

The University of Reading

School of Plant Sciences



Congratulations to _____ who successfully defended his PhD thesis on the reproductive biology of Cupuassu (*Theobroma grandiflora*). Georgini was examined by Dr Peter Gibbs of St Andrews.

Congratulations to _____ on the successful outcome of his recent PhD viva. He has now managed to determine all the specimens in his loans. Dr James Cullen came over from Cambridge to carry out the *viva voce* examination.

Discussions are underway to publish Aaron's revision of *Galanthus* as a monograph illustrated with Romilly Page-Wood's beautiful colour plates.

_____ has also only just come down to earth after her successful PhD viva with Dr Martin Ingrouille of Birkbeck College, London University. Liz's thesis is on section *Pedilonum* of the orchid genus *Dendrobium*.

_____ has also now had his *viva voce* examination with Dr Henrik Balslev of Aarhus, Denmark. He hopes to graduate this December!

(MSc 1994) has just started a two-year research programme on the genus *Kaempferia* (Zingiberaceae) at the Aarhus node in our network. Ros expects to work in Aarhus until March when she will leave to undertake field work in Malaysia. She also expects to take part in the Zingiberaceae symposium to be held in Canton, China in May. She also will return to the UK and Kew for the Flora Malesiana symposium, co-ordinating meeting of the Network in July and Reading Cladistics Workshop (see elsewhere).

We congratulate Ros on her appointment and wish her all the best in this most exciting job.

We were also pleased that Dr Stefan Dressler (Leiden) called in to the Reading node of the network during his visit to Kew. It was a pity it was such a flying visit. Come again!

We are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the running of our internationally renowned MSc. We are planning to hold a one-day symposium "*Plant Diversity and its Conservation*" on Friday, 7 July 1995 in the Plant Science Laboratories. We shall be inviting some of our MSc graduates to speak. The day will conclude with a celebratory

party. We hope as many of our MSc graduates as possible will be able to come. We have deliberately not clashed with the Flora Malesiana Symposium at Kew, the summer graduation day or our undergraduate field course. We shall endeavour to contact all former MSc graduates, but do please contact us with your current details (and those of

Professor Harborne gave a plenary lecture on "The Ecological Role of Secondary Metabolites in Plants" at the UKaps Symposium on "Natural products as Drugs and Medicines" held at King's College, London on November 18th. At the same meeting Dr Christine Williams presented a poster with Dr JRS Hoult of the Pharmacology Group, King's College, London on "Inhibition of leukocyte 5-lipoxygenase by tanetin, a novel flavonol from feverfew, *Tanacetum parthenium*". Five other members of the Plant Sciences Phytochemistry Group also attended the meeting.

Charles Mills (Senior Microbiologist, Research and Development, The Body Shop) is working part-time on a higher degree project on antimicrobial compounds from plants for use as preservatives in cosmetic products. He is working with Dr VM Dillon and Prof. JS Parker. Dr Husain visited and worked at the Laboratorio de Fitoquímica Centro de Edafología y Biología Aplicada del Segura (CEBAS), Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Murcia, Spain, during 15 - 30 November with Dr Francisco A. Tomás-Barberán on analysis of lipophilic flavonoids in Labiatae herbs which are used as herb condiments. The analysis was achieved by HPLC and Capillary Zone Electrophoresis in order to identify the flavonoid profiles which are characteristic of every spice, and useful in quality control determination. (Dr Husain would like to thank Paco and other members of the staff and students for very useful discussions during his stay).

(University of Trondheim, Norway) and (Utrecht, The Netherlands) visited Dr Royce Longton and Dr Terry Hedderson during the last week in November to discuss the establishment of a Research Group to study European bryophyte populations.

