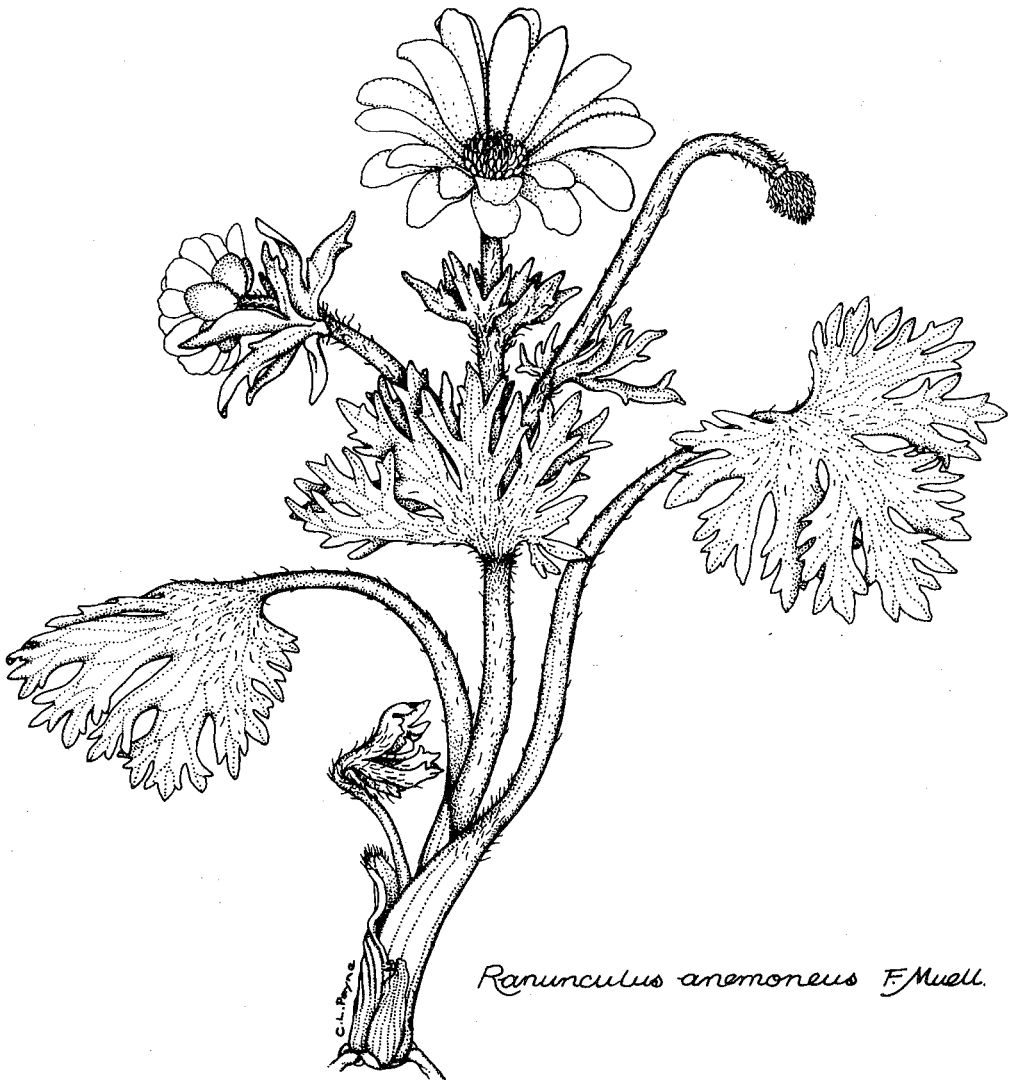




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SMILAX GLYCIPHYLLA

OR a case of

I for Novello, O for the garden wall or Y for biscuit?

K.L. Wilson and L.A.S. Johnson (NSW)

The *'Flora of Australia'* (George 1986) treatment of Smilacaceae gives *Smilax glycopylla* as the correct spelling for the species that was first published by Smith (in White 1790) as *Smilax glyciphylla* and later changed by Bentham (1878) and other authors to *S. glycyphylla*.

Is this change of vowel needed? To assess this, we need to look at classical Greek word-formation, botanical practice and the ICBN.

The epithet is an adjectival compound formed from the Greek adjective γλυκὺς usually transliterated as 'glykys' (fem. 'glykela', neuter 'glyky') meaning sweet and from the Greek noun 'phyllon', a leaf. [Upsilon can also be transliterated as 'u', but 'glukus' is not usual.] Smith based the epithet on the plant's then common name of Sweet Tea Plant, which is not what we call it today, but in 1790 no doubt it was more highly esteemed by the poorly fed colonists. Smith says,

'The leaves have the taste of liquorice root [ie species of the genus *Glycyrrhiza*] accompanied with bitter. They are said to make a kind of tea, not unpleasant to the taste, and good for the scurvy.'

Nicolson and Brooks (1974) give very useful guidelines for determining stems and compounding forms of Greek and Latin nouns and adjectives. Greek nouns and adjectives ending in '-y' and '-ys' (third declension) are considered to have their stem (and compounding or combining form) ending in '-y'. The relevant compounding rule for this case is (Nicolson and Brooks p.170):

'before [a following] vowel preserve -y of stem; before [a following] consonant preserve -y of stem and sometimes add connecting vowel -o.'

That is, nouns and adjectives ending in '-ys' are exceptional in Greek, in that the usual Greek connecting vowel '-o' is generally NOT added in forming compounds.

For example, if we take the noun 'dryos', 'dryos', a tree, the stem is 'dry-' and we can form such names as *Drypetes* or *Dryopteris* (note the added 'o' in the latter). Similarly, the stem of the adjective 'platys' (f. 'plateia', n. 'platy') meaning broad or wide is 'platy-', giving names such as *platyphylla*, *platycarpus* or even *Platypus* (a genus of beetles).

What about 'glykys'? In this case, the stem and therefore the compounding form would be 'glyky-' (Latinised to 'glycy-') according to the rules of Nicolson and Brooks, and as listed by Brown (1956 p. 29). It may be argued that the stem is 'glyk-' (Woods 1966, M. Chambers pers. comm.) but on that interpretation '-y' is then mostly taken as the connecting vowel for compounding purposes (Woods p. xi).

Classical Greek compounds usually had 'glyky-' as the compounding form. For example, analysis of entries in Liddell and Scott (1925-30) shows that the letters 'glyk-' [avoiding the question of whether the stem is 'glyk-' or 'glyky-'] are followed by '-y' [or by '-u' if upsilon is so transliterated] in 52 words, as against only 7 with '-a' as the following vowel, 6 with '-e', 4 with '-i' and 2 with '-o'.

The forms 'glyco-' and 'gluco-' probably sound 'correct' to modern English speakers since they are now more common and hence more familiar than 'glycy-', nearly always in terms recently coined or adopted

in chemistry and medicine (glycogen, glycosuria, glucose, etc.). As Nybakken (1959) says, 'its most common combining form in English words [is] 'glyco-'. English usage, however, is irrelevant to formation of botanical epithets and more particularly in interpreting past formation of epithets.

Botanical compounding practice has varied, as will be seen if one consults indexes such as Rouleau's manuscript index to epithets in '*Index Kewensis*' (copy at Kew) and Willis (1973).

The classical form 'glycy-' has been kept in such names and epithets as *Glycyrrhiza*, *Glycyphylla*, *Astragalus glycyphylla*, and *Chrysophyllum glycyphloeum*.

