

HERBARIUM NEWS 43

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Welcome to another Herbarium News! We have to report that there have been many new activities and changes since our last issue at the end of 2004: 60 more herbarium cabinets installed, the library re-organised, grants received to assist our teaching and research missions, and, as some of you will have heard, the University has merged our School of Plant Sciences with that of Animal and Microbial Sciences, as well as Applied Statistics, effective from the 1st August 2005, see more below.

HERBARIUM CABINETS

We have been fortunate in that the University has purchased 60 metal herbarium cabinets for us from the Natural History Museum. Th

aggregation – the new School of Biological Sciences comprising the former Schools of Plant Sciences, Animal and Microbial Sciences and Applied Statistics. This all means business as usual for the Centre. There are a variety of refurbishments and new buildings in the pipeline: refurbishment of part of the old Tate & Lyle Tower, a new building behind Chemistry and new growth room facilities. This will eventually result in the closure of the old 'Zoology Tower'. The new School came into being on August 1st when Professor Nick Batty (Centre for Horticulture) took over as the new Head, with Professor Mike Dennett as Deputy and Professor Philip John (originally Agricultural Botany) Head of Teaching. Further refurbishment of Plant Sciences by the installation of new windows, rewiring, replumbing and the removal of yet more asbestos is also being talked about!

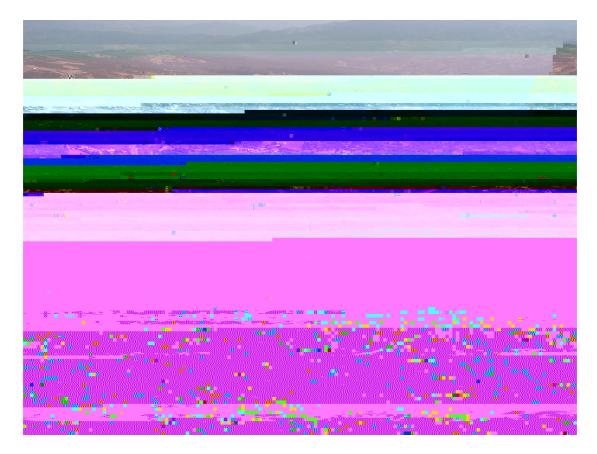
AHRC GRANT FOR HERBARIUM WORK

Dr Stephen Jury has received a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council of £20,000, supplemented by a further £12000 from the University's own funds to create and develop a research and learning resource for the Herbarium over the internet. It is proposed to improve access via the internet and enhance the Herbarium's relevance to teaching and research by building on the already much-used Herbarium website and our recent floristic projects on the Mediterranean Basin. We are grateful to Kate Arnold-Foster and the University's Museum, Archives and Collections Committee for their support.

Identification of Mediterranean Plants The Herbarium is receiving an increasing number of specimens, photographs and images of Mediterranean plants to identify and provide information. The idea is to create a useful identification tool to enable these people to recognise plant species themselves, and at the same time teach them 7. C/LNCNyH'OD about thmenh, ain the LDFjL7'NhHEkD7FjL7'NsHE'DL7kLN HE

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

The University A4 wall calendar for 2006 (£1.76 to pick up from the University's Reprographics Services, Whiteknights House, basement, room B03) portrays Nymphaea lotus from Andrews Botanical Repository of 1804 for January. This was grown in Whiteknights by the Marquis of Blandford. The page also has "Did you know... The University of Reading's Herbarium is a world resource for botanists and contains over 264500 plant specimens



The town of Chefchaouèn from track to Jbel Kalaa.

blue-mauve C. sabatius subsp. mauritanicus.

concerned with getting PSL's practical classes organised on time and in good order.

THE SOUTH AFRICA BIG GENERA GROUP

Mediterranean invasive species

Professor Vernon Heywood participated in an International Workshop on "Invasive Plants in the Mediterranean Type Regions of the World", co-organized by the Conservatoire Botanique National Méditerranéen de P

Professor Heywood has devoted much of the year to preparing a completely rewritten edition of this popular book. The other principal authors are Dr R K Brummitt, Dr Alastair Culham and Professor Ole Seberg. I am pleased to report that all the accounts of the families are now complete. Publication is expected later this year.

