



results compared with morphological and palynological data within a cladistic framework.

As yet we have no word on the accompanying NERC postdoctoral Research Fellowships; applications from Reading and Birmingham are still being evaluated by NERC.

The arrival of Joe Mullins from Dublin (see elsewhere under 'Botanical Diversity of the Indo-Pacific Region') to work with Dr Alastair Culham on a new molecular project, further strengthens our Molecular Systematics group. (Most of our systematics research students are joining this group for a period to add a molecular component to their studies).

PROFESSOR M.W. DICK

We wish to congratulate Michael on being given a personal chair and becoming Professor of Mycobiology. Nobody has used this title 'Mycobiology' before, but it serf 6(TEMC/P 4MCID o3.4002b2r

Research students

Shaida Fariza Sulaiman (ex-USM, Malaysia) has started a res

After an absence of seven years, during which he worked for IUCN - The World Conservation Union as its Chief Scientist, Plant Conservation and as Director of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Professo

6. Mr Rogier de Kok (from Leiden, now at Oxford): Labiatae/Verbenaceae.
7. Ms Josefine Schneidt (from Germany, now at Aberdeen): Asclepiadaceae.
8. Ms Nicoletta Cellinese (from Italy but working at BM, [a Reading graduate], going to Mainz): Melastomataceae -

also paid to the weed and ruderal floras. This iter also yielded another 500 numbers, again pressed into two sets of plant presses, and although there was extra work in the field, not needing to take the specimens destined for Rabat back to Reading, the excess baggage charges were considerably reduced.

Further expeditions are planned this autumn, continuing the successful ones last year, and again concentrating on the abundant autumn bulbous species. It is also planned that Dr Stephen Jury will attend the National Seminar on Biodiversity: "Resources Phytogenetiques et Developpement Durable" to be held at the IAV, Hassan II, 24-26 October. (Professor Heywood will be speaking on "Aspects economiques de la conservation de la biodiversite". Other delegates will be coming from Geneva, Rome, Aleppo, Alger, Tunis, Izmir and Tambacounda).

... AND ON TO SOUTHERN MOROCCO

After the March collecting expedition in northern Morocco, Mr Tim Upson remained in Rabat, not only to ascertain that the 'Restaurant Oasis' really was the best Moroccan restaurant in the capital, but to await the end of Ramadan and the return of Dr Jury. They were then splendidly entertained to luncheon by Mr Mohamed Ait Lafkih in his home. It was an honour to join in the traditional feast of Eid Al-Fitir, but it was not to last as they were joined by Bushra Tahiri and a Renault 4 belonging to the Institut Agronomique et Veterinaire to set off on a *Thymus* and *Lavandula* hunt in the south. (Bushra Rahiri was undertaking a PhD in Rabat on the genus *Thymus*; Tim's interest in Lavenders is now infamous.)

It was not long before Hassan Offendi's town of Marrakech was

complete roll of film here). A visit to Tata yielded good bushes of *L. coronopifolia* and *L. mairei*, besides material of such desert plants as *Calotropis procera*, *Eremophyton chevallieri* and *Reboudia pinnata*

Conservation of Plants and Gardens). Dr M. Shah, a taxonomist at the Pakistan Science Foundation also took part.

Over 700 plants were collected, including lichens, mosses and seeds from Gilgit, Yasin, Hunza and Skardu Valleys, Khunjerab Top, and Deosai Plains.

They are grateful to the Royal Geographical Society, London for approval of the expedition plans and for the financial help given by The Alpine Garden Society, The Round Table Trust, The Lindeth Charitable Trust, The Percy Sladen Trust, The Oleg Polunin Memorial Fund and the S.H. Abdeali Ziaudin Trust. They also acknowledge and appreciate the collaboration of the Pakistan Science Foundation, Islamabad, for providing transport and other local help.

AETFAT

The Association pour l'Etude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique Tropicale (A.E.T.F.A.T.) recently held a meeting in the Netherlands. Reading students and graduates were very much in evidence at this meeting! Estrela Figueiredo, Smart Lungu, Paul Mbugua and Francis Gachathi attended from PSL, and all presented posters. Professor Vernon Heywood was chairman for one of the symposia.

It was reported that the hotel was in the middle of the countryside with splendid views, but with an appalling smell of the local cows coming through the air-conditioning!

AN IRISH JAZZ

Dr Jury recently visited Trinity College, Dublin to give a well- attended seminar on his work on the Moroccan flora. This was part of a series held weekly throughout the term.