The second 'y' has sometimes been changed to an 'i', as in Smith's *Smilax glyciphylla*, and in others such as *Echinocereus glycimorphus* and the genus *Glycicarpus*. Logically, if one upsilon is changed to 'i', then the other should probably also be altered, as was done in *Astragalus gliciphillos*. But as noted above there is classical precedent, albeit limited, for changing only the second 'y'.

Sometimes the second 'y' has been elided for assonance, where the following word-element starts with a vowel, as in *Carduus glycacanthus*, *Glycosmis* and *Tetrastigma glycosmoides* (compare the awkwardness of *Primula glycosma*).

Superficially, this could be confused with cases where the 'y' has been elided and the connecting vowel 'o' has been added (presumably, again, with assonance in mind). The neologisms *Glycoxylon* and *Glycoxylum* are the only examples we have found of this usage.

It is unfortunate that Stearn (1973) gives 'glyco-' as the compounding form. His example, *glycosmus*, is composed of two elements: 'glyc-', and '-osmus' from the Greek 'osme', smell or odour, that is, the 'o' is part of the second element, NOT a connecting vowel (with the 'y' of the stem 'glyky-' elided for assonance).

We have found no botanical usage of the form 'glucu-'.

Article 73 of the Berlin ICBN (Greuter *et al.* 1988) deals with orthography of generic names and specific epithets. In this case, Article 73.8 is relevant. This article states that use of a compounding form contrary to Recommendation 73G in an adjectival epithet is treated as an orthographic error to be corrected. This has the paradoxical effect of making Rec. 73G mandatory! Fortunately, Rec. 73G is not too prescriptive and does allow some discretion in formation of compounds ('A compound word ... should be formed, **as far as practicable**, in accordance with classical usage.') Its first subsection (a) gives a summarized prescription for forming compounds according to classical usage, but also contains the caveat 'Exceptions are common and one should review earlier usages of a particular compounding form.'

So, what about our species of *Smilax*?

The use of '-o' is unacceptable here. If one were coining a new epithet, then the form 'glycy-' (or perhaps 'glyc-', but probably dubiously) with the connecting vowel '-o' added before a following consonant might be acceptable. However, there is no justification for changing Smith's **existing** epithet to either of these forms.

The choice between '-y' or '-i' is more debatable.

Classically, the form 'glycy-' was far more common in compounds. However, classical usage of this particular compound is doubtful; Liddell and Scott (1925-30) only list the word 'glykyphyllon' as dubiously used in Galenus' '*Medicus*'.

If we follow Nicolson and Brooks' compounding rule, the correct spelling for the Sweet Tea Plant is *glycyphylla*, as used by Bentham.

However, use of the original spelling 'glyciphylla' is possible, if one accepts that the second 'y' of 'glyky-' has been (rather illogically but not without historical precedent) replaced by 'i'. Retention of the

original spelling would also be in line with the spirit of the Code as expressed in Article 73.3 (the liberty of correcting a name is to be used with reserve). [This article only mentions 'names', which elsewhere is taken to refer only to generic names. However, one of the examples given here is of a specific epithet and so the article can presumably be taken to be relevant to specific epithets.]

We are therefore recommending retention of the original spelling of the epithet 'glyciphylla'.

Acknowledgements: We thank Dan Nicolson, Dick Brummitt and Margaret Chambers for their helpful comments.

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THE AMAZON RAINFOREST - ANOTHER THREAT TO ITS SURVIVAL

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As someone who has always had a desire to visit the Amazon rainforest I was very disturbed on Saturday 30 July 1988 to read an article in the *'West Australian'* newspaper that stated that vast areas of the already diminished rainforest are threatened with further destruction. It detailed how newly-opened charcoal burning furnaces designed to make pig-iron for export to Europe and Japan relied on charcoal made from rainforest trees. Apparently these pig-iron plants are heavily subsidised by the Brazilian Government.

The article went on to point out that leading experts at Brazil's Amazon Research Institute estimate that the 20 plants planned in the Carajas region of eastern Amazonia will require the felling of thousands of

hectares a year of Amazon forest. The consequence of wholesale destruction on this scale in such a sensitive area has disturbing ecological implications. (See Fig 1).

Because of the global significance of the Amazon rainforests I wanted to ascertain just how reliable the newspaper article was and to establish if a threat did exist to their very survival. It is also the survival of the Brazilian Indians whose home, the rainforest of the Amazon Basin, is being overrun by settlers, loggers and mining companies. The Indians believe that when the trees die, the earth dies and they will be orphans without a home.

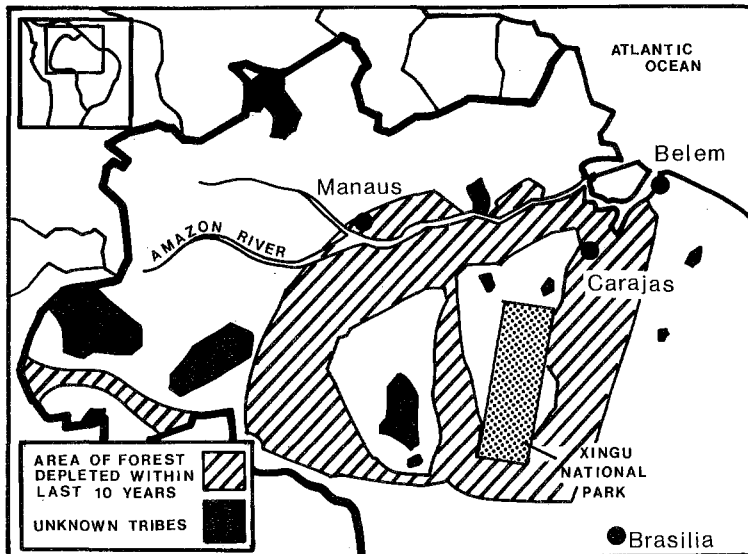


Fig 1 Map showing pattern of destruction in the Amazon Rainforest (adapted from B. Jackman, 'Singing in the Rainforest', 'The Australian Magazine', October 15-16, 1988).

I wrote immediately to a colleague who is a respected plant ecologist with the University of Brasilia to seek his advice on the environmental consequences of the pig-iron smelters. I also asked him if letters from Australians would help to focus concern on the impact of the establishment of the Carajas iron-ore smelters on the survival of the rainforest.

The reply I received from Brasilia left no doubt that the establishment of the pig-iron smelters would lead to an environmental disaster. My colleague wrote that Australians could help and suggested that identical letters of concern be sent to the following people.

- 1 Deputado Fabio Feldman
Congresso Nacional
Brasilia DF BRAZIL

(He is most active in the conservation movement, in the congress).

- 2 Deputado Ulysses Guimaraes
Presidente da Camara dos Deputados
Brasília DF BRAZIL
- 3 Dr Roberto Messias Franco
Secretario da SEMA
Ed. Cidade do Cabo Frio
Av. W3-Norte, Quadra 510
Brasília DF BRAZIL

(SEMA is Secretaria Especial do Meio Ambiente, the Federal Government's Agency for environmental protection).

