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CSIRO HERBARIUM AUSTRALIENSE  
P.O. BOX 1600  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601





AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 8

July 1976

A.S.B.S. Council

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

This publication, the official newsletter of the Society, is produced three times each year and deadlines for copy are 20th February, 20th June and 20th October. The editor is pleased to receive any articles, preferably typed and in duplicate, or newsworthy items from any source for incorporation with acknowledgement, in the newsletter.

*Please note: Next deadline is 20th October 1976.  
Members who have not sent the questionnaire  
on research projects to Trevor Whiffin are  
reminded to do so by the end of July.*

Editor: Mr. Rod Henderson  
Queensland Herbarium  
Meiers Road, Indooroopilly  
Queensland 4068.

Affiliated Society: Papua New Guinea Botanical Society

PRELIMINARY SEM STUDIES ON SPORES OF THE MOSS  
*MACROMITRIUM*

In bryophyte spores, particularly those of mosses, size has been the main criterion of taxonomic importance although presence or absence of papillae (i.e. smooth or papillose spores) from light microscope studies have been of some use. Only within the last 2-3 years has the possible value of surface structure of spores using scanning electron microscope been realised. In difficult genera such as *Macromitrium* with over 500 species and so few morphological characters to use, any additional information might prove valuable. Studies on the genus *Eucalypta* by Vitt and Hamilton (1974) have shown that variation between species is sufficient to distinguish them as separate and Syed (1973) also found that differences between groups within a genus based on other morphological characters were supported by S.E.M. studies of spore surface structure. Sorsa and Koponen (1973), however, found that they were unable to distinguish spores of the Mniaceae using this technique.

In these preliminary studies of *Macromitrium* 54 separate collections from 18 of the 32 different species from N.S.W. were examined. These included gatherings from 6 different localities of *M. wattsi*, 7 of *M. eucalyptorium* and 5 of *M. daemellii* to check on infraspecific variation. The results indicate that variation within a species is less than that between species but it is not clear yet whether surface structure of spores alone would be sufficient to identify a species or whether it will support subdivisions within the genus based on other criteria.

Extra features of taxonomic value which have been found for use in study surface structure in *Macromitrium* as revealed by S.E.M. are size, shape and density of papillae; structure of papillae e.g. whether single or branches; height above surface; presence of ridges and or shape of spores; differences between proximal and distal surface structure. One of the major problems has been devising suitable terminology for descriptions.

Helen P. Ramsay  
School of Botany  
University of New South Wales

*Abstract of a paper presented at the joint Society - ANZAAS session of contributed papers held at the 47th ANZAAS Congress, Hobart, Tasmania, May 1976. Reproduced with the author's consent. - Ed.*

REJECTION OF THE NAMES *EUCALYPTUS FIBROSA*  
AND *E.SIDEROPHLOIA*

The following note is presented in the hope of getting some response from members of the Society to a suggested solution of what has become a serious problem. That the problem should have arisen at all is a condemnation of either the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) or of Australian taxonomists who apply the code.

The preamble to the ICBN states in part: "This Code aims at the provision of a stable method of naming taxonomic groups avoiding and rejecting the use of names which may cause error or ambiguity or throw science into confusion".

At present two sets of names are being used for two species of *Eucalyptus* in eastern Australia. For the species usually known in Queensland (e.g. by Blake and Roff 1958, 1972) as *E.siderophloia*, others (e.g. Pryor and Johnson 1971) use the name *E.fibrosa*, while Pryor and Johnson apply the name *E.siderophloia* to what is known as either *E.drepanophylla* (Blake and Roff) or, if one believes the south-eastern Queensland populations to be distinct from the northern ones, *E.decepta*. The different applications of the names are justified by Blake (1958) and Johnson (1962). Blake was at the time of his death still unconvinced by Johnson's arguments (Blake, in litt.) and maintained that *E.fibrosa* should be referred to *E.resinifera*, an opinion that deserves consideration.

