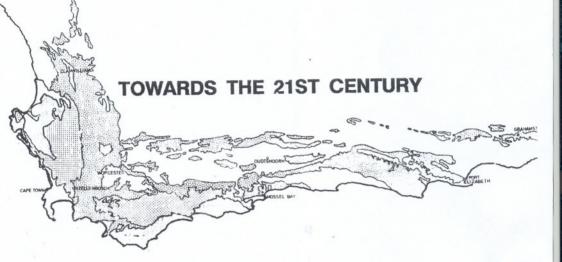
1990 ANNUAL RESEARCH MEETING OF THE FYNBOS BIOME

University of Stellenbosch

1-2 October 1990



1990 JAARLIKSE NAVORSINGSVERGADERING

VAN DIE FYNBOSBIOOM

Universiteit van Stellenbosch

1-2 Oktober 1990

TABLE OF CONTENTS

														Pa	age	
OBJECTIVES .		• •							•	•					. 3	
PROGRAMME										•	•				. 4	1
ABSTRACT OF	PAPERS														11	1
ABSTRACT OF	POSTER	s.				• 3	•								20)
ADDRESS LIST	OF PAR	TICI	PA	N	rs										23	3

2

PROGRAMME

	1	Monday, 1 October							
	07:00	REGISTRATION AND SETTING UP OF POSTERS (Botany Department, University of Stellenbosch) (A registration fee of R20,00 per person will cover the costs of conference literature, teas and the cocktail party)							
change	SESSION I	Chairman: Dr C Boucher, University of Stellenbosch							
n needs	08:30	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION Dr N Fairall, Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation							
or the esearch	08:40 - 09:00	OPENING ADDRESS Dr R D Walmsley, Foundation for Research Development							
	09:05 - 09:35	PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR RESEARCH IN THE FYNBOS Dr R M Cowling, University of Cape Town							
	CONTRIBUTED (20-minute talks	PAPERS which include 5 minutes for discussion)							
,	09:40 - 10:00	GREENHOUSE GUESSES AND THE FUTURE OF FYNBOS M Meadows & R Washington, University of Cape							

Town

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a forum for the informal exchange and review of research findings;

3

- 2. To allow discussion on future research needs and priorities; and
- 3. To discuss ways and means for the communication and implementation of research results to user agencies.

- 10:05 10:25GENETIC VARIATION IN A FYNBOS FROG,
HELEOPHRYNE PURCELLI
A Channing, University of the Western Cape10:30TEASESSION IIChairman: Mr C J Burgers, Chief Directorate:
Nature and Environmental Conservation
 - 11:00 11:20 SPECIATION IN THE CAPE FLORA H P Linder, University of Cape Town
 - 11:25 11:45 COMPETITION AND COEXISTENCE IN SOUTHERN CAPE PROTEACEAE J J Midgley & L Watson, Division of Forest Science and Technology, CSIR
 - 11:50 12:10
 A REGENERATION SURVEY IN LOWLAND

 PROTEACEAE
 W J Bond & R M Cowling, University of Cape Town
 - 12:15 12:35 CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEEDLING RECRUITMENT OF SEROTINOUS PROTEACEAE D C Le Maitre, Division of Forest Science and Technology, CSIR

12:40 - 13:00 LOTTERY MODELS FOR COEXISTENCE OF SEROTINOUS PROTEOIDS H Laurie, R M Cowling, University of Cape Town & D C Le Maitre, Division of Forest Science and Technology, CSIR

13:00 LUNCH

. 5

- SESSION III Chairman: Prof E J Moll, University of Cape Town
- 14:00 14:40 COMPARISON OF FYNBOS AND CHAPARRAL Prof J Keeley, Occidental College, Los Angeles

14:45 - 15:05 THE CAPE HONEYBEE AND THE FYNBOS H R Hepburn & A Jacot Guilarmod, Rhodes University

15:10 - 15:30 OBSERVATIONS ON INSECT POLLINATION OF PELARGONIUM, SECTION CAMPYLIA D J McDonald, National Botanical Institute

