

MR. L.G. ADAMS,
HERBARIUM AUSTRALIENSE,
C.S.I.R.O.,
P.O. BOX 1600,
CANBERRA CITY, A.C.T. 2601.

KEEP
AUSTRALIA
BEAUTIFUL

BRISBANE
P 2
A 15/14



asbs
newsletter



So the systematic botanists of Australia have another Newsletter! Once again we have a medium for the exchange of ideas and for comment on what is going on in the field of systematic botany in Australia.

The establishment of an Australian Systematic Botany Society and the publication of a Newsletter are an indication that our Cinderella science has arrived at the ball and is dancing with the Prince. Let us hope that midnight does not strike too soon!

To the botanists of the older generation it is particularly heartening that the younger taxonomists are sufficiently aware of their importance and scientific standing to speak out. For many years we have been taken for granted by those in other disciplines who always beat a path to our doors when they want a plant identified but have been either apathetic or condescending when it comes to recognition of systematic botanists as scientists. The younger generation has taken the initiative in forming the ASBS and in producing this Newsletter and I wish them well.

We should, however, learn from previous experience. For many years we had the Australian Herbarium News produced under the auspices of the Systematic Botany Committee of A.N.Z.A.A.S. It flourished for a time then perished in the desert sands of apathy.

Whether or not this Newsletter meets the same melancholy fate is up to each of us. Unlike fairy godmothers, editors are unable to conjure up articles out of thin air, although sometimes they are forced to try. The value of this Newsletter will depend on whether those who have something to say (and most of us have) will take the trouble to put their thoughts on paper and send them to the Society or the Editor.

Right now, I would like to see a spate of letters, setting out the ideas of individuals or groups of individuals on what should and what should not be included in the Newsletter.

How's this for openers!

Basically, I believe the Newsletter should be for communication and comment by individuals, not by herbaria as such. It should be a medium for expressing ideas and opinions on such matters as

disciplines involved in making taxonomic judgements and for notification of and comments on published work.

I should also like to see ideas on the training of botanists, bearing in mind that the systematic botanist may be functioning in three allied but different fields

- (a) identification of plant specimens
- (b) writing of floras
- (c) research on taxonomic problems

Anecdotes and personal notes have a place so that botanists can get to know each other as people.

Comments and suggestions about needs for and methods of preparing Floras would be welcome, even if they are at variance with existing practices or official policies. In this respect, the Newsletter can serve as a useful medium whereby the Flora of Australia Committee of the Australian Academy of Science, the Systematic Botany Committee of A.N.Z.A.A.S. and directors of individual herbaria can let all systematic botanists know directly what they are doing, or propose to do, rather than let this information filter down through other channels.

There are a few things that seem to me should be excluded. Botanical papers, for example, should be published elsewhere and the ASBS Newsletter used for notification, comment or criticism on these papers. Individuals should not commit their employing institutions to any particular policy or course of action, although they should feel free to comment on and, if necessary, criticize institutional policies or projects.

I wish the venture well. In the long term, its success or failure is entirely in your hands.

Selwyn L. Everist
Director,
Queensland Herbarium.

At last, the newsletter. I wish to thank all people concerned with the launching of this publication especially those who supplied copy.

Three newsletters a year will be published as outlined below

March closing date for copy 20th January
July closing date for copy 20th May
November closing date for copy 20th September

To refresh your memories the council for the present term comprises:

President: Dr. Trevor Whiffin, Department of Botany,
La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria. 3083
Vice President: Prof. Dennis Carr, Research School of
Biological Sciences, Australian National
University, Canberra.
Secretary: Mr. Don McGillivray, National Herbarium,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. 2000.
Treasurer: Dr. Andrew Kanis, Herbarium Australiense,
Canberra.
Councillors: Mr. Des Boyland, Queensland Herbarium,
Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Qld. 4068.
Mr. Alex George, Western Australian
Herbarium, Department of Agriculture,
Jarrah Road, South Perth. W.A. 6151.

Information concerning the society may be obtained from any of the above committee members.