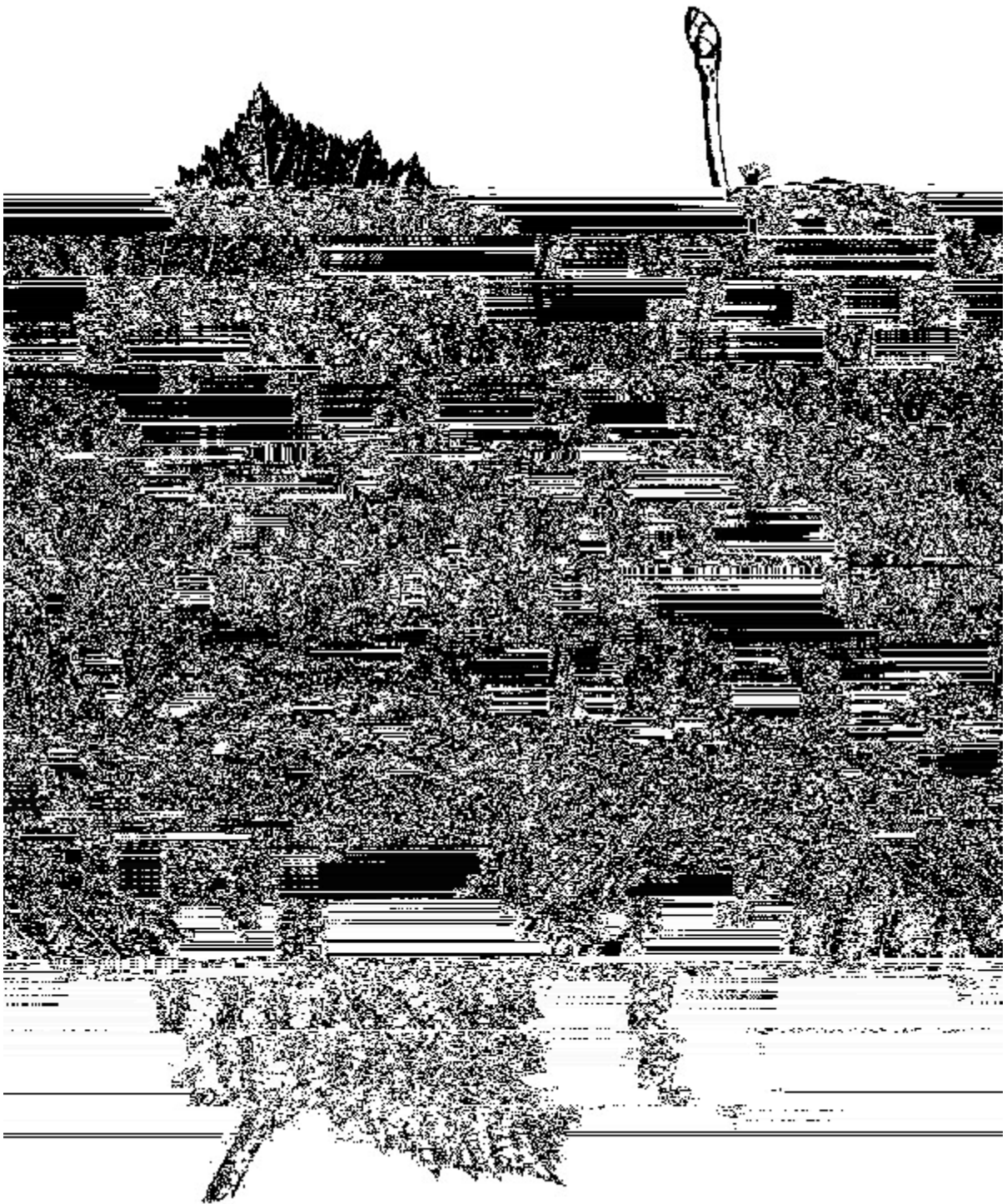
(Brassica Department, John Innes Institute, Norwich) came for two weeks, 31 October - 11 November, to work on *Brassica napus* chromosomes.

(University of Vienna) is working for two months in the Phytochemistry Laboratory identifying the biologically active flavonoids of *Passiflora incarnata* L. for her doctoral thesis.

(Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid) is spending four weeks in the Herbarium working on the genus *Saxifraga* for *Flora Iberica* and the Floristic Biodiversity of N. Morocco project.

(Jardín Botánico 'Viera y Clavijo', Las Palmas de Gran Canaria) is visiting the Herbarium and working on specimens of the genus *Silene* from the Canary Islands. (Dave moved down from Liverpool with Professor Vernon Heywood and was Curator of until he left in 1974 for his present post - and "yes, I have just completed 20 years as Curator!").

Mr Abdisalam Hassan is going to Somalia in January to collect herbarium specimens and seeds. This is in conjunction with his PhD research studies on the genus *Ormocarpum*



died suddenly in Paris recently following an operation. We got to know Ru through the Leiden 'Botanical Diversity of the Indo-Malay Pacific' E.U. Network. He was helping Dr Helen Fortune-Hopkins at the Paris node of our Network on Cunoniaceae research for he had accumulated an enormous amount of data on this family.

Ru was born in Leenwarden, the Netherlands, and trained at the Universities of Groningen and Leiden. For many years, he worked in New Guinea for the Australian CSIRO Division of Land Research. From 1968 to 1970 he was a Research Fellow at the Australian National University, Canberra but on retirement returned to Europe, first to Leiden and latterly lived in Paris. Here he continued his studies of various families, particularly the Dilleniaceae. He had visited Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island several times and the recent *Flora of Australia* volume 49 (the Flora of these two islands was almost entirely written by Peter Green of Kew) published last May, was dedicated to him. Latterly, he had been deeply involved with nomenclatural matters, especially the names of families. At times for some years, he had been seriously ill but during periods of remission, had worked at the Natural History Museum in Paris. He will be much missed. e9380.0006 Tw 12 0 00.3202 487.981 ill be m

for International Relations, to work on the traditional medicinal plants of Honduras. The *Manual Popular de 50 Plantas Medicinales* that he produced is now in its 3rd edition, has sold over 10,000 copies in the Spanish version, and has appeared in a pirated English version. This Manual was directly responsible for Paul being invited by the Tawahka, an indigenous tribe now reduced to about 700 people, to make a similar study of their medicinal plants. This has grown into a wider investigation of the ethnobotany and agriculture of the Tawahka, supervised jointly by the Department of Agricultural Botany and the Departm

Professor Vernon Heywood and Dr Stephen Jury attended the workshop `Conservation of

The visit to Al Hoceima for a night gave the opportunity for a change of diet with splendid mixed platter of fried and grilled seafood. The route to Ketama was bleak but with *Ilex aquifolium* spectacularly in fruit. *Prunus lusitanica* (Portuguese Laurel) was also fruiting well near the road in open Cedar forest. Terry was eventually prized away from the moss-covered boulders and dragged reluctantly back into the Nissan. After a night in ChefchaouŇn, the team returned to Rabat, tempted to make further collections of *Iris planifolia* and autumn bulbs en route. The brief stop in Rabat allowed som