No reply has been made to Johnson's arguments, nor is any likely in the next decade. The use of Johnson's names in his and Pryor's *A classification of the Eucalypts*, which has replaced Blakely's *Key to the Eucalypts* as a source book of names of eucalypts, has resulted in their general adoption in botanical works. The general adoption of names, however, does not make them correct. If there is any doubt about this it should be noted that the name *Eucalyptus siderophloia* was generally accepted in the sense of Maiden (1908) until 1962 (Johnson). The question of the application of the names *E.fibrosa* and *E.siderophloia* should be resolved now, so that it is not left to some taxonomist to determine the correct name for the various taxa perhaps fifty years from now.

I shall not discuss the merits of the cases presented by Blake and by Johnson as these are no longer relevant to a solution of the problem. The names *Eucalyptus fibrosa* and *E.siderophloia* have been used in different senses by able

taxonomists with considerable experience in the systematics of *Eucalyptus*. The names have become persistent sources of error and both should be rejected under Article 69 of the ICBN.

The rejection of these names would result in a change of the circumscription of some taxa and a change in rank of one epithet. The names which would then have to be used and their synonyms are:

1. *Eucalyptus decepta* Blakely, *Key to the Eucalypts* 261 (1934).  
*E. siderophloia* auct.; Johnson, *Contrib. NSW Nat. Herb.* 3:117(1962); Pryor and Johnson, *A classification of the Eucalypts* (1971). *Nomen rejeciendum*.
2. *Eucalyptus nubila* Maiden and Blakely in Maiden, *Critical review of the genus Eucalyptus* 8(71):38(1929) ("nubilis").  
*E. siderophloia* auct.; Maiden, *Critical review of the genus Eucalyptus* 1(10):324(1908); Blake, *Proc. R. Soc. Queensl.* 69:87(1958); Blake and Roff, *The Honey Flora of south-eastern Queensland* 53(1958). *Nomen rejeciendum*.  
*E. fibrosa* auct.; Johnson, *Contrib. NSW Nat. Herb.* (1962); Pryor and Johnson, *A classification of the Eucalypts* (1971). *Nomen rejeciendum*.
- 2a. *E. nubila* subsp. *nubila*.  
*E. fibrosa* F. Muell. subsp. *nubila* Johnson, *Contrib. NSW Nat. Herb.* 3:119(1962).
- 2b. *E. nubila* subsp. *rostrata* a new combination which would be required, based on *E. siderophloia* Benth. var. *rostrata* Benth.

The different sets of names used by various authors related to the formulae of Pryor and Johnson are set out in Table 1 below. It should be noted that Blake regarded SUP:E and SUP:I as being conspecific, and SUP:AA and SUP:AB as distinct species.

Table 1

	BRI practice following Blake (1958)	Johnson (1962)	Proposed
SUP:AA	<i>E. siderophloia</i>	<i>E. fibrosa</i> subsp. <i>fibrosa</i>	<i>E. nubila</i> subsp. <i>rostrata</i>
SUP:AB	<i>E. nubila</i>	<i>E. fibrosa</i> subsp. <i>nubila</i>	<i>E. nubila</i> subsp. <i>nubila</i>
SUP:I	<i>E. decepta</i>	<i>E. siderophloia</i>	<i>E. decepta</i>
SUP:E	<i>E. drepanophylla</i>	<i>E. drepanophylla</i>	<i>E. drepanophylla</i>

There seems to be no general agreement as to when Article 69 is to be applied, nor is there any obligation for anyone to follow a writer who declares a name to be a "confused" one. Some would argue that Article 69 is superfluous - the name of a taxon depends on the identity of its type. In view of the disagreement about the identity of SUP:AA however I believe there is adequate reason for the application of Article 69 in this case. In the absence of a body to which one can submit a case for judgement, I have set out my rather pragmatic solution in the hope that readers can put forward their views and any alternative solutions.

