AUSTRALIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Council

President
Peter Weston
National Herbarium of New South Wales
Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
Mrs Macquaries Road
Sydney, NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9231 8111
Fax: (02) 9251 7231
Email: Peter.Weston@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Vice President
Dale Dixon
Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
Mrs Macquaries Road
Sydney, NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9231 8171
Fax: (02) 9241 2797
Email: Dale.Dixon@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Secretary
Gillian Brown
School of Botany
The University of Melbourne, Vic. 3010
Tel: (03) 8344 7150
Fax: (03) 9347 5460
Email: asbs_secretary@anbg.gov.au

Treasurer
Frank Zich
Australian Tropical Herbarium
E2 building, J.C.U. Cairns Campus
PO Box 6811
Cairns, Qld 4870
Tel: (07) 4059 5014
Fax: (07) 4091 8888
Email: frank.zich@csiro.au

Councillor
Pina Milne
National Herbarium of Victoria
Royal Botanic Gardens
Birdwood Ave
South Yarra VIC 3141
AUSTRALIA
Tel: (03) 9252 2309
Fax: (03) 9252 2423
Email: pina.milne@rbg.vic.gov.au

Councillor
Tanya Scharaschkin
School of Natural Resource Sciences
Queensland University of Technology
PO Box 2434
Brisbane, Qld 4001
Tel: (07) 3138 1395
Fax: (07) 3138 1535
Email: t.scharaschkin@qut.edu.au

Public Officer
Annette Wilson
Australian Biological Resources Study
Dept of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra, ACT 2601

Other Constitutional Bodies

Hansjörg Eichler Research Committee
Bill Barker
Betsy Jackes
Greg Leach
Kristina Lemson
Chris Quinn
Chair: Dale Dixon, Vice President
Grant applications close: 14 March 2011.

Affiliate Society
Papua New Guinea Botanical Society

ASBS Website
www.anbg.gov.au/asbs
Webmaster: Murray Fagg
Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research
Australian National Herbarium
Email: Murray.Fagg@environment.gov.au

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From the President

Firstly, it is my great pleasure to draw your attention to the announcement in this issue of the ASBS Newsletter by Secretary Gillian Brown that the two special resolutions that had recently been put to members, and for which a formal vote was held at a General Meeting held on 15 March at the National Herbarium of New South Wales, were both passed overwhelmingly. ASBS is now the Australasian Systematic Botany Society and the rules governing the way that we change the Society’s rules have now been brought into line with the legislation under which ASBS is incorporated.

The change to our Society’s name now makes us an international society, albeit one that is still firmly rooted in Australia as a result of its incorporation in the Australian Capital Territory and the fact that the great majority of our members are Australian botanists. However, the name change sends a message to botanists based in New Zealand, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Guinea that we welcome them as members and as potential office holders of ASBS. The change to Rule 30(5)b will allow future ASBS Councils to be reasonably responsive to changes in our Society’s environment without having to go to the extraordinary lengths to which recent Councils have had to go to achieve sensible and sometimes mandatory rule changes.

ASBS Council had to work hard to organise the ballot for these Special Resolutions and to ensure that over 75% of financial members voted, as required by the old rule 30(5)b. In particular, Secretary Gillian Brown and Councillor (Memberships) Pina Milne, had to contribute many hours of their time to administer this process. I am very grateful to both of them for their hard and effective work and to all of the members who made the effort to participate actively in the running of ASBS by voting on the Special Resolutions, either in person at the meeting or by proxy.

Some of you may have noticed a new page that Webmaster Murray Fagg has put up on the ASBS website called “Opportunities in Plant Systematics”. There is a link to this in the “latest news” column on the right hand side of the ASBS home page. The purpose of this new page is to disseminate information on advertised jobs, scholarships, fellowships and grants as well as other opportunities open to plant systematists. As well as having links to permanent, regular opportunities such as the Hansjörg Eichler Awards, this page will also feature irregular and one-off opportunities such as the notice that is presently there for the Second National Postgraduate Training Workshop in Systematics, to be held at the University of Adelaide from 25-30 September 2011. If you are aware of any such opportunities for which notices have not already been posted on this page, please email the relevant information either to me or to ASBS Secretary Gillian Brown.