- 4 Dr Jose Sarney
Presidente da Republica
Palacio do Planalto
Praca dos Tres Poderes
Brasília DF BRAZIL

The last paragraph of the letter from my Brazilian colleague is very important and reads:

'People like Dep. Feldman need all the help they can get, and statements from responsible foreign persons and organisations often have great weight in Brazil. You have to couch the language so that the letter does not give the idea or "tone" that you are trying to "interfere in internal matters of Brazil". You should state that The Amazon Forest in its integrity, or at least large portions of it, is Brazil's greatest treasure and the Brazilians have a sacred duty to preserve as much of it as possible for themselves and humanity in general, especially future generations, so that we can give to your children and their children the gift that took millions of years to evolve, and that once destroyed is gone forever.'

We are not in any position to adopt a self-righteous attitude, for we have our own problems in conserving the Australian rainforest. However, this is no excuse for us to be apathetic about such an important issue. There is a saying 'Think globally, act locally'. The Amazon rainforests are important to all of us - so put pen to paper and express your legitimate concern for one of the world's great biological treasures and the traditional home of the Brazilian Indians.

A CAUTIONARY NOTE ON ROBERT BROWN'S AUSTRALIAN COLLECTING LOCALITIES

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The botanical collections made by Robert Brown while attached to Matthew Flinders' voyage aboard 'HMS Investigator' (1801-1803) are well known to Australian systematic botanists. The names of many plants are typified by several of these specimens. As much of the coastline surveyed on the expedition, particularly in northern Australia, was uncharted, Brown used code names for localities not previously known. Formal names for these places were assigned by Flinders later as he prepared his journal for publication but it is the code name which is generally associated with the plant specimens. In an attempt to correlate the code with names used on modern maps, Nancy Burbidge published a short paper in 1956 entitled 'Robert Brown's Australian Collecting Localities' (Burbidge 1956). Part of this was reproduced by Stearn (1960) in an introduction to the facsimile edition of Brown's *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae* published in 1960.

In preparing for a field trip aimed at re-collecting some of the sites visited by Brown in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Burbidge's paper was read in detail as were the diaries of Robert Brown (Vallance *et al.*), Peter Good (Edwards 1981) and the journal of Matthew Flinders (1814). It soon became apparent that the title of Burbidge's paper was misleading. A casual reader would be excused for presuming that specimens had been collected at each of the 136 localities listed. This is clearly not so. For example, there are 29 islands in the southeast of the Gulf referred to as Wellesley's Islands by Flinders. Burbidge lists 9 of these. From careful study of Flinders' account of this part of the voyage and the diaries of Brown and Good, it has been determined that collections were made on only 5 islands in the group: Sweers, Bentinck, Allen, Bountiful and Pisonia. Flinders landed on one island not listed by Burbidge. This was Horseshoe Island but the botanists had been left 'to follow their pursuits' (Flinders 1814) on Allen Island and did not accompany Flinders. Although Burbidge lists 7 specific localities on Mornington Island, the largest island of the Wellesley Group, there is clear evidence that none of the survey party landed on this island. Flinders (1814) wrote in his journal for 7 December 1802:

'No doubt remained that the land of Cape Van Diemen was an island; for it had been circumnavigated, with the exception of about three leagues, which the rocks and shoal water made impracticable. Its extent is considerable, being thirty-five miles long, and the circumference nearly ninety, independently of the smaller sinuosities in the coast; I did not land upon any part, but the surface appeared to be more rocky than sandy; and judging from the bushes and trees with which it is mostly covered, there must be some portion, though perhaps a small one, of vegetable soil.'

Whilst there is no reason to suggest that any error has been made in the correlation of code names with the locality names currently in use, readers of Burbidge's paper are cautioned not to assume that all localities given represent collecting sites. Some are obviously prominent landmarks observed from the deck of the ship. At present the information required to identify the collecting sites can be gleaned by reference to the diaries and journal cited above. The task will be greatly simplified when Vallance *et al.*'s transcription of Brown's diary is published (see Groves & Moore 1986). Vallance and his co-editors have not only transcribed Brown's handwritten record of the day by day progress of the trip but have attempted to relate it to the comments recorded in the published accounts of Flinders and Good. They have also updated the nomenclature of species mentioned in the text and given latitude and longitude for localities.

One further point should be made concerning the Brown collections from the Flinders voyage. Although the collections are attributed to Brown, the documentary evidence suggests that Peter Good often collected alone or in company with John Allen, the miner, or Ferdinand Bauer, the natural history painter, leaving Brown on board the 'Investigator' to work on the collections or to collect elsewhere. For example for 18 November 1802 Brown wrote 'Mr Good landed & remained a few hours on the neighbouring & larger island' [Bentinck Island] and for later that same day, 'In the afternoon I landed on the same island that I was on yesterday' [Sweers Island]. Good records the visit to Bentinck island indicating it was in the company of John Allen and noting 'returned on Board about 3 pm'. For 17 December Brown noted in his diary, 'Remained on board. Mr Good accompanied the Captn. to a cove [Cabbage Tree Cove on North Island, Sir Edward Pellew Group] about 2 miles from the ship and observed several plants new to us.' For the same day the entry in Good's diary reads, 'I was landed on a point to the westward of a deep inlet round which I walked and collected several fine plants among which an elegant *Sterculia* and a fine blue water Lily.' Good then certainly collected specimens which were attributed to Brown but at this stage it is not known if other members of the ships company collected material which was passed on to Brown. This could be important in determining type localities. For example, if Flinders had brought material back from Horseshoe Island this could be overlooked for neither Brown nor Good visited this island.

It is planned to publish results of the forthcoming trip to the Wellesley Islands in the form of a descriptive account of the vegetation together with lists of the plants collected. Sets of duplicates will be distributed as widely as possible. It is hoped that this might be the first of a series of trips which will eventually revisit all of the Brown localities in northern Australia. I would like to express my appreciation

to Tom Vallance and David Moore for allowing me access to their unpublished transcription of Brown's diary and to Rod Henderson who read and commented on this contribution.

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Footnote by M. Crisp

There is no doubt that Ferdinand Bauer made extensive collections during the Flinders voyage. I have seen numerous specimens of his in the Vienna (W) herbarium, interleaved with original pencil sketches of the same plants by Bauer (and very poorly curated too, considering their value). While working at Vienna in the 1830s, Bentham saw Bauer's specimens, which he cited in his '*Commentatio de Leguminosarum Generibus*' (1837), in Endlicher et al.'s '*Enumeratio plantarum... Huegel*', and in '*Flora Australiensis*'. *Mirbelia baueri* and *Chorizema parviflorum*, for example, are typified by Bauer specimens in Vienna, as well as duplicates in Kew. TLII includes references to Bauer's herbarium.

Whether some of Bauer's specimens became incorporated into Brown's herbarium, and subsequently were attributed to him, is a moot point.

THE TASMANIAN PLANT COLLECTING LOCALITIES OF RONALD GUNN AND JOSEPH MILLIGAN - ADDITIONAL RECORDS

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The reconstruction of the Tasmanian itineraries of those enterprising early nineteenth-century plant collectors Ronald C. Gunn and Joseph Milligan by Alex Buchanan (1988a, b) has done much to clarify the often cryptic labels encountered on their specimens. Buchanan's publications will thus be invaluable in assessing the type status of the various duplicates of these widely distributed and important plant collections.

From a data base of specimen labels of *Olearia* (Asteraceae) examined in the course of my revisionary studies I note several records for both Gunn and Milligan additional to those cited by Buchanan (1988b). Some are taken from specimens on loan at PERTH from the two herbaria consulted by Buchanan (namely HO and NSW) and hence unavailable to him. Many were located at herbaria in

Europe during my term as Botanical Liaison Officer, 1984/5. This data fills in a few gaps in Gunn's and Milligan's itineraries and is presented below, in the format adopted by Buchanan (1988b), as being of broad general interest.