**REFERENCES:**

- BLAKE, S.T. (1958). New and critical genera and species of Myrtaceae subfamily Leptospermoideae from Eastern Australia. *Proc. Soc. Queensl.* 69:75-88
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- JOHNSON, L.A.S. (1962). Studies in the taxonomy of *Eucalyptus* *Contrib. NSW Nat. Herb.* 3:103-126.
- PRYOR, L.D. and JOHNSON, L.A.S. (1971). *A classification of the Eucalypts*. Aust. Nat. Univ., Canberra.

L. Pedley,  
Queensland Herbarium,  
Brisbane.

*Mr. Pedley is seeking a concensus of opinion in this matter. Any comments or suggestions would be welcome for a future newsletter. - Ed.*

## KNOW THE HERBARIA

THE NATIONAL HERBARIUM OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

BARBARA G. BRIGGS

This Herbarium is perhaps best summed up as being overcrowded and inadequately housed but active in research.

The National Herbarium of NSW and the Royal Botanic Gardens jointly form a Division of the NSW Department of Agriculture. The earliest Government Botanists in Sydney sent most of their collections abroad or to Melbourne, so the effective foundation of the Herbarium may be taken as 1896 when J.H. Maiden was appointed. The collection now numbers about 800,000 specimens, of which about 60% are Australian flowering plants. There are major collections of Bryophytes, Algae and Lichens from early this century but little Bryophyte or Lichen collecting is currently being done. All fungal material was sent a few years ago to the Biological and Chemical Research Institute, Rydalmere, another branch of the NSW Department of Agriculture, where there is active work on fungal taxonomy.

The non-Australian collections are largely kept separately from the Australian material (except for grasses and pteridophytes, where these are integrated) but are regarded as an important section of the Herbarium and are maintained by the exchange of duplicates. Shortage of space has limited the carpological material and other "non-standard" collections, and the spirit collection, although actively growing, is still small. The NSW flora is, of course, better represented than is that of other areas, but there are substantial collections from many other parts of Australia and it is hoped to continue to maintain and build up such wide representation.

Important early collections are fewer than in Melbourne but there are significant holdings of material from the following: Algae: Playfair, Lucas; Bryophytes: Watts, Whitelegge, Brothaus; Pteridophytes: Watts, Copland King (New Guinea). Various groups: Banks and Solander, Brown, Cunningham (some duplicates from BM of the preceding four collectors); Archer, R.C. Gunn, Milligan (Tas); Hannaford (Vic); W.V. Fitzgerald (WA); Leichhardt (NSW & Q); Maiden, Blakely, Bauerlen, Boorman, F.A. Rodway (mostly NSW); Sinclair (NA); Schlechter (NG and other Pacific); Elmer, Merrill, Copeland and Edano (Philippines).

In general, botanists each deal with enquiry work and curation of a group of plant families, on some which research is also

carried out. The enquiry work of the Herbarium includes about 12,000 specimens per year, in addition to collections made by staff members.

Major research projects are: (1) Revisionary work on a number of groups, (2) *Flora of New South Wales*, which provides semi-monographic treatments and is issued one family (or part of a large family) at a time, (3) a census of NSW plants (including synonyms in recent use and recording distributions according to 13 major regions of the State), (4) a vegetation survey of the State. This list includes several projects limited by State boundaries but botanists extend their studies further afield in revisionary work when it is scientifically efficient to do so.

In addition, a variety of other approaches are maintained: (1) anatomical and ultrastructural work associated with the biochemical differences between  $C_3$  and  $C_4$  photosynthetic pathways is used to study the higher-level classification of Chenopodiaceae and allied families as well as Poaceae and Cyperaceae, (2) bio-systematic work on pollinating biology of Rutaceae, (3) some karyological work, (4) recently started palynological work. Emphasis is given to increasing understanding of evolutionary trends and relationships at the generic or higher levels, as well as to revisionary work.

The vegetation survey team of two ecologists is currently working on the north-west corner of the State, the Sydney-Wollongong district and Lord Howe Island.

