date should go to herbaria so that the information is not completely lost. Dr McCusker pointed out that A.B.R.S. has a statutory commitment to compile information on taxonomic and ecological research on Australian flora and fauna and that possibly ASBA and ABRS could co-operate in a joint production on the botanical taxonomic research. It was pointed out that this suggestion could better be made to CHAH since it is that body which will continue to produce a list.

### Increase in subscriptions?

Miss Canning reported on behalf of the Treasurer that subscriptions needed to be raised to cover the Society's expenses.

Mr McGillivray moved (seconded Dr Briggs) that subscriptions for Australian members be \$10, reduced to \$6 if paid by the end of March, and that the overseas subscription rate should be US\$12. It was felt that the differential in the Australian rate was too great and the figures were amended to "\$10, reducing to \$8." It was generally agreed that the newsletter should be maintained at its present level since it is the only material benefit for isolated members, possibly trying to crowd more into each page to reduce costs. Members who join after the end of March are only required to pay the reduced "early payment" rate currently and it was felt that this should continue. Mr George moved (seconded Mr Everist) that the amended motion be put. Motion carried. The President then put the amended motion and it was unanimously carried.

### Taxonomic workshops

The matter was mentioned in the President's report. Mr McGillivray said that Mr Dunlop, in suggesting it, was looking for guidance in the methods used by botanists in tackling a project. He felt that the comments of botanists in similarly isolated situations should be sought. The President suggested that secondment might be the answer for these botanists.

### International Botanical Congress 1981

The President reported Council's action in planning a dinner with an address by Dr Takhtajan. Council felt that the Society did not need any other involvement in the Congress and the meeting agreed with this.

### Any Other Business

(i) Voting in Council elections. The President reported that Council recommended a simpler system of voting: for those wishing to preserve secrecy, the previous system of double envelopes could be used; for those who did not mind loss of secrecy, a single envelope could be used to contain one or more members' votes, each voting paper to be signed on the back. To prevent doubling-up, only the ballot paper in the newsletter could be used, i.e. no facsimiles would be accepted. By signing the ballot paper, it would be possible for a whole chapter or institution to send all its ballot papers in one envelope to the Returning Officer. The meeting agreed that this system was reasonable, as long as the option of preserving secrecy by use of double envelopes was kept.

(ii) ANZAAS Systematic Botany Committee. Dr Eichler reported that the Committee appointed at the time of the ANZAAS Congress in Canberra (including the ASBS President ex officio) was to retire at the time of the ANZAAS Congress in Auckland. He read to the meeting a submission which the retiring Committee intended to put to the Auckland meeting urging that continuity be secured by reappointment of Drs T. Hartley and A. Orchard and Mr I. Watson and that the

following people be appointed to replace retiring members: Prof.R.Carolin, Mr R. Chinnock and Dr Brownsee.

Nancy Burbidge Memorial Lecture

Mr Selwyn Everist gave the inaugural address: "The Role of Herbaria in Australia Today". (The text of this is to be published elsewhere - Ed.)

Next General Meeting and New Council

The President announced that the next general meeting will be held in Adelaide in May 1980 during the ANZAAS Congress. He then announced the composition of the Council for 1979-80 (elected unopposed):

President:	Dr J.P. Jessop
Vice-President:	Prof. R.C. Carolin
Secretary:	Mrs J. West
Treasurer:	Mr M. Lazarides
Councillors:	Mr A.S. Mitchell
	Mrs K.L. Wilson

The President closed the meeting at 4.50 p.m.

A.S.B.S. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD 31-12-77 to 31-12-78

RECEIPTS

Bank Balance at 31-12-77 .....	Credit \$ 1266.62
Subscriptions .....	\$ 1189.57
Donations to Nancy Burbidge Memorial Lecture .....	\$ 265.00
Bank Interest .....	\$ 48.05
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u> .....	<u>\$ 2769.24</u>