In the evening he gave another lecture on Morocco to a joint meeting of the Irish Garden Plant Society and the Alpine Garden Society. This concentrated on

Nelson mentioned it was re-cycled limestone from County Laoise, but not that it came from a cemetery!) However, Stephen found the most splendid and memorable part of his visit to the Emerald Isle was the Old Schoolhouse at Swords!

SUMMER CIMICIFUGA FIELDWORK

During August and early September, James Compton visited three western States of the USA to search for Cimicifugas, two narrowly distributed species and one of slightly wider range. Oak Creek and a few other deep canyons in N. Arizona possess a specialised mesophytic flora not characteristic of the nearby arid desert. Carved by streams through hundreds of feet of red sandstone from the Coconino plateau (7000 ft), the canyon bottoms (5000-6000 ft) are a haven for the relict species *C. arizonica* S. Wats. The constantly shady, leaf-rich soil beside the Oak creek encourages such plants as *Cornus stolonifera*, *Rosa arizonica*, *Lobelia cardinalis* and *Polemonium albiflorum*. *Cimicifuga arizonica* is a perennial growing to almost 2m and producing upright virgate white-flowered panicles covered in short glandular hairs.

Cimicifuga laciniata S. Wats. was found growing 900 miles NW of Flagstaff, Arizona, at 4000 ft, beneath Mt. Hood in Oregon Stat

Reading readers may be interested in this comprehensive and very flexible bibliographic database system. Copies of the program are available from our Computer Services Centre. Version 7.0.1B can be obtained for 25(pounds) and full manuals are available.

CONGRATULATIONS

Antonio Toscano de Brito recently submitted his thesis (Systematic studies in the subtribe Ornithocephalinae (Orchidaceae)) and has been examined by Dr Peter Gibbs; it has been recommended to the University Senate that the degree of Doctor of Philosophy be awarded. Antonio.

Congratulations to **Dr Paul F. Cannon** (BSc 1976, PhD 1981) on his promotion to Principal Scientific Officer at the International Mycological Institute, Egham.

Readers will be delighted to learn that **Dr Riyadh Haddad** (PhD 1987) was promoted last January to Director of Scientific Affairs and Postgraduate Studies of the University of Basrah. (Riyad has only Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor to go). I am envious of him having his own private secretary and chauffeur-driven car. He is still giving lectures in taxonomy. We look forward to the day when he can visit us again.

Khadija Biari (UNEP Course, 1993) celebrated her wedding last year and in addition to her work at the Jardins Exotiques is engaged in teaching plant and flower culture in Rabat.

Lawrence Springate (MSc, 1992) has now left Reading and taken up a job at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Lawrence will be working on the Flora of Bhutan project.

Congratulations to **Dr Domingo A Madulid** (PhD 1980) of the Plants Unit, National Museum, P. Burgos St., Manila, P.O. Box 2659, Philippines for securing a 3-year grant from the John D. and Catheryn T. MacArthur Foundation based in Chicago to establish a Biodiversity Information Centre - Plants Unit in the Philippines. The other *Herbarium News* (14 (3 & 4): 12) from **MO** reports:

Congratulations to **Dr Andre Mauricio de Carvalho** (PhD 1989) on the receipt of The Rupert Barneby Award. Andre, still at Centro de Pesquisas do Cacau, Cepec, Divisao de Botanica, Caixa Postal 7, 45600 - Itabuna, Bahia, Brasil, will use his award to continue his work on a taxonomic treatment of New World *Dalbergia*.

Andre shared the 1993 award with Professor Ricardo Vanni of the Instituto de Botanica de Nordeste, Corrientes, Argentina.

Carlos Sombrero

Carlos Sombrero (Diploma in Scientific Horticulture, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1984), BSc Botany (1987) and PhD (1992) has married Andrea Guichard in the Parish Church of Corfe Mullen, Dorset on Saturday, 3 September. We send Dr and Mrs Sombrero every good wish for their future together.

Dr Jim Ross (Carlos's sometime supervisor) was best man. Though the weather was not of the best, it in no way interfered with a warm and joyous occasion. The happy couple spent their honeymoon in the Canary Islands. The Sombreros thank the members of Plant Science Laboratories who contributed to a cheque.

SALLY GLOCKLING

Sally has also recently submitted her PhD 'Predacious and parasitoidal fungi in association with herbivore dung in deciduous woodlands' and was examined by Dr R.C. Cooke of Sheffield. Senate has been recommended that the degree be awarded.