ASBS Council was recently approached by the Australian office of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to administer a postgraduate scholarship in taxonomy on its behalf. The Nature Conservancy is a Non-Government Organisation with a mission to “preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive” (http://www.nature.org/aboutus/visionmission/index.htm). TNC was established in the USA in 1951 and now has chapters or offices in all American states and 31 other countries. It is perhaps best known for its impressive record of conserving threatened habitats by buying and managing land but it also invests a lot of money in support of conservation-related scientific research projects. ASBS Council is presently negotiating this proposal with TNC and hopefully we will be able to reach a mutually beneficial agreement in the near future.

The International Botanical Congress is fast approaching and ASBS is formally involved with the conference in several ways. Firstly, the Society is sponsoring two symposia: Sym104: Patterns and Processes in the Evolution and Biogeography of the Australasian Flora (Organisers: Dr Maria Gandolfo and Dr Mike Bayly) and Sym083: A Perspective in Species Radiation – the New Zealand Story (Organiser: Dr Ilse Breitwieser). As part of our sponsorship agreement with the IBC we will be providing at least $6,000 in
travel assistance to ASBS student members. Applications for students presenting a poster or oral presentation are now open and need to be with the Secretary by the 31st of May 2011. Further details and application forms can be found on our website at http://www.anbg.gov.au/asbs/student.html. Professor Mike Crisp of the Australian National University will be delivering the Nancy Burbidge Lecture, “Evolution of the Australian flora”, as one of the IBC plenary lectures. The ASBS Annual General Meeting will be held at 1.30 pm on the free afternoon of Wednesday 27th July 2011 at the conference venue, The Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. ASBS members will get an opportunity to socialize together in one place at the ASBS conference dinner, which will be held at University House (The University of Melbourne) on the evening of Friday the 29th of July at 7pm. A three course meal will be laid on with drinks included, at a cost of $75 per person. ASBS members and other conference participants can register for it through the IBC website (http://www.ibc2011.com/Social.htm).

Peter Weston

Articles

Acacia and the IBC
Bruce Maslin
W.A. Herbarium, Department of Environment and Conservation, Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Western Australia 6983.
Email: bruce.maslin@dec.wa.gov.au

Most readers will probably be aware of the ongoing Acacia generic name issue. In a nutshell, Orchard & Maslin (2003) proposed to change the type of Acacia from an African species (A. nilotica) to an Australian one (A. penninervis). Following a robust debate in literature and elsewhere the matter was assessed by the duly appointed committees of IAPT (i.e. the then-called Committee for Spermatophyta and the General Committee) who both recommended acceptance of the proposal with the required 60% majority. The General Committee’s recommendation was subsequently discussed at the Nomenclature Session of the 17th International Botanical Congress in Vienna, 2005, and following a vote the recommendation was upheld; the matter was then ratified at the Plenary Session of the IBC and Acacia with a conserved type is now included in the Vienna Code. Details of this history are on the WorldWideWattle website (web ref. 1). Following the IBC some people opposed the Vienna outcome, focusing their attention on the way the vote was taken at the Nomenclature Session, not on the substance of the original conservation proposal; their intention is to challenge the decision at the Melbourne IBC in July 2011. The paper by Moore et al. (2010) presents these views. The paper by McNeill & Turland (2010) explains the processes adopted in Vienna and recommends that the correct way forward for those objecting to the outcome would be to make a counter conservation proposal to again move the type. This recommendation has not been taken up and the scene appears to be set for an ‘interesting’ discussion in Melbourne. Most recently Thiele et al. (2011) summarized the issues involved and concluded that (1) the “Vienna process was fundamentally sound, and that continuance of this argument in its current form is damaging to the international nomenclatural consensus”, (2) “that reversing the decision except through standard processes would set a dangerous precedent and would, in the long term, encourage nomenclature by pressure group rather than nomenclature by due process” and (3) “the decision should stand and the world should move on”. These are sentiments that I fully endorse.

There are significant nomenclatural, and thus practical, consequences associated with the resolution of this matter.

If the original Vienna decision is upheld then the name Acacia will continue to be applied to the 1000+ species (almost 1300 taxa) that occur naturally in Australia, many of which are extensively cultivated and otherwise grown, or occur which occur as significant environmental weeds, in numerous countries around the world. A number of these species form the backbone of a multi-billion dollar forest-product industries, particularly in southeast Asia and South Africa. Outside Australia 163 species of the former Acacia

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1 This Committee has since been replaced (along with the Committee for Pteridophyta) by the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants.
subg. Acacia will be known as Vachellia; 83 of these species occur in Africa (Thiele et al. 2011). As will be discussed below, there has already been some uptake of the name Vachellia.