The Herbarium building dates from 1899 except for a small section which is even older. Early pictures showed spacious rooms with well separated banks of relatively low shelving. Since that time more and more shelving has been added and the whole building is now most seriously overcrowded both for specimen storage and for working space. It is unfortunate that present financial conditions have once again delayed our hopes of having a new building constructed to remedy the situation. The move of clerical and horticultural staff to a nearby building a few years ago freed some space for Herbarium expansion and early in 1975 a two-storey residence in the Gardens Nursery was made available temporarily for Herbarium use, providing additional storage and working space.

The Herbarium collections remain unmounted but the shortage of assistant staff and of space for the work prevents us undertaking the enormous task of mounting at present. Until recently, the Herbarium was extremely short of assistants and even now they are still too few to undertake all higher priority work. As placing specimens in folders is faster than mounting, unincorporated material is kept to a fairly low level except in some sections of the non-Australian Herbarium where incorporation is delayed by shortage of space and difficulties of access.

Current studies involve Acacia, Arecaceae (*Livistona*), Asteraceae (*Ixiolaena*, *Leptorhynchus*, and related genera, *Craspedia*, *Helichrysum*), Casuarinaceae, Celastraceae (for NSW Flora) Cyperaceae, *Eucalyptus*, *Grevillea*, *Juncus*, *Leucopogon*, Onagraceae, Papilionaceae (particularly *Crotalaria*), *Plantago*, Poaceae, Polygalaceae, Pteridophytes (particularly *Lindsaea*, *Cheilanthes*, *Marsilea*), Rutaceae (particularly *Zieria*), *Tetratheca* and the higher level classification and evolution of Myrtaceae and Proteaceae.

The Library includes about 12,500 volumes and depends heavily on exchange of our own Journals for many of its current periodical accessions.

Publications include *Telopea*, of which the first issue has recently been published and the *Flora of New South Wales*. *Telopea* is intended to replace the less neatly titled *Contributions from the New South Wales National Herbarium*, but one further part of the *Contributions* is yet to be issued to complete Volume 6 of that series.

Director, National Herbarium and Royal Botanic Gardens: Dr. L.A.S. Johnson

Deputy Chief Botanist: Dr. B.G. Briggs.

Botanists: Dr. M.D. Tindale (Senior Research Scientist), Mr. D.J. McGillivray, Dr. J.M. Powell, Dr. S.W.L. Jacobs, Mr. A.N. Rodd (Horticultural Botanist), Mr. J.A. Armstrong, Mr. N.S. Lander, Mrs. K.L. Wilson.

Plant Ecologists: Mr. J. Pickard, Mr. D.H. Benson.

Botanists, Part-time: Mrs. A.T. Lee, Mrs. J. Thompson.

Honorary Algologist: Mrs. V. Jones.

Honorary Research Fellow: Dr. J.W. Vickery.

Botanical Collector: Mr. R.G. Coveny.

Botanical Assistant (Gardens duties): Mr. P. Hind.

Herbarium Assistants: Mrs. J. Seur, Miss A. Williams, Miss R. Barry, Miss C. Payne, Miss N. MacIntyre.

Ecological Assistants: Mrs. H. Bryant, Mr. P.H. Lindsay.

Librarian: Miss F. Sanders.

Library Assistant: Miss Y. Fugler.

Attendant: Mr. L. Snook.

Temporary positions (A.B.R.S. funding):

Mrs. K. Davies (Botanist), Miss S. van Sturmer and Miss J. McGrath (Technical Officers), Miss M. Taylor and Miss J. Story (Herbarium Assistants).

Clerical staff is shared with the Royal Botanic Gardens.

NOTES FROM THE SOCIETY'S THIRD GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE BOTANY DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, HOBART.

TUESDAY 11 MAY 1976

Present: 35 members.

President's Report

The period since the last General Meeting has again been one of consolidation, with the Council taking action on a number of matters which have been requested of it by previous General Meetings.