Any one wishing to join the society may do so by forwarding \$3.00 together with your name and address to

Dr. A. Kanis (Treasurer, ASBS),
Herbarium Australiense,
C.S.I.R.O.,
P.O. Box 1600,
CANBERRA CITY. A.C.T. 2601.

Present members don't forget your subs for '74.

Des Boyland
Editor.

P.S. Please complete the questionnaire on page 15.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING, PERTH,
17th AUGUST, 1973.

President's Report:

"The agenda calls for a report from the President. Much of what we have been doing concerns the Constitution and Rules, the Biological Survey of Australia, and the Australian Journal of Botany, I propose to save my remarks on these until we reach these points in the agenda, so that we can discuss each issue in turn.

My report will consist mainly of the efforts of the Council to gain publicity and recognition for the newly-formed Society, since the inaugural meeting. Once we had the Constitution and Rules ready, I had 250 copies printed up, and sent these to contacts within each of the states, for distribution within those states. In addition, I had copies of a short note on the Society prepared, and sent these to the editors of ten national and international journals with the request that they publish this note to bring the Society to the attention of their readers. I have only actually received reply from Stafleu, who said that the note will be published in the next issue of Taxon. However, I see that the note was published in a recent issue of Search, and it will presumably be appearing in some of the other journals shortly. Additionally I sent copies of the Constitution and Rules and of the note to the directors of ten overseas herbaria where there might be taxonomists interested in the Australian flora.

As a professional society within Australia, the Society has applied to ANZAAS for affiliation."

Constitution and Rules:

The President briefly outlined the history of the preparation of the Constitution and Rules.

"The original draft of a constitution was drawn up by Roger Carolin and Don Blaxell. This was discussed by a number of groups of botanists around the country, and their comments sent to Melbourne, where they were incorporated into a composite draft rules, which was available to the inaugural meeting. Also before that meeting, as recorded on the minutes, were further comments from a Canberra meeting, and a draft constitution from Professor Carr.

The inaugural meeting founded the society, and passed to the Council these various documents, with instructions to "draw up the best possible Constitution and supporting Rules". The Council had before it, then, these various documents, and it had also the feeling of that inaugural meeting, some expressed in the form of motions, and others that emerged from a general discussion without being expressed in a formal motion. The Council took all these into account, and produced a Constitution and Rules best following the dictates of the inaugural meeting, while also maintaining consistency and logic. This is the Constitution and Rules that you have before you.

The Constitution and Rules are complete and contain all the necessary elements, including the ways and means of amending them. The inaugural meeting in Melbourne required that the Constitution and Rules be put before this meeting for adoption, and this I now propose to do."

The proposed Constitution and Rules having been previously circulated among members, it was moved by Dr. Brittan, seconded by Dr. Churchill, that these be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The first report by your treasurer is brief and to be regarded as an interim one. An audited report will be presented at the next General Meeting in Canberra.

A total of 113 members had officially registered by August 3rd. An enrolment of at least 150 members would seem a distinct possibility before the next General meeting. The following is a regional break-down of the membership as per August 3rd.:

A.C.T.	27	Qld.	5
W.A.	25	N.T.	3
N.S.W.	23	Tas.	1
Vic.	14	P.N.G.	1
S.A.	13	Overseas	1

Expenses by office bearers other than the treasurer are unknown as so far no claims have been made for reimbursements. It is presumed that such expenses have been minimal as much use was made of official typing, multiplication and mailing facilities, as well as dispatches to groups via regional contact persons. It is anticipated that this policy will be continued.

Balance as per 3.8.'73

Subscriptions	346.69	Stationary	12.74
Bank account	321.69		
Cash	12.26		
Balance	333.95		
	\$12.74		\$12.74

The figures presented will be included in the next treasurer's report and will thus be subjected to the auditor's scrutiny.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Mycology

Mr. John Walker, Biological and Chemical Research Institute, Department of Agriculture, Rydalmere, N.S.W. has prepared a useful guide to mycological collections in Australasia. Entitled "List of some Mycological and Culture Collections in Australasia", it may be obtained gratis from the author. Mr. Walker would be pleased to hear from anyone who can provide additional information about mycological collections in this region.