EXPENDITURE

Newsletter No.13 (postage \$69.75; labour \$229.38; materials \$19.69) .....	\$ 318.82
Draft typing for Newsletter No.13 .....	\$ 8.80
Returned Cheque .....	\$ 8.00
Draft Typing for Newsletter No.14 .....	\$ 8.80
Newsletter No.14 (postage\$115.70; labour \$302.50; materials \$18.43) .....	\$ 436.63
Printing of 2000 Newsletters Covers .....	\$ 139.15
Theses List (postage \$99.45; printing \$206.60; collation \$50.00) .....	\$ 356.05
Postage on Theses List to Universities .....	\$ 6.90
Newsletter No.15 (postage \$74.25; printing \$109.90; collation \$43.34) .....	\$ 227.49
Index of Current Taxonomic Research .....	\$ 109.20
Newsletter No.16 (postage \$74.50; printing \$127.75; collation \$47.50) .....	\$ 246.75
Travel Expenses for Nancy Burbidge Memorial Lecturer..	\$ 150.00
Newsletter No.17 (postage \$207.45; printing \$159.10; collation \$50.00) .....	\$ 316.55
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> .....	<u>\$ 2333.14</u>
<u>BANK BALANCE</u> .....	<u>Credit \$ 436.10</u>
<u>GROSS TOTAL</u> .....	<u>\$ 2769.24</u>

MEMBERSHIP

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	OVERSEAS*	TOTALS
Aug.1973	44									113
Dec.1974										211
May 1976	44	42	5	28	33	7	26	43	20	248
Aug.1977	44	42	5	32	45	5	30	51	24	278
May 1978	43	45	5	50	49	7	30	55	23	307
Dec.1978	43	48	5	50	48	7	34	55	22	312

(Overseas = PNG 3, UK 1, Africa 1, NZ 4, USA 8, Holland 1, Instituti 4)

*M. Lazarides, Hon. Treasurer.*

ASBS Council Meeting

Sydney University, 19-1-1979 at 9 a.m.

Present: R. Carolin, J. Jessop, A. George, K. Wilson.

By Invitation: A. Mitchell, J. West.

Apologies: M. Lazarides, R. Henderson.

Central Australian Flora

Dr Jessop reported that the editorial committee had held a meeting the previous day and had resolved outstanding problems of content, style and format. He will produce a sample treatment and detailed instructions for authors. There are nearly 50 contributors. The publisher (Reeds) has set a deadline of the end of 1979 for receiving the complete typescript.

The President reported that he had contacted TAA, the Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Northern Territory N.P.W.S. about the possibility of producing a poster on the Central Australian Flora. TAA was not interested but both National Parks Services thought it a good idea while pointing out that the N.T. Service is already producing one on the plants found in their National Parks. Mr Mitchell is to check further with the N.T. Service about its poster.

Newsletter Committee

Mr George is to continue as Editor with Mrs Wilson as the other member of the committee. It was decided to maintain the number of issues at 4 p.a. Mr George is to investigate the cost of printing in Perth. Mrs Wilson is to investigate copyright laws and their relevance to the newsletter. It was agreed to send the libraries of government herbaria in Australia free copies of the newsletter to ensure preservation of any useful information contained in it. It was further decided that the Editor, when he is not a Council member, should be invited to attend Council meetings.

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

Dr Jessop reported that the Committee of Heads of Australian Herbaria (CHAH) intended to produce a new edition of their Research List for 1981, enlisting the co-operation of local ASBS convenors to up-date it. It was agreed that we would not continue to produce ICTRAF after the first edition is available; indeed, that we would only produce even a first edition if it can be done soon and at little additional cost. Mrs West is to contact Dr Whiffin.

Reference Library for the A.B.L.O.

Mrs Wilson reported that she had written to the Australian Agricultural Council about providing this. However the Secretary had replied that they had no available funds and that they had forwarded her letter to CSIRO for consideration. Mrs Wilson has heard nothing from CSIRO.

The President is to contact Dr Peacock, Head of CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, and to then inform Mrs West of the result. If CSIRO will not provide the books, other possibilities are to ask each State herbarium or each local ASBS chapter to contribute a few books.



ANZAAS Committee

Dr Jessop and Mrs West are to ask Dr Barker to act as convenor of a committee to organize ASBS participation in the ANZAAS Congress to be held in Adelaide 12-16th May 1980. If he is not available then they are to act at their discretion to appoint a committee.

It was agreed that the Secretary should act a Congress ahead in appointing a committee, i.e. the current Secretary should contact the Brisbane chapter convenor this year to ask him to be the next committee convenor or to suggest someone else for the job (the ANZAAS Congress for 1981 being in Brisbane).