We also congratulate Sally following her interview in Brussels last summer. She has been awarded a Science and Technology Agency Fellowship Award, Programme of Japan. We send Sally our very best wishes for her work in the Far East.

DR ALECK T.Y. YANG

It has been recommended to Senate that Aleck be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his thesis on Clematis section Viorna sensu Prantl. It seems that the External Examiner, Dr David Sutton, grows quite a number in his garden! Congratulations Aleck.

LOUIS RONSE DE CRAENE

A card has been received from Catherine and Louis Ronse de Craene who are very happy to announce the birth of Alexandre, in Bruges on 23 June, a brother for Camille.

Louis now has a research grant from the National Science Foundation and continues his work on floral ontogeny. (Clearly, yet another box file for "R" reprints will be needed!) Congratulations!

RITA FARRELL

We must also give Rita Farrell our best wishes and congratulations on her recent marriage.

PHIL GARNOCK-JONES

Congratulations to Phil on becoming Professor of Plant Science at the Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand (Phone: +64 4 4721000; Fax +64 4 4715331; Internet email: Phil.Garnock-Jones@matai.vuw.ac.nz). Phil has now found a house, if still haggling over price and conditions of contract. He reports:

"I have settled into the new job now, and the School of Biological Sciences congratulates you."

on trees) for July and August. Victoria's work confirms the presence of *Squamidium brasiliense* (Hornsch.) Broth., a new genus for the Malawian flora.

The Society is hoping to stage another expedition, this time to the Ruwenzori Mountains, probably in 1996.

CONSERVATION OF BRYOPHYTES IN EUROPE: MEANS AND MEASURES

Dr Royce Longton has just returned from Zurich where, in his capacity as Vice-President of the International Association of Bryologists, he officially opened the second symposium on endangered bryophytes held 4-8 September.

Royce also gave a paper on the genetics of rare moss species in the first session on the scientific basis of bryophyte conservation.

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The above Convention was held at the University of Reading from Thursday 21st to Sunday 25th September. The venue for lectures was the Palmer Building. On Friday evening, around 1800 hours, the 200-odd delegates paid a visit to the School of Pla93.

(except perhaps the queues for the food!) and

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Galanthus peshmenii 1(1)

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BOOK REVIEW

Flora of Madeira. Edited by J.R. Press and M.J. Short. Pp.xvii + 574. The Natural History Museum and HMSO, London, 1994. Price £35 (ISBN 0-11-310017-5).

The archipelagos comprising Macaronesia, from the Azores in the north to the Cape Verde islands in the south, have long been of considerable interest to evolutionists and phytogeographers. Lying along the eastern margin of the Atlantic Ocean but isolated from the adjacent parts of southern Europe and western Africa they still retain fragments of the Tertiary vegetation which originally flanked the Tethys Sea separating Europe from Africa. Elements of this flora are preserved in parts of Macaronesia, notably the Canary Islands and Madeira, their closest relatives now being found in S.E. Asia. The subtropical rainforest (*laurisilva*) where these relicts now occur seems to exist because of the mild, humid conditions in parts of these oceanic, macaronesian islands. Furthermore, the islands' isolation has permitted evolution in plant-groups away from pressures present in the continental areas. This had led apparently old, woody groups, such as *Argyranthemum*, *Echium* and *Sonchus*, with herbaceous, often weedy representatives elsewhere, to give rise to many endemic species in Macaronesia. This speciation within groups which would otherwise be considered as palaeo-endemics is known as 'active epibionty' and contributes to the great scientific interest of such oceanic island-groups.

Because of their interesting and picturesque topographical diversity, their accessibility from ± adjacent highly populated areas and their suitability for cultivation, many parts of Macaronesia have been greatly modified by European man since their colonization in the 16th century. Nowhere has this been more profound than in the Canary Islands and Madeira, much visited by tourists - especially from NW Europe.

The scientific, horticultural and conservation importance of such islands has been widely recognized, as has the great value of documenting the plants which are to be found there. This definitive Flora of Madeira fulfils the necessary criteria.

The Introduction, outlining the topography, geology, climate, vegetation and history is accompanied by useful maps indicating features of interest. This is followed by a section

detailing the use of the *Flora* and criteria followed in its preparation. A key to the families involved then leads on to the taxonom

David Webb retired from his post as Head of the School of Botany, Trinity College, Dublin then as a member of their teaching staff and finally in 1984 as Curator of the *TCD*

HEDYSARUM WORK