Apart from types, where a date is noted on a specimen label I recorded only month and year in my data base. For the present purpose, I have remedied this as far as possible with specimens currently on loan to me at PERTH.

Olearia is widely distributed in Tasmania, where there some 30 species. Thus the comparative data noted below is, perhaps, indicative of the extent to which the record of the collecting activities of Gunn and Milligan might be completed by reference to the specimens held at herbaria other than HO and NSW.

Particularly worthy of note are the large numbers of Gunn specimens of *Olearia* located at K (136), CGE (57) and BM (46) compared with HO (40) and NSW (44). Those at K are the result of Gunn's lengthy correspondence with William and Joseph D. Hooker. The latter distributed duplicates to many other botanists, notably John Lindley at CGE. The line of communication of Gunn's specimens to BM is obscure.

Buchanan (1988b, p. 30) wonders if Milligan 'ever saw his collections, many of them types, in the herbarium at Kew' after his retirement in London. Extrapolating from the *Olearia* data presented below, Milligan would have found twice as many at the British Museum (Natural History)!

I have worked systematically through the *Olearia* holdings at MEL *in situ*. However, apart from types I have not borrowed material from that herbarium and, to date, I have data-based only specimens held there of species occurring in Western Australia. Thus I have recorded only four specimens from MEL definitely collected by Gunn. A further two MEL specimens, originally from Lindley's herbarium, have incomplete label information but might be attributable to Gunn. Of those in the latter category one was possibly collected by James Backhouse, since there is a specimen of the same species of his as well as Gunn's in Lindley's herbarium at CGE; similarly, the other could equally well have been collected by Milligan or possibly Everett (whose given name is unknown to me).

All of the above-mentioned 'Gunn' specimens of *Olearia* at MEL were from Otto W. Sonder's herbarium, communicated to him in 1846 by Lindley who had received them variously from Joseph Hooker and Joachim Steetz. Clearly, many more Gunn specimens are to be found amongst the extensive Sonder and Steetz material at MEL (for further details of these collections see Short & Sinkora (1988)). However, in many cases these will be labelled merely 'ex Lindley' and their attribution to Gunn or other collectors will depend on correlation with specimens from Lindley's own herbarium at CGE. Such specimens will often prove to be types of Candolle, J. Hooker or Lindley names.

Gunn, Itinerary

DATE	LOCALITY	COMMENTS/COLLECTIONS
Nov 1836	Welcome River, Morhurst	
14 Feb 1837	Middlesex Plains	
15 Feb 1837	Vale of Belvoir	
28 May 1837	Woolnorth	
20 Nov 1837	Bluff Creek [Circular Head]	
28 Nov 1837	Circular Head	
Mar 1838	Woolnorth	
16 Feb 1839	Chilton	
1 Mar 1839	Mt Wellington	
1 Mar 1839	Hobart	
Dec 1839	Circular Head	

Feb 1840	Creek at Bilton's, Glenorchy	
23 Feb 1840	Hobart	
Jul 1840	Mt Wellington	
Sep 1840	Hobart	
Oct 1840	Eaglehawk Neck	
7 Oct 1840	Hobart	
29 Oct 1840	My Allot[men]t	not George Town, cf 24 Oct 1842
20 Nov 1840	Hobart	
9 Dec 1840	New Norfolk	
29 Jan 1841	Launceston	
1842	Hobart	
20 Nov 1842	road to George Town	
Dec 1842	Derwent [River] marshes	
Dec 1843	North Esk [River], Launceston	
3 Jan 1843	George Town	
26 Oct 1843	George Town	
1 Nov 1843	Penquite garden, 3000'	
6 Nov 1843	Lake River [Bridge], 'Formosa'	
5 Mar 1845	Flinders Island	
24 Nov 1856	Welcome River	
14 Feb 1857	Middlesex Plains	
14 Feb 1857	Milligan's garden	

Additional Localities: Bluff Creek [Circular Head]; Creek at Bilton's, Glenorchy; Milligan's garden; My Allotment [not George Town]; North Esk [River], Launceston; Welcome River, Morhurst.

Location of Specimens Examined: BM (46), CGE (57), CO (3), FI (4), G (10), G-DC (9), HO (40), K (136), L (13), MEL (6), NSW (44), P (22), TCD (16).

Other Herbaria Checked: AD, AUCK, BH, BRI, CANB, CHR, DBN, DNA, ED, LD, PERTH, WELT.

Milligan, Itinerary

DATE	LOCALITY	COMMENTS/COLLECTIONS
		<i>O. algida</i> , <i>O. erubescens</i> , <i>O. glandulosa</i> , <i>O. persoonioides</i>
	Black Bluff	<i>O. pinifolia</i>
	Cape Barren Island	<i>O. stellulata</i>
	Flinders Island	<i>O. phlogopappa</i> , <i>O. stellulata</i>
	Gun Carriage Island	as 'Vansittart Island', <i>O. phlogopappa</i>
	Hampshire Hills	<i>O. phlogopappa</i>
	Hampshire Hills/Surrey Hills	<i>O. myrsinoides</i>
	Huon Rd/Browns River Rd junction	<i>O. lepidophylla</i> , <i>O. ramulosa</i>
	Macquarie Harbour	<i>O. ledifolia</i>
	Macquarie Harbour Entrance	<i>O. phlogopappa</i>
	Middlesex Plains	<i>O. obcordata</i> <i>O. lepidophylla</i>

	Mt Wellington	<i>O. erubescens</i> , <i>O. myrsinoides</i> <i>O. obcordata</i> , <i>O. pinifolia</i> <i>Olearia ramulosa</i>
	'Schonter' [P] or 'Schouster' [TCD] Peninsular Surrey Hills	<i>O. erubescens</i> , <i>O. myrsinoides</i> <i>O. pinifolia</i>
24 Dec 1841	Vale of Belvoir H[ampshire] H[ill]s garden	from Surrey Hills, <i>O. persoonioides</i>
Jan 1842	H[ampshire] Hills	<i>O. erubescens</i>
2 Feb 1842	Surrey Hills, Talbots Marsh	<i>O. glandulosa</i>
May 1842		<i>O. lepidophylla</i>
10 Feb 1843	Western Tiers	as 'Western Mtns', <i>O. erubescens</i>
Oct 1844	Flinders Island	<i>O. stellulata</i>
Mar 1845	Flinders Island, Settlement [Pt.]	<i>O. axillaris</i>
May 1845	Flinders Island, Bathing Shed	<i>O. ramulosa</i>
1846	Mt Wellington	<i>O. viscosa</i>
1846	Oyster Cove	<i>O. viscosa</i>
Mar 1846	Flinders Island	<i>O. axillaris</i>
11 Apr 1846	Gordon River Narrows, Macquarie Harbour	<i>O. argophylla</i>
Dec 1846	Mt Sorell, Macquarie Harbour	<i>O. ledifolia</i>
16 Jan 1847	Mt Sorell, Macquarie Harbour	<i>O. ledifolia</i> , <i>O. persoonioides</i>
Jan 1849	Snug	<i>O. ciliata</i>
3 Feb 1849	Mt Wellington, Springs	<i>O. viscosa</i>

Additional Localities: Huon Rd/Browns River Rd junction; Mt Sorell, Macquarie Harbour; 'Schonter' or 'Schouster' Peninsula; Talbots Marsh, Surrey Hills; Western Tiers.