15:30 TEA

17:00

- SESSION IV Chairman: Mrs R Stanvliet, Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation
- 16:00 16:20 INSECTS AS POLLEN VECTORS OF A RARE
 FYNBOS ENDEMIC, AUDOUINIA CAPITATA
 M G Wright, D Visser & J H de Lange, Fynbos
 Research Unit
- 16:25 16:45 MICROORGANISMS, INCLUDING NITROGEN-FIXING BACTERIA, IN SOILS AND RHIZO-SPHERES OF FYNBOS PLANTS IN SWARTBOS-KLOOF, JONKERSHOEK M A Loos, K S Dreyer, M A Mulder & S M le Roux, University of Stellenbosch
 - COCKTAIL PARTY (C J Langenhoven Students' Centre, University of Stellenbosch)

TUESDAY, 2 OCTOBER

- SESSION V Chairman: P T Manders, Division of Forest Science and Technology, CSIR
- 08:15 08:45 A MANAGER'S VIEW OF RESEARCH NEEDS IN THE FYNBOS J E Lensing, Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation
- 08:50 09:10 THE FYNBOS BIOME AS A BIOSPHERE RESERVE: FRAMEWORK FOR A HOLISTIC CONSERVATION STRATEGY C J Burgers, N Fairall & R H Andrag, Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation
- 09:15 09:35 FYNBOS CONSERVATION AND COASTAL TOWNSHIPS A V Hall, University of Cape Town
- 09:40 10:00 TOWARDS CONSERVATION OF FYNBOS; THE ROLE OF INSECTS IN THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF AUSTRALIAN ACACIAS D Donnelly, Plant Protection Research Institute
- 10:00 TEA

7

10:30 - 10:50 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF THE INVASIVE WEEDS, ACACLA SALIGNA AND HAKEA SERICEA WITH THE AID OF PATHOGENS M J Morris, Plant Protection Research Institute 10:55 - 11:15 THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION AND DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FYNBOS ECOSYSTEMS B W van Wilgen, Division of Forest Science and Technology, CSIR

SESSION VI : POSTER SESSION

Chairman: Professor H R Hepburn, Rhodes University

Poster authors will each be given the opportunity of presenting a short (maximum 5 minutes) verbal presentation of their poster

11:30

G.I.S. FYNBOS FANTASIA E R Ashton & M Webster, Cape Town City Council

FYNBOS REGENERATION AFTER PINE FELLING ON TABLE MOUNTAIN H Homann & C Wagner, Orange Kloof Forest Station

AN EVALUATION OF A RENOSTERVELD CONSERVATION POSTER M Hoole & Janice Barrett, Chief Directorate Nature and Environmental Conservation

SEED BIOLOGY IN LEUCADENDRON XANTHOCONUS (PROTEACEAE) G Davis, National Botanical Institute

DYNAMICS OF SOIL-STORED SEED BANKS IN TWO ERICOID SHRUB SPECIES D J Kilian & R M Cowling, University of Cape Town

INTERPRETING SPECIES DOMINANCE VS SPECIES RICHNESS IN FYNBOS D C Le Maitre, Division of Forest Science and Technology, CSIR STUDIES OF SEEDLING COMPETITION IN PARASERIANTHES LOPHANTHA, ACACIA MELANOXYLON AND ACACIA MEARNSII P J Pieterse, Plant Proctection Research Institute & C Boucher, University of Stellenbosch

SEASONAL MICROBIAL ATP AND BIOMASS TRENDS IN TWO MOUNTAIN FYNBOS SOILS C A van Reenen & Prof M A Loos, University of Stellenbosch

REVEGETATION OF CAMPS BAY RESERVOIR -5 YEARS ON C Wagner, City Council of Cape Town

RARE FYNBOS PLANTS: FUGITIVES FROM INSECT HERBIVORES? M G Wright, D Visser & E K van der Merwe, Fynbos Research Unit