As before, the newsletter is the main point of contact for the majority of members. The newsletter has continued to appear three times a year, and has been most successful under the editorship of Rod Henderson. Production of the newsletter has been streamlined, so that most of the mechanical production is now undertaken by Science House Pty. Ltd. in Sydney, and this has considerably speeded up the appearance of the newsletter.

To help Council with its duties, a number of Committees have been set up. Those currently formed or about to be formed are: Committee on Taxonomic Publications, Programme Committee, Newsletter Committee, and a committee to compile the Index of Research. More will be said about these under the appropriate agenda items.

Following a Business Meeting of Section 12 at the last ANZAAS Congress, a suggestion for the re-constitution of the Systematic Botany Committee of ANZAAS was accepted by ANZAAS Council. This reconstituted ANZAAS Systematic Botany Committee appears, to me, to be functioning well, and with the President of the Society as an ex-officio member of the Committee, liaison between the two is now satisfactory.

The Society has maintained and extended contacts with the ABRS Interim Council; more will be said on this later.

As at the Canberra Congress, the Society has organised a series of meetings for the present Congress. In addition to the General Meeting and Presidential Address, these consist of two half-day sessions held jointly with Section 12 of ANZAAS. These involve a Symposium on Plant Biogeography, and a session of Contributed Papers. I feel that the Society's programmes have proved of interest and that similar programmes would be organised for future meetings. In the meantime, suggestions as to improvements could well be directed to Council.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Lazarides presented the following financial statement, pointing out that it had not yet been audited:

*RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE  
PERIOD 31.12.74 to 31.12.75*

RECEIPTS	\$	EXPENDITURE	\$
Bank Balance (31.12.74)	667.92	Auditor's Fee (for 1974)	10.00
Subscriptions	590.32	Chapter Stationery (for 1974)	5.26
Donation	7.00	Newsletter Printing	150.00
Bank Interest	21.91	Newsletter Typing	24.20
		Newsletter Postage	46.09
		Addressographs	29.00
		Receipt Book	62¢
		Bank Balance (31.12.75)	1,021.98
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,287.15</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,287.15</b>

He then presented the following membership table:

	ACT	NSW	NT	Q	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	OVERSEAS*	TOTALS
Aug. 1973										113
Dec. 1974										211
May 1976	44	42	5	28	33	7	26	43	20	248
(*Overseas: U.K. 1, Africa 1, N.Z. 5, U.S.A. 8, PNG 4, Netherlands 1)										
LOSS:	(resignations, departed overseas, deceased) up to May 1976:									12

<i>UNFINANCIAL STATUS</i>										
ACT	8 (2)	NSW	9 (4)	NT	2 (2)	Q	5 (2)	SA	4 (0)	
TAS	1 (0)	VIC	4 (3)	WA	15 (9)	OVERSEAS	15 (7)			
<b>TOTAL:</b>	63 unfinancial for 1976 (including 29 unfinancial for more than one year).									

*Unfinancial members please note that membership automatically ceases when a person is two years in arrears. Please notify the Secretary promptly if you leave the Society - BA*

### Newsletter Editor's Report

Four issues of the ~~ASBS Newsletter~~ have appeared since the last General Meeting of the Society. This brings the total to seven to date. Each of these four has appeared relatively soon after each deadline, due chiefly to the handing over of production to Science House Pty. Ltd. in Sydney.

At present, I collect, collate and edit contributions and send a typed rough draft to the Secretary in Sydney for final typing, checking, duplication and mailing by Science House Pty. Ltd.

I wish to thank Karen Wilson for her part in the smooth and rapid handling of copy during newsletter productions. The staff of Science House Pty. Ltd. also deserve thanks for their part in production of what I hope is a highly acceptable, well-presented publication the Society can feel proud of.

Here, I must thank all members who have submitted contributions for the newsletter. These, in almost all instances, have been received without the editor's prompting - which not only makes my job easier but also makes for an informative and highly readable document.

Other behind-the-scenes helpers I'd like to thank are the typists in Brisbane who have made my hand-written jottings more readable for preparation of the final draft.