Location of Specimens Examined: BM (19), CGE (2), HO (17), K (10), P (9), TCD (13).

Other Herbaria Checked: AD, AUCK, BH, BRI, CANB, CHR, DBN, DNA, ED, LD, MEL, PERTH, WELT.

References

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TAXONOMISTS

Barbara Jefferis

I had this book.
I wanted to find out the name of a squash-thing,
And whether it would grow in our slack soil. And above all
I wanted to know how long to the pot, which is always the main question.

So I borrowed this book.
Not a proper book about trenching and liming and tying,
But a secret book, belonging to one of the tribes.

And I discovered that
They are our enemies, the botanists,
They have stolen the brightest words. And the worst of them
Are the taxonomists, the ones who make up names.

They are perennating,
Cleistogamous and sessile, which is to say
They live more than a season, are self-fertilising,
And distinguished by their lack of proper connections.

They have stolen most
Of the words that belong to poets.
And they claim that they know the legends from before the first spring,
Before the Deluge, before they were written down.

I wanted to know when to sow and when to harvest,
But I found myself smashed at by stone-wort,
Smothered with cassia, caught by linear floating filaments,
And stricken by glume (I confess to preferring their spelling.)

Adam was there, father of botanists,
Near-naked but never indehiscent, quite without stolons
And exaltato (which is to say erect), his figleaf fixed,
With water-buttons (*cotula coronopifolios*) and his huge resentment
Against God forgotten in the sweat of trying to grow roses
Out of his own clay.

And Moses.
They called him Cumbungi for the bulrushes,
Too mean ever to let his mother live down that slender tale.
They mock him as being amphibious, calling him globose, monopiac,
With a cymose inflorescence, and habituated to places with
Seasonal drying - a spare way, I suppose, of describing the seven plagues.

But the words, the words!
They have stolen the Greeks and their fire.
Merrⁿyanthaceae is theirs, the exquisite nymphoides
Crenata, Exigua, Exiflora - all the words whorled
And filiform, oblanceolate, fresh in conceptacle.

'And the surface view is different from the submerged view'
They say. As if Donne didn't know it, or Rimbaud, or as if
It hadn't been that that sent Flecker
Hell-bent for Portulacaceae and the hidden sun.

They have pre-empted a divine right -
 To put a question mark, as ?Callistriche palustris L,
 Which is only starwort anyway, if you ignore the query.

But you cannot ignore a query
 Placed as they place it, as though to say
 'In the beginning was not so much the Word,
 As the taxonomist's pursuit of the first question'.

It wasn't my book,
 And in the end I had to return it.
 But I am drenched and dried out by the treachery of their pond-words,
 Words that are bell-shaped, re-entrant, re-echoing.

And how have they dared
 To take obcordate, where the heart is upside down?
 Surely what it describes is a state known only to poets?

ASBS BUSINESS

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS

D.B. Foreman

There are still some members who have not paid their subscriptions for 1988. Please check the year printed at the bottom of your address label this will indicate if you have paid your 1988 subs. Prompt payment of any arrears would be greatly appreciated.

1988	\$20.00
1987	\$20.00
1986	\$16.00

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1989

Subscriptions for 1989 are due from 1st January, 1989. The rate has not varied from 1988, ie, \$16.00 if paid before 31st March, 1989 and \$20.00 thereafter. Fulltime students \$12.00. Payment should be in Australian dollars. Payments should be sent to Dr D.B. Foreman

Receipts are normally issued as soon as possible after payment has been received. If a receipt is not received within a reasonable time after payment (ie a month) please contact the Treasurer.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Wrong addresses cause inconvenience and are costly to the Society. If you change your address please let either the Secretary, Dr B.J. Conn or the Treasurer know as soon as possible.

PLEASE CHECK THE NAME AND ADDRESS LABEL ON YOUR NEWSLETTER.

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PERSONAL NEWS

Ken Newbey (1936-1988)

The passing of Ken Newbey on 24 July 1988 was a great loss not only to his family, friends and colleagues but also to the science of botany to which he had dedicated much of his life. Ken's association with the Western Australian Herbarium spanned the last three decades and it was during this time that we all came to appreciate and benefit from his vast knowledge of the flora of south western Australia.

Ken first came to prominence as a meticulous field collector. His observations on the flora and his willingness to co-operate with colleagues resulted in many new discoveries. Not content with this, he undertook to become a professional botanist, and in 1979 was awarded the Degree of Master of Philosophy in Science from Murdoch University. From this point Ken vigorously developed a number of research projects principally in the field of vegetation studies. Notable were his contributions to the biological survey of the goldfields and especially the vegetation of the Fitzgerald River National Park. In recognition of his botanical endeavours and his ability to communicate scientific information to community groups Ken was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1987.

Ken was not only a colleague to me but also a fine friend. His willingness to provide information and specimens on *Acacia* species greatly assisted me over the past 15 years. Although Ken is sadly no longer with us he will be immortalized, not only through his writing and specimens, but also through plant species named in honour of him, eg *Acacia newbeyi*, *Grevillea newbeyi*, *Eucalyptus newbeyi* and *Thysanotus newbeyi*.

An Obituary to Ken will be published in the next issue of 'Kingia'. This issue of our journal will be dedicated to him.

Bruce Maslin

REPORTS**AUSTRALIAN BOTANICAL LIAISON OFFICER**

Mrs Karen Wilson
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, England
Fax 01-948 1197 Telex 296694 KEWGAR

We are hoping to have a regular report from the ABLO in future issues. Meanwhile we include the address for your information.

AUSTRALIAN BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES STUDY REPORT

Alex George

The new structure covering the Australian Biological Resources Study is now in place. Barry Richardson is Director, ABRs Section, within the Natural History Branch of the Natural Heritage Division of the Department. This Section also contains the Fauna and computing subsections of ABRs. Roger Hnatiuk is Director, Botany Section, a section that contains the Flora of Australia project, the Australian Plant Name Index, the Herbarium of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and its Library. Roger retains administrative responsibility for the flora side of ABRs. Robert Boden is Director, Australian National Botanic Gardens Section, which includes the research areas of the Gardens.

Apart from Roger Hnatiuk, who divides his time between his office at Acton House and one at the Gardens, the remainder of ABRs staff are still at Acton House.

Progress continues steadily on the *'Flora of Australia'*, Volume 3 now being typeset and at the indexing stage. It should be with the printer early in the new year. Volumes 18 and 50 are nearly all in-house and are being edited.

Staff have been involved in various meetings. In August, the opportunity of the Third International Phycological Congress in Melbourne was taken to hold a preliminary discussion on prospects for bringing the algae into the *'Flora of Australia'* project. Although somewhat inconclusive, the meeting raised several possible avenues to be explored further.

In October Roger visited the Missouri Botanical Garden to attend a meeting of the International Working Group on Databases in the Plant Sciences. This was followed quickly by the symposium in Canberra, 'Whose Name? Which Specimen?', attended by some 80 botanists and zoologists from around Australia and overseas. Reports on both meetings will be prepared for the next *'News/letter'*. Roger also attended the meeting of CHAH in Hobart in October. Phew!

The Flora Editorial Committee met in Canberra on 7 November and discussed various aspects of planning future volumes of the *'Flora'*.

The ABRs grants for 1989 have been announced. Those for flora are listed below. Grantees listed without institutions are 'unattached'.