13:00 LUNCH

9

SESSION VII DISCUSSION OF FUTURE FYNBOS BIOME RESEARCH

Chairman: N Fairall, Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation

- 14:00 GENERAL MEETING
 - Effects of commercial flower picking on fynbos -B Louw, Vogelgat Nature Reserve
 - Management of mountain catchments

 Government funding for fynbos research (DEA) -B W van Wilgen, Division of Forest Science and Technology, CSIR

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- Community-based approach to conservation management in the "New South Africa" -G S Ruddock, Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation
- Future meetings

15:30	TEA
16:00	CLOSING COMMENTS AND PRIZE-GIVING
16:30	DEPARTURE

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

GREENHOUSE GUESSES AND THE FUTURE OF FYNBOS M Meadows & R Washington Department of Environmental & Geographical Science University of Cape Town Private Bag 7700 RONDEBOSCH

Much attention has been drawn recently to the phenomenon of global warming and the climates of the 21st Century; the possible effects of such climatic changes on fynbos ecosystems have, naturally, attracted a good deal of speculation. But to what extent are we able to accurately predict the rate and magnitude of climatic changes associated with an enhanced Greenhouse effect? How useful are the scenarios of vegetation change that can be stretched? Where can we best concentrate our research efforts in order to better manage the fynbos future? This paper examine the commonly held misconceptions concerning future environmental changes and suggests more fruitful research directions for fynbos ecologists.

GENETIC VARIATION IN A FYNBOS FROG, HELEOPHRYNE PURCELLI

H Barday & A Channing Biochemistry Department University of the Western Cape Private Bag X17 7535 BELLVILLE

Starch gel electrophoresis was used to study the variation in genes coding for 16 enzymes. We studies tadpoles from eight localities. This species is part of an old group, and its genetic variation may shed light on the relationships of other organisms from mountain fynbos. SPECIATION IN THE CAPE FLORA H P Linder Botany Department University of cape Town Private Bag 7700 RONDEBOSCH

The patterns of speciation in the Cape Floristic Region are analysed, using sister-species pair analysis. The sisters are determined by cladistic methods, and data from the Restionaceae (*Rhodocoma*) and several genera of the Orchidaceae are presented. These locate a range of ecological factors (edaphic, altitudinal, climatic and vegetation successional) as driving forces: allopatric speciation is not as common as previously thought.

COMPETITION AND COEXISTENCE IN SOUTHERN CAPE PROTEACEAE J J Midgley & L Watson Division of Forest Science and Technology CSIR Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre Private Bag X5011 7600 STELLENBOSCH

Nearest neighbour interactions amongst Proteaceae were determined at sites on the Swartberg and Outeniqua Mountains. We compared nearest neighbour distances at the inter and intra-specific levels. Also we compared the incidence of inter and intra-specific nearest neighbour pairs. Dispersion patterns within fixed plots were determined. Our results are discussed in terms of already published models for coexistence of fynbos Proteaceae. A REGENERATION SURVEY IN LOWLAND PROTEACEAE W J Bond & R M Cowling Botany Department University of Cape Town Private Bag 7700 RONDEBOSCH

Patterns of recruitment of serotinous Proteaceae in mountain fynbos are fairly well documented. However little is known about fire responses of lowland Proteaceae despite their importance in the flower harvesting industry. We surveyed seedling and pre-burn densities in a large number of burnt areas in southern Cape lowlands. Results indicate several important differences from mountain fynbos. We interpret results in terms of the impact of harvesting, appropriate fire frequencies and seasons and possible effects of different fire regimes on species coexistence.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEEDLING RECRUITMENT OF SEROTINOUS PROTEACEAE

D C Le Maitre

Division of Forest Science and Technology Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre Private Bag X5011 7600 STELLENBOSCH

Seed germination patterns and seedling survival of *P. neriifolia* were studied in the Swartboskloof catchment, Jonkershoek. A simple model is developed which relates seed germination and seedling survival to rainfall patterns and evaporation. This model is used to illustrate the potential effects of climate change on seedling recruitment of serotinous Proteaceae. LOTTERY MODELS FOR COEXISTENCE OF SEROTINOUS PROTEOIDS H Laurie, R Cowling & D Le Maitre Department of Applied Mathematics University of Cape Town Private Bag 7700 RONDEBOSCH