Dr. L.J. Brass - Archives

The Trustees of the estate of the late Dr. Leonard J. Brass have presented his papers, note books, files and photographs to the Director of the Queensland Herbarium for safe-keeping and so that they may be consulted by interested botanists.

The documents have been placed in a section of the Archives of the Botany Library, Queensland Herbarium, and may be seen with the Director's permission. They are arranged in three sections:

- (1) Field notebooks - in numerical order
- (2) Files and reprints - in alphabetical order (authors)
- (3) Photographs - not sorted.

If you have any specific questions please direct them to the Director, Queensland Herbarium, Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Q. 4068.

STATE CHAPTER NEWS

Western Australia

The Chapter was formed at a meeting held at the Western Australian Herbarium on Friday, 29th June, 1973. By the end of August, W.A. membership of the Society stood at 30.

The Chapter has held two further meetings, and will meet at least six times a year. Meetings will be held when and where appropriate, but will usually be held on the third Monday of the following months: Jan/Feb, April, June, Aug/Sept, Nov.

There are two local office-bearers, a Convenor and a Secretary. Elections will be held at the first local meeting following a General Meeting of the Society. At the first meeting of the Chapter, Mr. Alex George and Mr. Bruce Maslin were elected as Convenor and Secretary respectively. They were re-elected at a meeting held on 3rd September.

At this stage it is not intended to levy a local subscription.

Australian Capital Territory.

The inaugural meeting was held in July, 1973 attended by 24 people from the following institutions: C.S.I.R.O., Plant Industry; C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Research; A.N.U. Research School of Biological Sciences; Canberra Botanic Gardens, Forest Research Institute.

Dr. T.G. Hartley (CANB) was elected president with Miss Canning (CBG) Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. A. Kanis (CANB) the other member of the steering committee.

A series of 3 seminars was organised for 1973.

Current membership for the A.C.T. is 32.

Queensland

A meeting will be called early in 1974 to establish a local chapter.

Membership in Queensland will pick up in 1974.

New South Wales

During 1973 the informal evening seminar series conducted jointly by the staffs of the Botany School, University of Sydney and the National Herbarium of New South Wales were continued. Although these are usually held at the National Herbarium, the seminar given by Prof. van Steenis in October was held in the rooms of the Linnean Society of New South Wales. Topics discussed at these meetings were:

- March 14th - J. Coffey: "Aspects of Chemotaxonomy".
- April 11th - J. Pickard: "... and Angophora begat Acacia, Eucalyptus and Proteaceae..." (Went, F.W. Taxon 20: 197-227, 1971).
- May 9th - P. Wilson: "The Metrosiderinae - An heterogeneous assembly".
- June 13th - C. Quinn: "Chemotaxonomy of Podocarpaceae".
- July 11th - P. Myerscough: "Ecological Classifications".
- Sept. 12th - J. Armstrong: "Pollination, a fundamental process too often overlooked".
- Oct. 2nd - Prof. C.G.G.J. van Steenis: "Range and Dispersal in Plants".
- Oct. 10th - L. Johnson: "The Thoughts of Crowson".
- Nov. 14th - A. Rodd: "Problems in the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants".

These seminars are always well attended with an audience drawn from the universities, the Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, the Australian Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium. A programme for 1974 series will be placed in the next issue of this newsletter.

REQUESTS

Mr. Jim Armstrong, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, requests living material of the family Rutaceae, tribe Boronieae - Cuttings, seeds with voucher specimens. Jim is growing plants of this tribe to assist him in his work on floral morphology and pollination mechanisms in the family.

Mr. Nick Lander, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, would be grateful for pressed specimens of Craspedia, Ixiolaena and Leptorhynchus and specimens and seeds of Helichrysum bracteatum.