Australian Capital Territory

B.A. Barlow, Australian National Herbarium, Taxonomic revision of the genus *Melaleuca* L. - \$16178.

Hj. Eichler, Taxonomic revisions in Ranunculaceae, Zygophyllaceae and Apiaceae in Australia - \$2849.

H.M. Gray, A revision of the Australian species of *Celmisia* (Astereae, Asteraceae) - \$3938.

T.G. Hartley, Australian National Herbarium, Rutaceae for '*Flora of Australia*' - \$11807.

L. Watson, Australian National University, Automated taxonomic revision and keys for Poaceae - Pooideae for '*Flora of Australia*' - \$31680.

New South Wales

B.J. Conn, National Herbarium of NSW, Taxonomic revision of the Prostantheroideae (Lamiaceae) - \$33362.

J. Everett, National Herbarium of NSW., Revision of the genus *Craspedia* (Inuleae, Asteraceae) - \$11120.

R.B. Filson, Revision of the lichen genus *Caloplaca* in Australia and New Zealand - \$10000.

H.P. Ramsay, Contributions to the Bryophyte volumes for the '*Flora of Australia*' - \$8051.

M.D. Tindale, Further studies in *Acacia* sect. *Juliflorae* - \$17744.

Northern Territory

K.J.M. Dickinson, Conservation Commission of the NT, 1:1 000 000 vegetation mapping of the NT - \$29000.

Queensland

P.I. Forster, University of Queensland, Revision of the genera *Cynanchum*, *Gymnema*, *Marsdenia*, *Sarcostemma*, *Secamone*, *Thozetia* and *Tylophora* (Asclepiadaceae) in Australia - \$32150.

G.P. Guymmer, Queensland Herbarium, '*Flora of Australia*' treatment of the family Bignoniaceae - \$1260.

D.A. Halford, Revision of the tribe Hedyotideae (Rubiaceae) in Australia - \$4280.

R.J.F. Henderson, Queensland Herbarium, Taxonomic revision of Euphorbiaceae tribe Stenolobeae - \$25488.

B.P.M. Hyland, Australian National Herbarium, Lauraceae for '*Flora of Australia*' - \$11807.

G.N. Stevens, University of Queensland, Taxonomic revision of the lichen genus *Usnea* in Australia - \$16773.

South Australia

R.M. Barker, Revision of *Sida* and *Abutilon* in Australia - \$23797.

B.R. Randell, Editing '*Flora of Australia*' manuscripts - \$20000.

H.R. Toelken, State Herbarium of South Australia, Revision of the genus *Asperula* (Rubiaceae) - \$350.

Victoria

P.S. Short, National Herbarium of Victoria, Biosystematic studies in *Brachyscome* (Asteraceae, Astereae) - \$22674.

I.G. Stone, Revision and distribution of *Fissidens* (Musci) in Australia - \$1100.

Western Australia

G.J. Keighery, WA Wildlife Research Centre, Revision of *Opercularia* - \$3800.

N.S. Lander, Western Australian Herbarium, Taxonomic revision of *Olearia* (Asteraceae, Astereae) in WA and consideration of subgeneric limits - \$11918.

B.R. Maslin, WA Herbarium, '*Flora of Australia*' account of *Acacia* sect. *Plurinerves* - \$52537.

B.R. Maslin, WA Herbarium, *Acacia* sect. *Juliflorae* for '*Flora of Australia*' - \$10038.

Overseas

D.J. Mabberley, Mellaceae for '*Flora of Australia*' - \$6900.

In addition, a set of four specially funded 'Rainforest' grants were awarded. The botanical ones are:

B.P.M. Hyland, Australian National Herbarium, Databasing the ANH at Queensland Research Station, Atherton - \$38000.

G.P. Guymer, Queensland Herbarium, Botanical Survey of the rainforests of Queensland - \$47874.

REPORT OF THE 16th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF HEADS OF AUSTRALIAN HERBARIA

A.E. Orchard
Chairman

c/o Tasmanian Herbarium, GPO Box 252c, Hobart TAS 7001

The Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria met at the Tasmanian Herbarium on 18-19 October 1988. Present were Dr B.G. Briggs (NSW), Mr J.G. Croft (CBG), Mr C.R. Dunlop (DNA), Dr J.P. Jessop (AD), Dr R.W. Johnson (BRI), Mr B.R. Maslin (PERTH), Dr A.E. Orchard (HO -Chairman), Dr J.H. Ross (MEL) and Dr J.G. West (CANB).

Two observers were present: Mr D.R. Gregg, representing the Council of Australian Museum Directors, and Dr P.J. Brownsey, representing New Zealand herbaria. Dr R.J. Hnatiuk was present for two sessions to discuss matters pertaining to the botany section of ABRS.

The principal items discussed were:

Herbarium Assistants Workshop

This is to be held in Adelaide in early 1990. The course will be similar to that run most successfully a couple of years ago in Brisbane, and is intended to be principally an orientation course for new herbarium staff.

Current Taxonomic Research on the Australian Flora

A booklet under this title was produced by CHAH about 8 years ago. It listed research projects in progress or newly completed, and gave an indication of their state of development. It covered all herbaria, universities and other taxonomic institutions in Australia, and extended to overseas workers known to be studying Australian plants. A new edition of this booklet has now been prepared by CHAH, under the direction of Dr Johnson. We hope that it can be published in early 1989, by the Western Australian Herbarium. Copies will be distributed according to the '*Kingia*' and '*Nuytsia*' mailing lists. Additional copies may be purchased from the Department of Conservation & Land Management, 50 Hayman Rd, Como WA 6152, for \$10.

Australian Biological Resources Study

The meeting was given an account of the reorganisation within the Department of Arts, Sport, Environment, Tourism and Territories, which has led to the disappearance of the Bureau of Flora and Fauna. ABRS's functions have been divided, and the Flora section under Dr Hnatiuk is to move to the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew

Considerable time was devoted to discussing the financial basis of this position. The Council reaffirmed their strong support for the continuation of the ABLO position, but recognised that its allowances need to be put on a more realistic footing. Discussions have been undertaken with ABRS to see how this might best be achieved. A set of selection criteria for the position are to be drawn up through consultation between CHAH members and ABRS.

Reports

All herbaria and CAMD reported to the meeting on new initiatives, research projects, staff movements, etc. Members noted the much improved facilities now available to the Tasmanian Herbarium, and a letter was sent to the Tasmanian Government commending them on this work.

Facilitation of Permits for Interstate Collecting

CHAH members are to investigate ways of speeding up and perhaps simplifying the issuance of collecting permits for out-of-state botanists. Each herbarium will contact their state or territory collecting permit authorities, and at least put together a kit of information on what permits are needed, addresses to write to, and details of restrictions, etc.

CHAH Policy on Distribution of Unidentified Duplicates

Duplicate collections suitable for exchange are sometimes available only in unidentified form. The question was raised as to whether all exchange specimens should be fully identified before despatch. It was agreed that unidentified material was acceptable where there was a good technical reason for the lack of a name (a putative new species, group under revision at the recipient institution, etc). However, material capable of being named by the sending institution should be identified before despatch.

Papua New Guinea Observer

CHAH noted with regret that again no observer from PNG was able to attend.

'Friends' and Volunteers in Herbaria

Most herbaria currently suffer from a lack of staff to carry out their full set of responsibilities. In some institutions 'Friends' organisations or individuals are prepared to provide voluntary assistance. Herbaria welcome such assistance, although it can obviously never take the place of full-time permanent employees.