Lottery models have been proposed as an explanation for the coexistence of ecologically similar species with overlapping generations. We extend this to cover the case of discrete interfire generations. We apply the model to coexisting stands of *P. repens* and *P. neriifolia* at Jonkershoek, and conclude that stochasticity of the fire regime by itself is insufficient to explain coexistence in this case. We examine the effect of variation in inflorescence production on coexistence.

THE CAPE HONEYBEE AND THE FYNBOS H R Hepburn & A Jacot Guillarmod Department of Zoology & Entomology Rhodes University P O Box 94 6140 GRAHAMSTOWN

The Cape honeybee, Apis mellifera capensis, is a unique race of honeybee with a distribution closely matching that of the fynbos. We report that swarming and migration cycles of brood rearing, thermoregulation and foraging, as expressed in the Cape honeybee display a startling compatibility with the diversity of the flora, geographic variations in flowering cycles, and the warm winter berg winds of the fynbos. This is the first highly mobile animal having a primarily fynbos distribution. The east to west gradients in flowering phenology for the fynbos (based on regional texts) were closely correlated with similar geographic and time gradients in the colony life of the Cape honeybee. OBSERVATIONS ON THE INSECT POLLINATION OF PELARGONIUM, SECTION CAMPYLIA D J McDonald

Botanical Research Unit National Botanical Institute P O Box 471 7600 STELLENBOSCH

A brief taxonomic overview of the genus *Pelargonium* with particular emphasis on the section Campylia is presented. Section Campylia is then treated in greater depth, detailing the relationships between the ten species recognized in the section. Four species, *Pelargonium capillare* (Cav.) Willd., *P tricolor* Curt., *P. ocellatum* Van der Walt and *P. incarnatum* (L' Herit.) Moench., all with distinctive embossed 'warty areas' on at least the posterior petals, are highlighted. The significance of the warty areas for the attraction of insect pollinators is discussed. Attention is focussed on the pollination of *Pelargonium tricolor*. From consistent observations it is concluded that the warty areas on the *Pelargonium* species in question are effective in attracting dipteran pollinators. In the case of *P. tricolor*, *Megapalpus capensis*, a bombyliid fly, is particularly attracted to the embossed, black areas on the posterior petals.

INSECTS AS POLLEN VECTORS OF RARE FYNBOS ENDEMIC, AUDOUINIA CAPITATA

M G Wright, D Visser & J H de Lange Fynbos Research Unit (VOPRI) Private Bag 7607 ELSENBURG

The role of insects as pollen vectors of Audouinia capitata (L.f) Brongn. (Bruniaceae), was studied. Frequency of encounter of flower visiting insects and pollen load counts showed that small pollen feeding beetles (Nitidulidae) should be the best insect pollen vectors. Short distance pollen dispersal by these insects, however, reduces their beneficial impact on the plants. It is proposed that poor pollen transfer may be one of the reasons for the scarcity of *A. capitata*. Implications for the future of the species in nature are discussed.

MICROORGANISMS, INCLUDING NITROGEN-FIXING BACTERIA, IN SOILS AND RHIZOSPHERES OF FYNBOS PLANTS IN SWARTBOS KLOOF, JONKERSHOEK M A Loos, K S Dreyer, M A Mulder & S M le Roux Department of Microbiology