If the Vienna decision is overturned then, at present at least, the name Racosperma will need to be applied to the 1000+ native Australian species and the industries that are based upon them. Furthermore, we will be faced with a double-whammy because the terminations for a large number of the species and infraspecies names will also need to change, e.g. Acacia pycnantha (the official Australian national flower) would become known as Racosperma pycnanthum. The 163 species referred to above would then become known as Acacia.

ASBS readers need to be mindful that in the event of a challenge occurring at the Melbourne IBC, then decisions affecting the fate of Acacia will most likely be determined by votes cast at that meeting. How things will exactly play out at Melbourne is unknown but vote numbers will undoubtedly be important. Each person attending the Nomenclature Session has one vote, institutions also have voting rights (numbers of votes vary between institutions) and institutional votes can also be deployed through the use of proxies. With this in mind it is not surprising that Thiele et al. (2011) advised that people “should vote carefully and with due deliberation.”

It is not my intention here to recount in great detail all the issues and arguments relating to this contentious matter because these have been adequately covered by the papers referenced above. However, in view of the likely importance of vote numbers at the Nomenclature Session, there are a few points that I wish to make in the hope that at least some Members of this Society will be convinced to provide appropriate support at that meeting.

The uptake of Vachellia since 2005
There have been a number of workers from a variety of disciplines who, despite the arguments of those who objected to the outcome, have accepted the umpire’s decision at Vienna and have adopted the name Vachellia. The following are some examples of this usage.

Taxonomic combinations have now been made for all the relevant species in the Americas (52 species) and Australia (9 species), and for some (14 species) in the African/Asian region (see Banfi & Galasso 2008, Clarke et al. 2009, Glass & Seigler 2006, Hurter & Mabberley in Mabberley 2008, Kodela & Wilson 2006, Seigler & Ebinger 2005 and 2010). This means that names are now available in Vachellia for half the species of that genus.

The name Vachellia has been adopted in many publications since 2005, including flora treatments, field guides, scientific research papers and books. Significantly, Vachellia has been accepted in Mabberley’s plant-book (2008) which is a primary reference source for the correct names of vascular plant genera and families of the world. Vachellia has also been used (instead of Acacia) in some recent reviews, catalogues, field guides and Floras from South America (e.g. Forero & Romero 2009, Garwood & Tebbs 2009, Hotche et al. 2008, Ojeda-Manjarres & Carbono-Delahoz 2009 and de Queiroz 2009), central America (Garwood & Tebbs 2009), Australia (Purdie et al. 2008), and will be adopted in the forthcoming Flora d’Italia (Pignatti in prep.). A number of recent molecular genetic papers dealing with the phylogeny of Acacia sens. lat. have adopted Vachellia, e.g. Brown et al. (2008), Murphy et al. (2010), Newmaster & Ragupathy (2009) and Bouchenak-Khelladi et al. (2010). The last-mentioned of these papers is significant to the present discussion because the authors were South African. Scientific and applied publications dealing with a range of topics have also accepted Vachellia, e.g. Willmer et al. (2009: ants), Jackson (2009: spiders), Navie & Adkins (2008: environmental weeds of Australia), Adair et al. (2009: biological control of invasive acacias) and Bowman et al. (2010: biogeography).

2 I assume that this matter will first come on to the agenda on day one of the Nomenclature Session (18 July 2011) when a motion will be put to the Meeting to accept the Vienna Code (which contains an entry for Acacia with its conserved Australian type).

3 To attend the Nomenclature Session meeting you need to be registered for at least one day of the IBC Congress.
Vachellia has also been used in a range of web-based resources, for example: (1) Information brochure relating to biosecurity and woody weeds in Australia (web ref. 2), (2) interactive key to the ‘acacias’ of the New World (web ref. 3); and (3) the Australia Plant Census which provides a list of currently accepted names for the Australian vascular flora (web ref. 4).