Lodgement of Type Specimens

It was agreed that the place of lodgement of unicate holotype specimens was the prerogative of the person describing the taxon. However, where isotypes also exist, then one of the type specimens (holotype or isotype) should be lodged in the state or territory of origin. The citation of unicate types is not encouraged where other collections with duplicates would serve the purpose just as well.

Listing of Incidental Chromosome Numbers

The long-running series of lists of incidental chromosome numbers published in *'Taxon'* under the editorship of Askel Love is to cease. CHAH agreed that it would be most appropriate if an Australian journal was to take over this task for Australian counts, and an approach to the editor of the CSIRO journals will be made.

Publication of Data on Rare & Endangered Species

It was agreed that this is a very sensitive issue, to which individuals should pay more attention. In particular CHAH recommends that authors describing or writing about rare or geographically restricted taxa should, wherever possible, confine comments on distribution to generalised statements rather than

providing precise locality data. Furthermore, herbaria were urged to examine their security procedures to try to ensure that sensitive geographic data is made available only to responsible users.

Draft List of Names in Current Use

This list has been circulated to some Australian herbaria, and is based on an in-house list produced for Kew. It is intended that after input by other herbaria that Kew will amend this list and that it will then be published in *'Regnum Vegetabile'* for wider comment.

It was agreed that CHAH members in principle supported the idea of trying to rule off the search for obscure names that might upset established nomenclature, but considerable reservations were expressed about the list under consideration. The Chairman will write to Dr Dan Nicolson expressing our support in broad principle, but asking that the Special Committee which is to be established should initiate the widest possible discussion on questions of typification and the scope of the list, and set out the consequences of proceeding with it or not.

Index to Taxonomic Literature of Australia

The Council is still committed to this project, and discussions at Kew regarding access to their indexing files are proceeding.

Retirement of John Green

Members expressed regret that they had not had an opportunity of properly farewelling Dr John Green who retired as Director of PERTH after the last CHAH meeting (the two events being entirely unconnected!). CHAH will miss his cheerful and carefully argued contributions to our meetings, and we wish him well in his retirement.

A GUIDE TO ACRONYMS FOR NEW AND UNSUSPECTING PLAYERS IN THE CHAH GAME

ABIS	Australian Biological Information System	
ABLO	Australian Botanical Liaison Officer	
ABRS	Australian Biological Resources Study	
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service	
ANBG*	Australian National Botanic Gardens (CBG)	
ANH*	Australian National Herbarium (CANB)	
ANHSIR*	Australian National Herbarium Specimen Information Register	
ANMC	Australian National Museum Commission	
ANPWS	Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service	
APNI	Australian Plant Name Index	(every name ever used)
APSG	Australian Plant Specialist Group	
ARGS	Australian Research Grants Scheme	
ASBS	Australian Systematic Botany Society	
ASL*	Average Staffing Level	(= FTE)
BFF	Bureau of Flora and Fauna	(obsolete)
BPH*	Botanico Periodico Huntianum	
CALM*	Department of Conservation and Land Management	(Western Australia)
CAMD	Council of Australian Museum Directors	
CAP	Census of Australian Plants	(currently accepted)
CEP	Commonwealth Employment Programme	
CHAH	Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria	
CONCOM	Council of Conservation Ministers	

CPI	Commonwealth Plant Introduction	(Index - database)
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	
DASETT*	Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories	(Commonwealth Government)
DELTA*	Description Language for TAXonomy	
DROS*	Determination of Remuneration for Overseas Service	
FTE*	Full Time Equivalent	(= ASL)
HERBRECS*	Herbarium Records	(BRI specimen database)
IAPT	International Association for Plant Taxonomy	
IBC*	International Botanical Congress	
ICBN*	International Code of Botanical Nomenclature	
ICZN*	International Code of Zoological Nomenclature	
IK*	Index Kewensis	
ILDS*	International Legume Database System	
ING*	Index Nominum Genericorum	
ISO*	International Standards Organization	
ITLA	Index of Taxonomic Literature in Australia	(Flora)
IUBS*	International Union of Biological Sciences	
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature	
KI*	Kew Index	
KR*	Kew Record	
MOA*	Museum of Australia	
MONZ*	Museum of New Zealand	
NGO	Non Government Organisation	
NH*	Natural History	(a branch of NHEP)
NHEP*	National Heritage and Environment Protection	(a division of DASETT)
NRIC*	Natural Resource Information Centre	
PP*	Participative Program	(of ABRS)
R & E's*	Rare and Endangered plants	
RDPG*	Research Division Policy Group	
ROT's*	Rare or Threatened plants	
ROTAP	Rare or Threatened Australian Plants	(List)
SGAP	Society for Growing Australian Plants	
SSC	Species Survival Commission	(of IUCN)
TL II*	(also TL2) Taxonomic Literature edition 2	
TDWG*	Taxonomic Database Working Group	
WAHERB*	Western Australian Herbarium	(PERTH specimen database)

Being a list of acronyms encountered at the Darwin CHAH meeting 25-26 August 1987, and not including AD, AK, BRI, CANB, CBG, CHR, DNA, HO, LAE, MEL, NSW, NT, PERTH, WELT....

* Acronyms added during the 1988 CHAH meeting at HO

Anthony Wright
1987 CHAH Meeting
Jim Croft
1988 CHAH Meeting

BOOK REVIEWS

Carter, H.B. (1988). **Sir Joseph Banks**. 671 pp. British Museum (Natural History). R.R.P. £45.

I recently reviewed this book for an historical society, but I found the book so rich in historical and botanical detail that I will mention different aspects here.

Carter researched Banks for 25 years, and although I had seen Banks' Soho Square home, seen his unique table at the BM Botany Department, and handled his specimens, the book gave me a far greater depth of understanding and familiarity with him. The history of botany in his period (1743-1820) is in this book.

We learn of Banks instituting natural history as part of voyages of discovery, and developing a sequence for dealing with specimens on the 'Endeavour', although Cook was not entirely impressed. Banks' independent means enabled him to travel to collect plants, and visit herbaria and libraries. Today's botanists envy Banks (and Bentham) for this independence. In his 31st year, Banks decided his travels were over, and he was then elected to the Council of the Royal Society, and in 1779 when he was 35, became President, a position he held till his death in 1820.

Banks influenced the King to approve and finance collecting for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and he paid £35 per year to support David Nelson in collecting specimens on Cook's Third Voyage (and later) when the TYPE of the genus *Eucalyptus* was collected. He urged others to take as many duplicates as possible, collect comprehensively even to common species, make good notes and dry all specimens properly this is 1795.

The book helps us to meet so many people in botany L'Heritier, Robert Brown, David Nelson, William Hooker, J.E. Smith, William Aiton Snr and Younger, William Anderson, George Caley, Francis Nodder, Jonas Dryander, Allan Cunningham, Ferdinand and Franz Bauer, Abbe Antonio Jose Cavanilles, William Curtis, Joseph Dombey, J.G. & J.R. Forster, J. Gaertner, J.J. Labillardiere, J. Lindley, A. Menzies, Sydney Parkinson, P. Redout, D. Solander and many, many others.

Banks' influence with Royalty and in politics and on most important events of his time is documented. Though expensive this book is essential for botanical libraries, and it will be a reference book for all time.

George Chippendale
Lyons ACT

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

E.M. Friis, W.G. Chaloner & P.R. Crane (ed.). **The Origins of Angiosperms and Their Biological Consequences**. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 358 pp. Price approx. \$70.00.