Thesis List

The Secretary reported that the List is now produced and distributed and that she has sent a note for inclusion in Taxon announcing the availability of the List to non-members. It was agreed to revise the List at about 5 year intervals, with annual additions to be printed in the newsletter (the Secretary is to write to each University in March seeking the previous year's list of theses).

Voting System for Council Elections

It was agreed to recommend to the General Meeting that:  
 (1) all voting must be on the ballot paper sent out in the newsletter, i.e. no facsimiles to be accepted; (2) the ballot paper should be returned in a single envelope or in double envelopes if the voter wishes to preserve secrecy. In the former case, the voter must sign the back of the ballot paper and such papers can then be returned in a single envelope from a whole chapter or institution if wished, rather than each member returning his ballot paper individually. In the latter case, i.e. to preserve secrecy, he puts his (unsigned) ballot paper in an envelope, seals it, and this goes inside another envelope addressed to the Returning Officer with the Member's name on the back.

Any Other Business(i) N.T.Burbidge Memorial Lecture

It was agreed that in general Council should choose a speaker from the city in which the Lecture is to be given so as to minimise expense.

(ii) Latin Schools

The President reported that he had been asked by various students how they could learn botanical Latin. He suggested that the Society consider producing a self-teach programme.

(iii) Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting was tentatively proposed for November 1979 in Adelaide or Canberra.

DONATIONS TO N.B. MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dr Elizabeth Edgar, D.S.I.R., Christchurch, New Zealand...	\$10
Hj. Eichler, Herb.Australia.....	\$10
M.Gray, Herb. Australia.....	\$20
W.Curtis, Tasmania.....	\$20
B.J.Conn, P.N.G. Forestry College, Bulolo.....	\$ 6
E.Canning, Canberra Botanic Gardens.....	\$ 5
R.Carolin, Sydney.....	\$ 5

Independently of botanists, another memorial to Nancy Burbidge has been created in the form of an altar piece at St.Michaels Anglican Church in Mt.Pleasant, a suburb of Perth. It was arranged by Nancy's brother, Archdeacon E.H. Burbidge, and features three Banksias with a pair of attendant honey-eaters moulded over blocks of colour that suggest stained-glass windows. It includes applique, hand and machine stitching as well as metal thread work.

COMMITTEE OF HEADS OF AUSTRALIAN HERBARIA6th MEETING, SYDNEY, 29-30.11.1978

The 6th annual meeting of this Committee was attended by the following representatives of State and Federal herbaria:

Dr B.G. Briggs (NSW), Chairman  
 Mr G.M. Chippendale (FRI)  
 Mr A.B. Court (CBG)  
 Dr H.J. Eichler (CANB)  
 Dr J.W. Green (PERTH)  
 Dr J.P. Jessop (AD)  
 Dr R.W. Johnson (BRI)  
 Mr J.R. Maconochie (NT)  
 Dr A.E. Orchard (HO)  
 Dr J. Ross (MEL)

Also present as observers were Mr M. Galore (LAE) and, for part of the meeting, Dr D. Griffin (Director of the Australian Museum, Sydney, representing CAMD - the Council of Australian Museum Directors).

Australian Botanical Officer.

Proposals have been made elsewhere for the administration and funding of this position to be transferred from CSIRO to the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS). It was agreed that the Liaison Officer scheme has been very effectively administered by CSIRO and that there was a danger that a change of administering body might prevent the ready participation of some of the relevant State organizations, which provide a considerable proportion of the financial support for staff members appointed to the position.

Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS).

There was much discussion of priorities among types of projects supported in the past by ABRS or known to have been under consideration for such support. The compilation of a list of Australian vascular plant species (largely from lists being compiled in most States) was considered desirable. Some subsequent revision of such a list might be necessary but it was noted that large amounts of follow-up work on discrepancies in the list would be unprofitable, as most such discrepancies are best settled by revisionary work rather than work particularly directed to improving the list. Members from Brisbane, Alice Springs and the Forest Research Institute (concerning EUCALIST) reported a high level of demand for information from their computerised data storage projects, but it was agreed that support by ABRS for taxonomic research was of higher priority than either computerised storage of specimen label data or Vegetation mapping.

Revisions Series

A subcommittee maintains liaison with ABRS towards the production of such a series, which would gather together Australia-wide revisions from various journals.