For the benefit of readers and contributors, I'll outline briefly my methods of dealing with articles. Any item received for the newsletter is dated on receipt and filed accordingly. No acknowledgement is usually sent. Whether the item appears either in full or in an abbreviated form or even at all in the issue after it was received depends on the total quantity of copy received, its length and its relevance in time; date of receipt is of next consideration. It has been my guiding principle that the size of the newsletter should, for postage purposes, be limited to about 15 or exceptionally to 20 pages. A wide range of types of items has been accepted to give the newsletter wide reader appeal.

The last two issues have had a new cover incorporating the logo of the Society. This logo was decided on late last year following a decision of the Council Meeting in Canberra last May. I personally like the appearance of the new covers though I've not heard of any membership reaction to it yet.

As a result of returns from *Australia Post*, next printing of the covers will have a return address either printed on them or rubber-stamped on them.

Finally, if anyone has any comments about the newsletter I would be only too pleased to hear from you. After all, how good it is, is largely dependent on you. Keep the contributions rolling in.

The President announced that Council had decided to form a Newsletter Committee consisting of the Editor plus a member in Sydney who could liaise with Science House.

#### Taxonomic Publications Committee

Dr. Eichler proposed that the report of this Committee (chaired by Mr. P.G. Wilson) submitted to the Council for consideration, be published as a supplement to the newsletter. A much more detailed booklet on the same topic is to be published by the Board of Standards of the Australian Journals of Science. The Society's report will be general in context, to allow for freedom and variety of presentation. There are no discrepancies between the two reports.

The President mentioned the background to the report which had been requested at the Society's first General Meeting. Dr. Eichler had been on the Committee for each report and had provided liaison between them. Council proposed to distribute the report to members and request comments. Suggestions which led to no discrepancy between the two reports could then be incorporated into the Society's report for publication.

Dr. Eichler reported that in future the *Australian Journal of Botany* would not accept papers longer than 40 printed pages, or, if they did so, such papers would be printed in parts. The aim is to provide a wide interest in each number of the Journal. Longer papers could be submitted to the new journal from the Herbarium Australiense, to be called *Brunonia*.

Mr. Henderson stated that a deadline should be set for receipt of comments on the taxonomic publications report.

Index of Current Taxonomic Research on the Australian Flora

The President explained that a request for the preparation of this index had come from the Society's Inaugural Meeting. The Society had proceeded with the preparation, but in the meantime a similar list had been published by the Heads of Herbaria. Council had decided to discuss with the Heads of Herbaria the possibility of combining their respective data and producing a single, more comprehensive index, which the Society could undertake to revise regularly. It should embrace all current research on the Australian flora including lower groups.

Dr. Eichler asked whether overseas projects should all be included. Dr. Whiffin replied that these would be included only if the individual workers consented. Requests for data could be made through *Taxon* and through several major herbaria.

Incoming Council

The President announced the results of the election (see page 1).

Approximately 20% of the votes were informal, chiefly due to the lack of the member's name on the outer envelope.

Closing Remarks

The President thanked Council members for their co-operation during his three years as President. He also thanked the Botany Department, University of Tasmania, and the Section 12 Committee for their assistance in organising the joint ANZAAS sessions.

Dr. Eichler moved a vote of thanks to the President and to the Council for their service to the Society. This was carried with acclamation.

NOTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN HOBART, 13 MAY 1976

Present: Whiffin, Armstrong, George, Lazarides.  
Apologies: Carolin, Wilson.  
Observer: Henderson.

### Review of Committees

Newsletter Committee - Mr. Rod Henderson and Mrs. Karen Wilson were appointed to this newly established committee.

Programme Committee - Council requested the President to appoint two committee members as soon as possible, as ANZAAS propose to issue a preliminary programme for the 1977 Melbourne Congress in August 1976.

Index of Research - Council requested the President to appoint a committee to handle production of this index in conjunction with the Heads of Herbaria.