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES : STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
AUSTRALIAN FLORA

The Academy, reflecting the collective opinion of Australian botanists, has long seen the preparation of a modern Flora of Australia as essential, not only for the advancement of botany, but as a service to the many who need to identify plants. This project is an integral part of the Biological Survey recommended by the Academy for government support in 1962, in 1969, and again last year.

With the delay in approval and implementation of the proposal for a Biological Survey and following a resolution from ANZAAS urging that work towards a new Flora of Australia be started as soon as possible, the Australian Academy of Science has promoted preliminary work. The ANZAAS resolution, which was promoted by the Systematic Botany Committee of ANZAAS as part of the activities of Section 12 (Botany), informed the Academy that the meeting:

1. was of the opinion that preparation of a taxonomically comprehensive Flora of Australia is essential for the balanced advancement of botany in Australia;
2. considered that preliminary interim treatments include:-
 - a an Index of Australian Plant Names including both vascular and cryptogamic taxa,
 - b a descriptive account of families and genera for the Australian Region,
 - c completion of coverage of this region by semitechnical handbooks;
3. recommended the establishment by the Academy of a Foundation through which the necessary research for and the preparation and publication of a new Flora of Australia and related works could be promoted;
4. recommended that the Academy set up a Committee for this Foundation and suggested appropriate membership. Council of the Academy, having also the supporting papers considered by ANZAAS, established a Standing Committee on the Australian Flora (Present membership - Appendix I.) It favoured preparation of an Index including vascular and cryptogamic taxa. It did not

favour support of the preparation of a familial and generic flora, nor of local handbooks. Nor did it see a need for a Foundation for taxonomic botany if the Academy sponsored the work.

The Academy regarded the work it would sponsor as preliminary to a scheme for an Australian Flora, and it undertook to seek funds to support the work and asked the Standing Committee to prepare a detailed plan and define priorities. The Committee formulated a plan, the first step in which is the preparation of an Index of Australian Plant Names, including the citation of sources. The Council of the Academy approved these proposals and has obtained generous funds from private sources to an extent sufficient to conduct this part of the work for three years. CSIRO has seconded Dr. Nancy T. Burbidge to direct this work and to do whatever other work on the writing of a Flora that can be accommodated. A bibliographer and a typist (part time) have been appointed. The work is being done in the CSIRO Herbarium Australiense which has the facilities, including a major (though not wholly sufficient) library and herbarium. The data are being recorded on cards, facsimiles of which are reproduced as Appendix 2.

At this stage about 15,000 cards have been compiled. Consideration is being given to methods by which the data may be stored for retrieval and how the Index may be published. A set of cards will be provided for the use of one herbarium in each State and Territory. The Academy's Committee is also considering possible formats for treatment of families suitable for a flora. It recognises that there is much exploratory and revisionary work to be done before a 'perfect' flora can be written. Although the major part of the work is centralised in Canberra, co-operation is given through the Committee from all parts of Australia. It is hoped that, as the enterprise progresses, many will participate by contributing to the work of writing parts of the actual Flora. The Committee would welcome any comments or suggestions which members of the Society may wish to offer.

D.G. Catcheside
Chairman

Members please note the invitation from Professor Catcheside for comments and suggestions. The Flora cannot be done effectively without the constructive interest and cooperation of Australian botanists. - Ed.

APPENDIX I - FLORA OF AUSTRALIA STANDING COMMITTEE

Professor D.G. Catcheside (Chairman)
Dr. Nancy Burbidge
Professor R.C. Carolin
Professor T.C. Chambers
Dr. D.M. Churchill
Dr. H.T. Clifford
Dr. Winifred Curtis
Dr. H.J. Eichler
Mr. S.L. Everist
Dr. L.A.S. Johnson
Mr. J.R. Maconochie
Professor L.D. Pryor
Mr. R.D. Royce
Mr. D.E. Symon
Mr. J.H. Willis