Species numbers

When assessing conservation proposals such as that of Orchard & Maslin (2003) one of the important criteria used by the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants for assessing the impact of proposed name changes is the numbers of species that will be affected. As has already been noted, if the Vienna decision is overturned in Melbourne then there are 1000+ Australian species that will have to be called Racosperma (if indeed, this is a legitimate name) while c. 160 pan-tropical, largely non-Australian species will be called Acacia. Put another way, the decision in Vienna resulted in the name Acacia being retained for 72% of the former genus (i.e. Acacia sens. lat.) whereas if the decision is overturned then the name Acacia will be retained for a mere 11% of Acacia sens. lat.

Because this debate often focuses on Australia vs African species it is instructive to look at differences between these two continents with respect to species numbers. There are about 80 species of ‘Acacia’ (following the Vienna decision these should be called Vachellia) in Africa and 1020 species of Acacia in Australia (Thiele et al. 2011). These figures show that Australia has about 14 times as many Acacia species as does Africa. This point was originally made by Brummitt (2004) when he delivered the reasons why the Spermatophyta Committee voted in favour of the Orchard & Maslin (2003) proposal to conserve Acacia with an Australian type. Since the 2005 Vienna Congress 43 new Australian taxa of Acacia have been described (37 species and 6 subspecies) with another seven new species currently in press. To put these numbers into perspective it will be seen that in the past six years the number of just new Acacia taxa described for Australia exceeds half the total number of Acacia species that occur on the entire African continent! Furthermore, many more new species for Australia await description; conservatively I would estimate that number to be around 100. The above not only emphasizes the incredible richness of Acacia in Australia but also vindicates the decision by the Spermatophyta Committee to recommend the retypification of the genus with an Australian species in order to preserve the name Acacia for the demonstrably much larger group.

Economic matters

The impact on industry and commerce is another of the important factors that the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants must take into account when making its decisions. Unlike African acacias there are a numerous Australian Acacia species that are extensively cultivated or otherwise utilized in many countries around the world. Excellent overviews and documentation of the global commercial and applied importance of the Australian species of Acacia are provided by Midgley & Turnbull (2003) and Griffin et al. (in press). The following points are relevant to the present debate.

Since 2005 the name Acacia has become more firmly embedded in the world of commerce. In international trade the names ‘Acacia Wood’ or simply ‘Acacia’ are now used to brand furniture and other wood products made primarily from plantation-grown Australian Acacia, in particular A. mangium and some close relatives (web ref. 5). This industry is centered on Southeast Asia (most notably Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam) where there exists about 2 million hectares of Acacia plantations producing about 36 million cubic metres of wood fibre annually. This wood is worth over US$900 million to the growers or over US$7 billion as finished products (S. Midgley, pers. comm.). Indonesia is by far the largest producer of Acacia pulp, producing an estimated 3.3 million metric tonne worth $US2.7B at current market price (Griffin et al., in press). Changing the name Acacia will have potential negative impacts relating to marketing, product branding and commercial contracts in these operations; also technical manuals for plantations and pulp mills will need to be revised. As most of these commercial costs will need to be carried by the developing countries of Asia it is but one demonstration that this Acacia generic matter is not just about Africa vs Australia!
Australasian Acacias are also commercially important in a number of countries outside of Asia. For example, in South Africa, Brazil and India there is an estimated 600,000 ha of *A. mearnsii* grown in plantations for tannin (Griffin et al., in press). This species was characterized by Roux et al. (2000) as “The most profitable forestry species in South Africa...”. *Acacia saligna* is widely cultivated around the world for fodder and a wide range of other purposes (web ref. 6). This species is also a significant environmental weed in many countries, including South Africa where considerable resource is devoted to its control and eradication. As discussed by Ratnayake & Joyce (2010) Australian acacias are highly prized both within Australia and abroad for their horticultural value and as amenity plants. For example, species such as *A. dealbata*, *A. retinodes*, etc. are grown as commercial cut flower and perfume crops in France, Italy, Israel and the USA. In dollar terms the horticulture and floriculture of Australian Acacias species does rival that of the timber industry, but Ratnayake & Joyce (l.c.) consider that our Wattles represent a relatively underexploited resource for both export and domestic market opportunities.

**Racosperma.**

Although most combinations have been made in *Racosperma* there has been virtually no uptake of this name in literature or commerce. A quick web search using the comprehensive Plant Finder databases provided by the Royal Horticultural Society of the United Kingdom (http://apps.rhs.org.uk/rhsplantfinder/), Gardening Australia (http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/plantfinder/) and the National Gardening Association of the USA (http://www.garden.org/home) returned not a single entry where *Racosperma* was used as an accepted name for any plant in the horticultural industry. The web dictionary Wikipedia entry for *Racosperma* is essentially correct in characterizing this name in the following way: “The name [Racosperma] did not gain wide acceptance and has fallen into disuse following the decision to vote on a new Type species for *Acacia* which has resulted in the vast majority, including all Australian species, as *Acacia*. The decision was not an uncontroversial one.”