PUBLIC LECTURE

Professor Sir Ghillean Prance gave a public lecture in the University last November to an audience of over 300 people. His title 'The Explorer of Flora – an Amazon Adventure' gave a personal account of his plant collecting in the Amazon over the last 40 years. He explained how the adventures of fieldwork linked to the completion of the inventory and the production of Floras and that all needed the back-up of a good herbarium. He then outlined the work of our Herbarium and highlighted some of its collections, including an old specimen of Davallia collected by Alfred Russell Wallace and a modern type specimen, that of Lavandula rejdalii, named after one of our celebrated graduates, Professor Mohamed Rejdali, now Mayor of Temara, a city to the south of Rabat, Morocco, and collected by Dr Tim Upson.

We are grateful that Sir Iain (as he prefers to be known) takes his visiting professorial duties so seriously and was able to give up his time and deliver this lecture. We shall see him back later this term to lecture to both the MSc undergraduate classes.

THE ROBERT ALLERTON MEDAL

We also wish to congratulate Visiting Professor Sir Ghillean T. Prance on the award of the Robert Allerton Medal by the National Tropical Botanical Garden, whose headquarters are in Hawaii. This award is bestowed biennially for excellence in tropical botany or horticulture. Sir Iain has published 19 books, edited a further 14 and written over 450 papers.

CHARLES BUTTERWORTH

Dr Stephen Jury was pleased to hear news from Charl

HERBARIUM SPECIMEN ACTIVITIES

Exchanges

The Herbarium was delighted to receive 500 valuable Iranian herbarium specimens from the Department of Natural Resources at Isfahan University of Technology, where Dr Jamal Khajeddin is now head. Readers may remember Jamal, one of Dr Keith-Lucas's past PhD students. We have already sent some of our duplicates in exchange, but still await to know that they have arrived safely.

Other accessions this year, besides Moroccan, include: 10 interesting Umbelliferae sent from Edinburgh, but collected by Sabina and Martin Gardener and Turkish students on their Darwin Initiative tour in Turkey; 87 from the University of Liège; 50 from Mr Gordon Hanson of Ware, Hertfordshire, 259 Taiwanese from the Herbarium of the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, Taipei and 144 duplicates from the Natural History Museum, London, on incorporation of an old European collection. The Taiwan exchange is new and is to help provide usefu

Hawkins, J.A. Using phylogeny to investigate the origins of the Cape flora: the importance of taxonomic, gene and genome sampling strategies. Diversity and Distributions, 12, 2006, 27—33.

Heywood, V. Legumes for all. Plant Talk, 2005, 42, 41–42.

Heywood, V. In: Changing attitudes to plant introductions and invbasives. Brunel, S. (ed.), Invasive Plants in Mediterranean Type Regions of the World/ Plantes envahissantes dans les régions méditerranéennes du monde. Proceedings of the International Workshop/ Actes de l'atelier de travail international, Mèze, France, 25-27 May 2005. 2005, 85-91, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg.

Johnson, S.N., Gregory, P.J., Greenham, J.R., Zhang, X. and Murray, P.J. Attractive properties of an isoflavonoid found in white clover root nodules on the clover root weevil. Journal of Chemical Ecology, 2005 http://www.scri.sari.ac.uk/SCRI/web/site/home/StaffPages/Johnson_Scott/Johnson_Scott.asp.

Jones, A.C., White, R.J., Gray, W.A., Bisby, F.A., Caithness, N., Pittas, N., Xu,

(<u>www.gbif.net</u>). Interface design and production of the CD were done by Jorrit van Hertum at ETI, Amsterdam.

On October 15th, the Species 2000 europa project held its public presentation meeting jointly with the EC ENBI project at the Stockholm Natural History Museum. Professor Frank Bisby Publicly launched the two other Species 2000 public services, the Species 2000 & ITIS Catalogue of Life Dynamic Checklist and the Web-Services. The Dynamic Checklist (www.sp2000.org/DynamicChecklist) resembles the Annual Checklist, but operates as a dynamic virtual checklist on the Internet, polling and harvesting data from the contributing databases around the world. Frank showed an additional feature to be expanded in future − that the Dynamic Checklist has both the Global Hub (with global species databases) but also an experimental regional Euro-Hub in which Euro+Med, Fauna Europaea and ERMS can be queried. The Dynamic Checklist involves not only the content management (Yuri and Adeline) but also the work of Qinglai Ni (wrapper program support), Peter Hollas at York (hub & server management) and Ed Donavan at Cardiff (SPICE software development). This 'launch' provided a fitting end to the EC's €2.5 million europa project to be followed by the FP6 EDIT project.

Finally, in November Species 2000 & ITIS (N. American partner) demonstrated the system at the SBSTTAL7FOCNeH/D/Cl dadispaEDIS stlo on me etexT