APPENDIX II

AUSTRALIAN PLANT NAME INDEX

No. 8220

1. Taxon: Waitzia podolepis (Gaud.) Benth.
2. Author(s): G. Bentham
3. Reference: Flora Australiensis 3(1867)637
4. Base Name: Viraya podolepis Gaud.
5. Type Citation:
6. Lectotype:
7. First Australian Record:
8. Family: Compositae Asteraceae
9. Revision (1935 onwards):
10. Comments: Usually quoted as Lehmann, Plantae Preissianae but combination not correctly made therein
11. Facs. Protolog: Compiler: N.T. Burbidge Date: 20.7.73

1. Taxon: *Goodenia ovata* Smith var. *latifolia* Schlecht.
2. Author(s) : D. Schlechtendal
3. Reference: *Linnaea* 20 (1847) 601
4. Base Name:
5. Type Citation: "Im gebiete des Torrens und Oncaparinga, Nov.,
December." (Behr)
6. Lectotype:
7. First Australian Record:
8. Family: Goodeniaceae
9. Revision (1935 onwards):
10. Comments:
11. Facs.Protolog.: Compiler: N.T.B. Date 31.7.73

REQUESTS

Mr. Don McGillivray, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney would be pleased to identify any collections of *Grevillea* (Proteaceae). Duplicates for retention at the National Herbarium of N.S.W. would be appreciated.

Mr. John Walker, Biological and Chemical Research Institute, Rydalmere, N.S.W. would be pleased to receive collections of rusts occurring on plants of the family Chenopodiaceae.

AUSTRALIAN BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES STUDY
INTERIM COUNCIL

In 1973 the Council was formed by the Australian Government to administer grants in support of the collection and scientific description of Australian animals and plants, relevant ecological studies, and proper maintenance of collections. The amount allocated for the grants is \$750,000 to be distributed during the period to June 1976. In that year the Council will advise the Government on the longer term conduct of taxonomic and associated ecological studies, and on the permanent housing, maintenance and display of national biological collections.

Applications for grants are to close (closed) on 4th March, 1974. Preference is being given to projects where recognisable progress is likely in the shorter rather than the longer term.

Members of the Council are:-

Dr. D.F. Waterhouse (Chairman), Dr. H.G. Cogger,
Dr. L.A.S. Johnson, Dr. K.H.L. Key, Dr. W.D.L. Ride,
Dr. L.J. Webb, and Mr. B.G. Wilson.

Correspondence to the Council should be addressed to The Secretary, Australian Biological Resources Study Interim Council, Department of Science, P.O. Box 449, Woden. A.C.T. 2606.

CURRENT TAXONOMIC RESEARCH
IN AUSTRALIA - A REPORT

At the meeting of Heads of Herbaria (Canberra, September 1973) it was decided to prepare a report on current research projects in taxonomic botany in Australia. Data received from herbaria and universities was collated by the meeting's convenor, Dr. Nancy T. Burbidge and with support from the Heads of Herbaria and from C.S.I.R.O. the report was circulated to herbaria and universities. Many members will have already seen it and benefited from the useful information it contains. Those who have not may be able to borrow it from fellow members or see copies held at herbaria. Copies are available from Dr. Burbidge (Herbarium Australiense, C.S.I.R.O., P.O. Box 1600, Canberra City. A.C.T. 2601) or from the Society's Secretary.

The report lists projects under the following headings:-
General (Floras, Checklists and Floristic Lists, Miscellaneous),
Palaeobotany, Thallophyta, Bryophyta, Pteridophyta and Spermatophyta
(arranged alphabetically by family). Projects are classified as
active (A), dormant (D) and potential (P). Any correspondence about
the contents of the list may be sent to Dr. Burbidge.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Members who have not received copies of the Society's
Constitution and Rules may obtain them from the Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please supply details requested below for inclusion in the Society's newsletter, and return the form to Mr. D. Boyland, Queensland Herbarium, Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Queensland, 4068.

NAME: Dr Mrs Miss Mr

ADDRESS (for ASBS correspondence):

OCCUPATION and INSTITUTION:

CURRENT PROJECTS:

OTHER INTERESTS:

ANY OTHER INFORMATION (including request, e.g. collections of particular groups, seeds, etc.):