University of Stellenbosch 7600 STELLENBOSCH

Dilution plate counts of filamentous fungi, aerobic bacteria and aerobic nitrogen-fixing bacteria in three mountain soils under fynbos in Swartbos Kloof, Jonkershoek, during 1988-9 were in the ranges $2,7 \times 10^4$ - $3,5 \times 10^5$, $4,0 \times 10^5$ - $3,8 \times 10^6$ and $4,9 \times 10^5$ - $1,8 \times 10^7/g$ dry soil, respectively. Counts occasionally decreased but mainly increased in the rhizospheres of fynbos plants of the families Proteaceae and Iridaceae to yield rhizosphere count:soil count (R:S) ratios of 0,5-12,1:1, 0,8-14,4:1 and 1,6-24,1:1 for the fungi, bacteria and nitrogen-fixing bacteria were regularly higher than those for the aerobic bacteria, but direct microscopic counts of the bacteria in non-rhizosphere soils ($4,12 \times 10^8$ - $2,60 \times 10^9/g$ soil) indicated that both groups constituted only small proportions of the total bacteria in the soils. The large populations of nitrogen-fixing bacteria may be of great significance in maintaining a supply of nitrogen for plant nutrition in the nitrogen-poor mountain fynbos soils.

THE FYNBOS BIOME AS A BIOSPHERE RESERVE: FRAMEWORK FOR A HOLISTIC CONSERVATION STRATEGY C J Burgers, N Fairall & R H Andrag Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation Western Cape Research Unit Jonkershoek Private Bag X5014 7600 STELLENBOSCH

A single biosphere reserve encompassing the whole fynbos biome is proposed. Existing conservation areas would form the core of the biosphere reserve, and would be linked together as a network of conservation areas by the voluntary inclusion of privately owned land. Key elements of the concept would be a landscape-level approach to ecosystem protection and management, integration of conservation and development, active involvement of the public at a local community level and close cooperation between resource conservation and resource development agencies. The biosphere reserve should be implemented within the framework of a regional conservation strategy and national land capability classification, which should form the basis for decisions on land acquisition to ensure an adequate system of core conservation areas.

FYNBOS CONSERVATION AND COASTAL TOWNSHIPS A V Hall Bolus Herbarium University of Cape Town Private Bag 7700 RONDEBOSCH

Landowners in coastal townships have conflicting expectations about the natural quality of their fynbos and normal domestic needs. These conflicts are widely overlooked: at best they get patchy attention, at worst benign neglect. On the one hand, landowners are delighted with their Fynbos, but expect to have their house surrounded by lawns and sheltering trees, often invasive alien Kikuyu and Acacia. Gradualism and over-dense urban planning ensures that the original expectations of natural, wild quality vanish with time. Suppression of fire causes high fuel loads with the risk of disastrous fire-storms. Landowners get almost no advice on the taxonomic contents, rarity and ecological needs of their fynbos. Research is needed on fire management of fynbos among resort houses; reviews of urban density and fynbos survival; and functional replacements for useful but invasive plants. This has major implications for the financial success of the burgeoning tourist industry.

TOWARDS CONSERVATION OF FYNBOS: THE ROLE OF INSECTS IN THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF AUSTRALIAN ACACIAS D Donnelly Plant Protection Research Institute Private Bag X5017

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A number of Australian Acacia spp. are important weeds in fynbos. Two of these species are also crops. The conflict of interest that this has created for biological control has largely been resolved by considering insects that attack reproductive plant parts. To date, eight Australian insect species have been considered in the Acacia biocontrol programme, of which four have already been released. In addition, two indigenous insect species have potential for biocontrol. In this paper, the agents are reviewed, and the strengths and weaknesses of the respective projects are discussed.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF THE INVASIVE WEEDS, ACACIA SALIGNA AND HAKEA SERICEA WITH THE AID OF PATHOGENS M J Morris Plant Protection Research Institute Private Bag X5017 7600 STELLENBOSCH

Acacia saligna and Hakea sericea are two of the most important invasive weeds of the fynbos. Due to the large areas infested with these weeds, and the high cost of adverse environmental effects of mechanical and chemical control, biological control programmes have received priority. An Australian gall-forming rust fungus, Uromycladium tepperianum, was first released into stands of A. saligna in South Africa during 1987. Since then the fungus has been established at over 80 sites throughout the southern and south-western Cape Province. A fungus, Collectorichum gloeosporioides, was found to be the cause of a locally occurring disease of H. sericea. A wheat bran formulation of this fungus effectively controlled young H. serica seedlings emerging after a fire. Commercial production of a formulation of the fungus is currently being investigated.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION AND DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FYNBOS ECOSYSTEMS B W van Wilgen