Taxonomic Publication - Present members of this committee should continue.

### Publication of Guide to Preparation of Botanical Taxonomic Papers

Council requested the President and Secretary to contact Science House to supervise publication of this guide.

### International Botanical Congress

Council requested the President to make approaches concerning involvement of the Society in the Taxonomy Section of the next International Botanical Congress currently expected to be held in Australia.

#### NEWS ITEMS

Congratulations to Dr. Nancy Burbidge, Canberra, on receiving an AM (Australia Member) award in the recently announced Queen's Birthday honours list which recognised worthy Australians in a wide range of public and professional fields. Dr. Burbidge has contributed substantially to the advancement of botany in Australia over several years.

Mr. Ken Airy Shaw of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, England, hopes to visit Australia again for a time about September this year. Sydney, Brisbane and Atherton are amongst centres he proposes to visit in connection with his studies on members of the Euphorbiaceae.

On 2 July, Mr. Selwyn Everist retired from his position as Director, Queensland Herbarium, Brisbane, and from the public service. He has held the position of Director since 1964. The Society wishes Selwyn a long and happy retirement.

Dr. Bill Barker, formerly of the Papua New Guinea National Herbarium, Lae, has returned to Australia following expiration of his contract, to take up a position as Botanist at the State Herbarium of South Australia under Dr. John Jessop.

Mr. John Maconochie is due to leave Sydney on 3 August to take up the position of Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew, England, for 1976/77. John is taking over from Andrew Kanis.

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

*Nuytsia: Bulletin of the Western Australian Herbarium.* Vol. 2, No. 2, 1976 (38pp.). Contains five papers related to the flora of Western Australia. New species are described in *Acacia* (Leguminosae) (6), *Chamaexeros* (Xanthorrhoeaceae) (1), *Eucalyptus* (Myrtaceae) (6) and *Ptilotus* (Amaranthaceae) (1). Publication date of Volume 2 Number 1 was 27 June 1975.

STEARNS, William T.: *The Australian flower paintings of Ferdinand Bauer*. London, Basilisk Press, 1976. Introduction by Wilfrid Blunt. This limited edition (individually numbered copies) volume contains thirty pages of introductory text, a map of the route of HMS *Investigator* in 1801-03, on which Bauer travelled, and twenty-five 36x52 cm coloured plates with associated text. Price approx. A\$580.

#### CHAPTER NEWS

##### BRISBANE

On 22nd June, Mr. David Drake of the Botany Department, University of Queensland, spoke on "Sterility and seed production in interspecific Eucalypt hybrids".

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 5 August. Dr. Bill Lavarack will speak on "Some observations on the vegetation of Cape York". This meeting of the Brisbane group will elect a convening committee for the next year's programme.

The last meeting for the year is on 5 October. Professor Specht of the Botany Department, University of Queensland, is to speak on a subject to be decided.

Trevor Stanley and Yvonne Brouwer  
Convening Committee

CANBERRA

*New Office-bearers (as from June 1976)*

Chairman: Mr. George Chippendale, Division of Forest Research, CSIRO.

Secretary: Miss Estelle Canning, Herbarium, Canberra Botanic Gardens.

Committee: Dr. Michael Crisp, Herbarium, Canberra Botanic Gardens.

*Programme for the remainder of 1975:*

16 September Mr. Max Gray, Herbarium Australiense, "A proposed ordinance for the protection of plant species in the ACT". Discussion centred around a list of species suggested for special consideration by Max and Frank Ingwersen (ecologist of the Environment and Conservation Section of the Department of the Capital Territory). The finalised list was then submitted to the Environmental Secretary of the Department of the Capital Territory. It was further recommended that any list of protected plants should consist of scientific names together with author citations, and that common names, where available, should be used (only) for communication purposes.

28 October Dr. W.D.L. Ride, Scientific Director of the Australian Biological Resources Study Interim Council, "Aspects of the Australian botanical scene: Problems as seen by the Director of ABRASIC".