Current Plant Taxonomic Research

CHAH members expressed the hope that the ASBS list now in preparation would soon be published. CHAH plans to compile a new listing before the International Botanical Congress in 1981 and noted that it will generally be appropriate for CHAH members to seek assistance through local ASBS chapters when updating information in the list.

Council of Australian Museum Directors (CAMD).

In July 1978 Mr John Maconochie represented CHAH as observer at the meeting of CAMD in Darwin and we welcomed Dr Des Griffin, Director of the Australian Museum, to our meeting. It is clear that there are many similarities in the roles of the two organizations.

Reports from Herbaria

Brief verbal reports were given of developments at all member herbaria. It was particularly satisfactory to have the Tasmanian Herbarium represented for the first time by a botanist permanently appointed to that institution.

Other items.

Mention was made of (1) the desirability of stating the authorship in all publications, even in brief biographical notes, for clarity of future citation, (2) the recent receipt by Herbarium Australiense of a large number of duplicates from the British Museum of collections by Robert Brown.

Next Meeting

This will be in Alice Springs, with Mr Maconochie as Chairman for 1979.

B.G. Briggs  
National Herbarium of New South Wales

NEWS ITEMSThe Bryophyte and Lichen collections at the National Herbarium  
of New South Wales, Sydney

It is many years since the staff of the National Herbarium has included either a bryologist or a lichenologist and the botanical order and state of curation has therefore lagged behind that elsewhere in the Herbarium. Although large and important collections are held, they have been accessible only with difficulty because of these major inadequacies in curation and because of the severe crowding in the Herbarium. Space limitations have caused most of these collections to be stored above other plant groups, on extremely high shelves, or located in a separate annexe building. Only a new building will solve some of these problems, but others can be remedied by uniform packeting, checking on the identity of the specimens, and better sorting of the collections. It has been difficult to spare staff, even temporary employees, for the work of re-packeting specimens and much work arises for those checking the identifications. This is effort well spent if it leads to greater and more efficient use of the collection by those studying Australian bryoflora and lichens.

Bryophyte Collection

in 1974, with the help of an ABRIS Grant, H.P. Ramsay began a Census of New South Wales mosses. This included a check of the identity of specimens at NSW and the recording of collection data. The project is now well advanced. The NSW Herbarium has applied to the curation of mosses the greater part of such Temporary Assistance Funds as have been available in recent years. In some years these were supplemented by Unemployment Relief Assistance. Such temporary employees re-packeted and re-labelled specimens, retaining any labels and the original small and uneven-sized packets on which collection details were usually written.

Each specimen, together with its original packet, has been placed into a uniform-sized folded packet 28 x 14 cm. Name and details of collection, date, locality etc. have been copied onto the outside of the new packet, which is large enough for name changes and other information to be added later. The packets, approximately 80 to a box, are arranged alphabetically by genus and species within families. Since locality information is available without unfolding the packets, the collection forms an index to identity and geographical distribution of specimens. These packets will contain all but a few of the largest specimens. Where specimens are too large, an empty packet in the box bears a note giving the location of the specimen which is separately boxed. A card may be inserted in the appropriate position for any cross-reference information or to record that specimens of a species are out on loan. Repackaging and sorting of the mosses is now complete and it is planned eventually to reorganise the hepatics in the same manner.

The following is an estimate of the numbers of bryophyte specimen holdings:

Hepaticae            Total packets 3,400

Musci                Total packets 29,200

Australian species

N.S.W.	15,600
Victoria	1,100
L.H.I.	800
QLD	250
TAS	200
WA/SA	50
<u>Australian Total</u>	<u>17,900</u>

Other Regions

New Hebrides	700
Pacific Is., N.Z.,	
Papua-New Guinea	4,000
Exotics (Europe	
Japan, N.Am., S.Am.	
Africa)	6,600
<u>Non Australian</u>	
<u>Total</u>	<u>11,300</u>

The bulk of the collection was accumulated in the late 1800's and early this century, as a result of the work of such people as J.Forsyth, T.Whitelegge, and the Rev.W.W.Watts. The exotics were obtained by exchange between Australian and overseas bryologists during the same period, when collection of bryophytes was most intense in Australia. New specimens incorporated since then, at a much slower rate, show a greater concentration of species from Australasia and the Pacific Islands, including Papua-New Guinea.