Division of Forest Science and Technology CSIR Jonkershoek Forestry Research Centre Private Bag X5011 7600 STELLENBOSCH

Much has been done towards gaining an understanding of the way in which fynbos ecosystems function. Many models have been developed to predict fire behaviour and effects, the potential spread of invasives, the population dynamics of fynbos plants under different fire regimes, the effects of fire on catchment water production, and so on. Despite this, the practical problems of integrating this knowledge, and using it to make rational management decisions remains largely unsolved. The increasing demands on managers, combined with the knowledge explosion, means that the new solutions offered by rapidly developing information systems technologies are the only way in which rational ecosystem management will be achieved. This paper describes recent developments in this field, and describes (by means of examples) how the management of fynbos ecosystems can be improved through their application.

20

ABSTRACTS OF POSTERS

AN EVALUATION OF A RENOSTERVELD POSTER J Barrett & M Hoole Chief Directorate: Nature & Environmental Conservation Private Bag X9086 8000 CAPE TOWN

The Chief Directorate Nature and Environmental Conservation produces posters for the purpose of creating awareness of conservation issues. However, current research suggests that the design of these posters is not effective, and that the posters are not a viable means of conveying conservation messages.

Furthermore, the CDNEC is particularly concerned about the conservation status of renosterveld in he south-western Cape, and in an initial attempt to inform land-owners, a "renosterveld" poster was designed. However, when the poster was presented to a group of farmers the results were disappointing.

The poster, and an accompanying information leaflet - both as yet unpublished - are on display, and some critical comment would be appreciated.

SEASONAL MICROBIAL ATP AND BIOMASS TRENDS IN TWO MOUNTAIN FYNBOS SOILS C A van Reenen & M A Loos Department of Microbiology University of Stellenbosch 7600 STELLENBOSCH

Microbial ATP and biomass were monitored in granite-derived Glenrosa and sandstone-derived Clovelly soils in Swartbos Kloof, Jonkershoek, from March 1987 to May 1989. Biomass was calculated from direct microscopic bacterial, actinomycete and fungal biovolume determinations. The ATP showed peaks during spring/early summer and late summer/autumn, and declined during summer and winter. Microbial biomass carbon showed negative linear correlations (r = -0.83 to -0.58) with ATP per mg biomass carbon, suggesting that ATP was a poor indicator of viable microbial biomass. However, the ATP would have depended on the metabolic activity of the soil microbial populations as well as their biovolume; furthermore, the staining technique used for the microscopic biovolume determinations did not differentiate viable from dead cells. Nevertheless, we concluded that spring/early summer and late summer/autumn were the seasons most favourable for microbial development, in contrast to the dry summers and cold, wet winters when populations and their activity declined. The inverse relationships between ATP per mg biomass-C and biomass-C seems attributable to more constant levels of ATP than biomass through the seasons, but the basic reasons for this difference are at present unknown.

21

BEST PAPER AWARDS FOR FYNBOS RESEARCH MEETING

Two awards will be made at the conclusion of the Fynbos Research Meeting.

1. BEST STUDENT PAPER

Presented for the best scientific paper delivered by a full-time registered post-graduate student (or students). Written proof from their supervisor that the main part of their paper has been done by themselves must please be provided.

2. BEST RESEARCH PAPER

Presented to the best scientific paper delivered by a researcher (or researchers).

CRITERIA FOR AWARD WILL BE:

- Confidence of speaker
- · Clarity of speech
- Logic of presentation
- Quality of visual material
- · Impact on Fynbos Research Programme
- · Consideration of scientific principles

The judges reserve the right not to make any award should papers not be deemed to be of a satisfactory standard.

The judges will remain anonymous throughout the meeting and their decision will be final. No further discussions will be entered into after the prize-giving.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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