Alex George & Celia Rosser. **Banksias Volume II**. Monash University Press, Melbourne. Cost \$2,800 or \$2,500 before December 31st. The cover is leather-bound and blocked in gold. The banksias are reproduced in actual size and the illustrations lithographed on to 100% rag paper. Reserve your order by phoning Ms Jackie Meiers (03) 604 7076.

NOTICES

Western Australian Herbarium: Transfer to CALM

As from 1 July 1988 the Western Australian Herbarium transferred administratively from the WA Department of Agriculture to the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). The Herbarium is now one of 14 programs within CALM's Research Division. The Division is administered by a five-person executive headed by the Divisional Manager, Andrew Burbidge. The Herbarium Curator is a member of the Executive.

Although the Herbarium has not physically moved, it does have new postal and residential addresses.

Postal Address: WA Herbarium, Dept of Conservation and Land Management
PO Box 104 Como WA 6152

Residential Address: George Street Kensington WA 6151

Telephone: 367 0333 (CALM switch), 367 0500 (Herbarium secretary).

Telex: AA 94616

Fax: 367 0515

B.R. Maslin

Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria

Herbarium Assistants Workshop 5-9 February 1990, State Herbarium of South Australia, Adelaide.

At the request of CHAH we are hosting a workshop for practicing or would-be herbarium assistants.

Our aims are to provide an introduction to the commoner duties, to help give the herbarium assistant some background to their work and, perhaps more importantly, to encourage a comparison of different approaches and to allow an opportunity for personal contact by herbarium technical staff.

There should be something in it for both practicing herbarium assistants and interested people with no experience.

Numbers will be strictly limited so anyone wishing to attend would be advised to contact me immediately. We may be able to arrange University college accommodation (currently \$25 bed and breakfast) and expect to keep other expenses to about \$70, including dinner on the Thursday evening and light refreshments during the day time (morning and afternoon tea and lunch).

The programme at present is likely to include discussions of herbarium functions, archival properties of material, loans and exchange, field techniques, cryptograms and a bit of taxonomic and nomenclatural theory. The details will probably not be available before mid-1989.

J.P. Jessop

Flora Malesiana Symposium

An international symposium commemorating Professor Dr C.G.G.J. van Steenis Leiden 20-25 August 1989

Professor Dr C.G.G.J. van Steenis (1901-1986) initiated '*Flora Malesiana*', currently one of the largest flora projects of the world, in 1947. He secured its progress by his driving stimulus and involvement of the international botanical community in its production and by his own contributions on not less than 33 families. He moreover made pioneering studies on the historical biogeography and vegetation science of the Malesian floristic region. From 1962 to 1972 he was Director of the Rijksherbarium.

To commemorate Professor van Steenis's great scientific contributions and to provide a new stimulus for the '*Flora Malesiana*' project, an international symposium will be held in Leiden, August 20-25, 1989, followed by a workshop for past, present or potential contributors to the '*Flora Malesiana*' Project on August 28 and 29, 1989.

From the response to the first circular it is anticipated that about 150 colleagues from all over the world will gather in Leiden to discuss the flora of the Malesian region, its taxonomy, its biogeography, its uses, and the conservation of its large endangered components. In the spirit of the founder of the '*Flora Malesiana*' Project, the themes and priorities of the symposium and workshop will be forward-looking, in order to give new impulses to undertake the tremendous task that still lies ahead for completion of '*Flora Malesiana*'.

Please note the deadlines for submitting abstracts of poster and oral presentations (1 February 1989) and for reduced registration rates (1 March 1989).

Registration and Accomodation

Flora of Malesiana Symposium
c/o Leiden Congress Bureau
PO Box 16065
2301 GB Leiden
The Netherlands
telefax 071-226478

Abstract Information

Organising Committee
Flora Malesiana Symposium, attn. p. Baas
Rijksherbarium
PO Box 9514
2300 RA Leiden
The Netherlands

Pacific Science InterCongress

The 6th InterCongress is to be held in August 1989 in Santiago, Chile. Dr Mary-Kalin Arroyo is organising the Botany Sessions.

There will be three specific sessions based on the following themes:

1. Relationship of the North and South American 'Mediterranean' Flora - time for another look.
2. Physiology of arid land plants of the Pacific Basin.
3. Update on our state of knowledge and conservation of Pacific Basin Floras.

Dr Arroyo has some 'tickets' available for those sessions from her University. She will be organising 4-6 principal speakers for each of these sessions. There will also be a general, open, contributed papers session in addition to the 3 special sessions listed above. If you are interested in giving papers at the InterCongress please contact Dr Arroyo directly for the first 2 sessions and S.H. Sohmer, at the Bishop Museum for the third session.

Dr Mary-Kalin Arroyo
Departamento de Biología
Facultad de Ciencias
Universidad de Chile
Casilla 653
Santiago CHILE

Dr S.H. Sohmer
Bishop Museum
PO Box 19000-A
Honolulu
Hawaii 96817
USA

18th International Congress of the History of Science, 1-9 August 1989

At Hamburg and Munich, 1-9 August 1989. For details, contact Professor C.J. Scriba, Institut für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Mathematik und Technik, Universität Hamburg, Bundesstrasse 55, 2000 Hamburg 13, FR of Germany.

17th Pacific Science Congress, May 1991

At Honolulu, Hawaii, May 1991. An historical symposium is planned, with emphasis on the various ways in which Pacific island and rim cultures have been influenced by the introduction of science and technology. Contact Professor Philip F. Rehbock, History Department, University of Hawaii 2530 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822, USA.

Request for Material

Mr P.I. Forster, Botany Department, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Qld, 4067, (07) 377 3977, is currently undertaking revisionary studies of the Australian Asclepiadaceae with funding from ABRs. He is particularly interested in obtaining flowering material (inflorescences with some open flowers) preserved in spirit (plus a pressed specimen) of *Marsdenia australis* (R. Br.) Druce (syn *Leichhardtia australis* R. Br.), *Tylophora barbata* R. Br., *Marsdenia suaveolens* A. Cunn., *Asclepias tuberosa* and *Rhyncharrhena linearis* (Decne.) K.L. Wilson (syn *Pentatropis linearis* Decne., *Pentatropis kempeana* F. Muell.).

Paul Forster

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The Society

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

Membership

Membership is open to all those interested in plant systematics and entitles the member to attend general and chapter meetings and to receive the *'Newsletter'*. Any person may become a member by forwarding the annual subscription to the Treasurer. Subscriptions become due on the 1st January.

The Newsletter

The *'Newsletter'* appears quarterly and keeps members informed of Society events and news, and provides a vehicle for debate and discussion. In addition original articles, notes and letters (not exceeding ten pages in length) will be considered. Contributions should be sent to the Editor at the address given below, preferably as an unformatted ASCII file on an MS-DOS diskette accompanied by a printed copy, or as two typed copies with double-spacing. All items incorporated in the *'Newsletter'* will be duly acknowledged. Authors are alone responsible for the views expressed.

Notes

The deadline for contributions is the last day of February, May, August and November.

ASBS Annual Membership is \$16 (Aust) if paid by 31 March, \$20 thereafter. Students (full-time) \$12. Please remit to the Treasurer.

Advertising space is available for products or services of interest to ASBS members. Current rate is \$30 per full page. Contact the *'Newsletter'* Editor for further information.

All address changes should be sent to the Treasurer or the Editor.

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