The collection represents the largest accumulation of bryophyte specimens in an Australian herbarium, although other States have greater collections of their local species. Included are at least 200 specimens that have been listed as possible types or new species. Not all will be found to be holotypes or isotypes but there is a wealth of material awaiting study. There are between 2,000 and 3,000 moss specimens undetermined even to genus and requiring attention. Some progress has been made in updating and checking of species, and this should be speeded up now that the collection is more accessible for study and loan to monographers carrying out worldwide revisions. The hepatics contain equally important material, including types and possibly an even greater range of problems for solution.

Lichen Collection

The project has continued with re-packeting the lichen collections. A recent visit by Miss Cheryl Scarlett, University of Queensland, has drawn attention to the particular importance of the lichen holdings, which contain at least 15,000 collections, including much type and other early material. There are specimens from the F.R.Wilson, John Shirley, E.Cheel, and Flockton collections. There are many identifications by Wario and Zahlbruckner and much overseas material received in sets of exsiccatae.

As with the bryophytes, it is hoped that if the collections are more accessible, due to better botanical sorting, they will be studied by botanical visitors and other experts, leading to further improvement through determinations and re-determinations. The same procedure is being used as with the mosses, but a larger proportion of the specimens will have to be retained in oversized folders or packets. At present only about one fifth of the collection has been packeted, and there has been only a little recent work of checking specimen determinations.

*H.P.Ramsay, University of New South Wales. B.G.Briggs, National Herbarium of N.S.W.*

## KNOW THE HERBARIA

### THE HERBARIA OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY - ALICE SPRINGS (NT)

Following the granting of self-government to the Northern Territory on 1 July 1978, the Herbaria of the Northern Territory are now located within the Scientific Services Branch of the Division of Primary Industry (equivalent to a State Dept. of Agriculture) of the Department of Industrial Development, which is also responsible for Fisheries, Tourism and Trade Development. It should be noted that the Herbaria are not constituted as such, but are part of a Botany Section within the Scientific Services Branch, though for all intents and purposes they are one and the same. Other sections within the S.S. Branch are Chemistry, Entomology and Plant Pathology. All four sections are represented in Darwin, but only Botany and Chemistry in Alice Springs, and it is the Botany section which handles many horticultural and pest enquiries. If you have found yourself floundering through that bureaucratic maze, just remember that we've been through four Departmental name changes (and corresponding letterheads) in as many years.

This article only outlines the Alice Springs Herbarium (NT). Darwin (DNA) will be described later.

Back in the earlier days of development, botanical endeavour in the Northern Territory was undertaken by visiting or invited botanists from interstate, such as C.A.Gardner and C.T.White. It was not until 1954 that a Botany Section and Herbarium was set up in Alice Springs under the charge of George Chippendale (now with CSIRO Forest Research in Canberra). With only one technician, Des Nelson, George had botanical responsibility for the whole of the Northern Territory and collected extensively throughout the Territory until he left in 1966. Both Tony Nicholls and John Maconochie arrived in 1967, though Tony left in 1969 to pursue further studies. The collection remained in Alice Springs until 1968 when it was relocated at the multi-disciplinary laboratories of the Arid Zone Research Institute (some 10km south of Alice Springs). Peter Latz joined the Botany Section in 1970 and Clyde Dunlop later the same year, Clyde left in 1972 to become botanist-in-charge at Darwin. In 1974 Tom Henshall and Andrew Mitchell joined the staff. John Maconochie held the ABL0 position from August 1976 to August 1977.

As Alice Springs is a fairly small centre (with a population of just under 15000), the Herbarium's responsibilities tend to cover a fairly wide field. Normal activities such as identification, curation, taxonomic research, vegetation and ecological surveys make up most of the Herbarium's responsibilities, but staff also provide botanical services to the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, CSIRO and other Northern Territory Government Departments. In addition, advice is given on horticultural problems, weeds, poisonous plants and insects.

The present collection, of some 58,000 sheets, is stored in herbarium boxes in a compactus system, arranged alphabetically. Major collections are: George Chippendale, Des Nelson, Bob Winkworth, Ray Perry, Mike Lazarides and Peter Latz. It is the only arid zone repository in Australia.

Computerization of herbarium labels is well advanced, using an online IBM facility at Darwin. This will make botanical data from our Plant Resource Centre readily available to outside users. A computer print-out checklist for the Northern Territory is already available; This is held at Darwin and also on a Nova 3 mini computer at Alice Springs.