9 December Discussion of methods used to illustrate taxonomic talks.

*Programme for 1976*

24 February Mr. Jan Brookes, Division of Forest Research, CSIRO, "Some aspects of classification in Eucalypts".

- 27 April Mr. A. Gillison, Woodland Ecology Unit, Division of Land Use Research, CSIRO, "The flora and vegetation of Christmas Island".
- 1 June Dr. J. Carnahan, Botany School, Australian National University, "A new map of Australian vegetation".
- 29 June Mr. J. Maeonochie, Arid Zone Research Institute, A-Springs, spoke about his work on the genus *Cycas*.
- 20 July Ms. C. Garry, Basilisk Press, England, will speak about the publication of Bauer's paintings and about other unpublished early Australian natural history paintings now owned by the British Museum (Natural History).
- 17 August Dr. G. Lance, Chief, Division of Computer Research, CSIRO, "Application of computer techniques in Taxonomy".

Estelle M. Canning  
Secretary

SYDNEY

Meetings and seminars for the next few months are as follows:

- 29 June Mr. Dave Hassall, "Numerical and cytotaxonomic evidence for generic delimitation in Australian Euphorbiaeae".
- 13 July Dr. Peter Michael, "Closely related distribution puzzles".
- 10 August Dr. Helen Ramsay, "Use of the SEM in the taxonomy of bryophytes".
- 14 September Prof. Roger Carolin, "*Brunonia* and its relatives: an excursion into sympetalous roots".

Karen Wilson and John Waterhouse  
Convenors

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA BOTANICAL SOCIETY

The second and third meetings of the Botanical Society were held on weekends in March in Port Moresby, and in May in Lae, respectively. The healthy attendance of last year's first meeting was maintained, with about 35 and 45.

The the Port Moresby meeting, convened by Camilla Huxley and Abraham Kembi, papers presented were:

"Sea grasses of Papua New Guinea: Productivity and Pollution", Dr. I.M. Johnstone, Biology Department, UPNG.

"Insects attacking bracken fern in PNG" Mr. A.A. Kirk, Biology Department, UPNG.

"Generic relationships in Malesian Ericaceae", Dr. P.F. Stevens, Arnold Arboretum, Mass., U.S.A.

"Floral biology of *Rhododendron* in PNG" Mr. P. Kores, Wau Ecology Institute, PNG.

"Biosystematic studies in *Rhizophora*", Dr. P.B. Tomlinson, Harvard Forest, Mass., U.S.A.

A field trip to the Varixata National Park and a tour of the University orchid garden rounded off a stimulating weekend.

At the third meeting, convened by Dr. Julian Evans, the following papers were delivered:

"Three dimensional forestry in PNG", Prof. J. Davidson, Department Forestry, PNGU Technology, Lae.

"Orchids of the Central District", Mr. J. Dodd, Biology Department, UPNG.

"Ecological studies of natural regeneration following chipwood logging in the Gogol Valley", Mr. R.J. Johns, Forestry College, Bulolo.

"Lowland grasslands under grazing", Mr. E.E. Henty, PNG National Herbarium, Lae.

"Give them a peanut! Peanuts as a valuable protein source", Mrs. A. Hepworth, Chemical Technology Department, PNGU Technology, Lae.

On Sunday morning Bob Johns conducted a visit to lowland rainforest near Lae.

The University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby is to publish a number of these papers in their journal *Science in New Guinea*. The next issue of the journal will include several papers from the first meeting in October last year (see last year's final issue of ASBS Newsletter).

Subscription enquiries (about \$5 p.a.) for *Science in New Guinea* to the editor, Dr. P.G. Hodgson, Chemistry Department, Box 4820, University Post Office, *University*, Central Province, PNG.

*Next meeting:* Bulolo, in September, two days mainly in the field looking at ecology in montane rainforest types. Convenor Mr. R.J. Johns, Forestry College, P.O. Box 92, Bulolo, PNG.

W.R. Barker

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