The Herbarium publishes the Northern Territory Botanic Bulletin at irregular intervals, and staff contribute to scientific journals as well as preparing extension material for use within the Northern Territory.

There are two botanists and one technician at Darwin, with the following staff located at Alice Springs:

Chief Botanist	-J.R.Maconochie - Cyadaceae, Leguminosae, Plant Autecology
Botanist II	-P.K.Latz - Cyperaceae, Gramineae, Ethno- Botany, Fire Ecology
Botanist I	-A.S.Mitchell - Malvaceae, Weeds, Poisonous Plants
Technical Officer I	-T.S.Henshall - Ferns, Chenopodiaceae, Aquatics
Technical Assistant II	-Miss L.I.Ulyatt
Technical Assistant I	-Mrs D.V.McKey

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHAPTER NEWS

### BRISBANE CHAPTER

On the 31st October 1978, Dr R.W.Rogers from the University of Queensland spoke on 'Lichen Collections and Curation'. Dr Rogers has recently returned from visiting herbaria in Europe and England. Dr Rogers was able to locate many Australian types in British Museum, however, it is now evident that many of the types remain in neglected collections within Australia. Dr Rogers stressed that these collections should remain undisturbed until a qualified lichenologist is able to determine which are types. This talk aroused a great deal of interest because of the different techniques used for collection, mounting and identification of lichens compared with other land flora.

*Laurie Jessup and Cheryl Scarlett - Committee.*



# MOSSES AND LIVERWORTS

A FIVE-DAY BRYOPHYTE IDENTIFICATION COURSE

21-25 MAY 1979

## DESCRIPTION:

The course will include several local field trips, followed by laboratory sessions on keying out both mosses and liverworts. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own specimens.

If requested, lectures will be given on bryophyte morphology, taxonomy, photography, ecology, individual taxonomic groups etc. (see overleaf).

## PARTICIPANTS:

The course will be directed particularly towards those amateur naturalists, lecturing staff and students who already have some knowledge of and interest in bryophytes, but have had difficulties in identification. Those with no previous knowledge will be welcome if space permits but the total will have to be restricted to 20 participants.

VENUE: MONASH UNIVERSITY (details will be sent to participants)

FEE: Reduced fee for registration and prepayment  
on or before May 1 \$50.00  
Standard fee for registration after May 1 \$55.00

**NOTE: FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE LUNCHES AND ACCOMMODATION WHICH MUST BE BOOKED SEPARATELY**

## FURTHER INFORMATION:

### ABOUT REGISTRATION:

The Centre for Continuing Education  
Monash University . . . . Clayton . . . . 3168  
Tel: 541 0811, ext. 3718 or 541 3718 after hrs.

### ABOUT THE COURSE:

Dr. G.A.M. Scott, Course Director  
Department of Botany, Monash University  
Tel: 541 0811, ext. 3811

## ACCOMMODATION:

Single-person accommodation is usually available on campus at the Halls of Residence or the Extension centre. (See overleaf)

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REGISTRATION FORM: 'MOSSES AND LIVERWORTS' - 21-25 MAY 1979

SEE OVERLEAF

NAME: . . . . .  
(TITLE) (FIRST NAME) (SURNAME)

ADDRESS: . . . . .  
(for mail) . . . . . Postcode . . . . . Telephone . . . . .

ORGANISATION: . . . . .

STATUS: . . . . .  
(lecturer, student, naturalist etc.)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50.00 Reduced Fee . . . . . \$55.00 Standard Fee . . . . .

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO MONASH UNIVERSITY AND MAIL WITH THE TEAR-OFF FORM  
TO 'REGISTRATIONS', CCE, MONASH UNIVERSITY, CLAYTON, VIC. 3168. (Code:3.124.266.160)

COURSE CONTENT

*I would like the following subjects to be covered in the program for the course:*  
(please tick)

BRYOPHYTE MORPHOLOGY

TAXONOMY

PHOTOGRAPHY

INDIVIDUAL TAXONOMIC GROUPS

ECOLOGY

OTHER: . . . . .  
(Please  
comment) . . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .

*I have/have not had previous experience of identifying bryophytes.*  
ACCOMMODATION: I do/do not require details of accommodation on campus.

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