**Conclusion**

Not unexpectedly my view is that the Vienna decision was intrinsically sound, well-considered and unbiased, and was based on compelling argument that was comprehensively considered by the duly appointed Committees. A collateral attack on the process that led to the conservation of *Acacia* with a new type, like that which is being planned for the Melbourne IBC, is destabilizing to say the least. McNeill & Turland (2010) have indicated the appropriate way forward for those who feel disaffected by the Vienna outcome, namely, make a counter conservation proposal and let that be assessed in the normal way. This too is the view of Thiele et al. (2011). However, no such proposal has materialized. As I have shown above many people from a range of disciplines globally have in good faith accepted the Vienna outcome and have adopted *Vachellia*. Apart from this there are significant commercial industries that use the name *Acacia* in its post-Vienna sense. In my view at least it would reflect badly on botanical nomenclatural practices and procedures if now there was to be yet another change, and particularly one for which there is no sound taxonomic or nomenclatural justification.

**Endnote**

At the time of writing there is a draft proposal under development which aims to effect a ‘compromise’ with respect to the *Acacia* issue at Melbourne. An early version of this proposal that I have seen is worthy of support. However, I have not seen the final version and do not know if indeed it will be presented at (or before) the Nomenclatural Session.

**References**


Web references.


**AcaciaID:** interactive Acacia identification keys. http://ecgbiology.uio.edu/jmiller/acaciaID.php. (Iowa State University.)


**Acacia mangium.** http://www.kew.org/plants-fungi/Acacia-mangium.htm. (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.)


**Racosperma.** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racosperma (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)
AusGrass2
Bryan Simon
Queensland Herbarium

AusGrass (Sharp & Simon 2002), the first interactive key and information system on Australian grasses, was published by ABRS, Queensland EPA, and CSIRO Publishing as a saleable product on CD. It has been widely used in Australia and elsewhere and received a favourable review in the botanical literature both within Australia (Walsh 2003, Lorimer 2004) and internationally (Fish 2003, Snow 2003, Kellogg 2006).

In the intervening nine years there has been much taxonomic and phylogenetic work published on the grass family, in addition to the publication of two grass volumes of the Flora of Australia (Mallett 2005; Wilson 2009). As a result some of the grass names have changed and more will be in the grass volumes yet to be published on the paniceoid and andropogonoid grasses. Some new taxa of the tribe Paniceae have been published recently (Simon 2010) so that they can be used before the corresponding Flora volume is published.

Due to financial constraints, there are currently no plans for ABRS to undertake a second edition of AusGrass. The CSIRO Publishing Website indicates that the CD is out of stock and the preparation and publication of a second edition is not under consideration, although new copies of the CD have probably been made many times for new customers. A Google search of “AusGrass”, however, indicates that the CD is still being sold at a number of other outlets:

- NSW Primary Industries
- ANBG Bookshop
- Andrew Isles Natural History Books
- The Lawn Shop
- Weed Information
- New South Books
- Emporium Books
- Koeltz Scientific Books
- NHBS
- Alibris
- Amazon
- The Book Depository UK
- WHSmith
- The Wildflower Society of Western Australia

It is also interesting that the price for the CD varies from ca. $100 at most outlets, although one at Alibris was selling for $266.

Since the publication of AusGrass I have maintained two Delta databases of updates to the data that constituted the core of this publication, one for genera and one for species and infra-specific taxa. It has always been my intention to keep the data updated for whenever an opportunity may arise for another edition to be produced.

In addition to an Australian database I have developed and am updating a global Delta dataset GrassWorld (Simon 2007). At the 4th International Monocot Conference in Copenhagen in 2008, I presented the status of this project (Simon 2008) in the E-Taxonomy Session. The talk that preceded mine was by Vincent Smith of the Natural History Museum (Smith et al 2008) on the Scratchpads web application http://scratchpads.eu/. Vince subsequently won the Ebbe Nielsen prize in 2008, awarded annually to a promising researcher who combines biosystematics and biological diversity informatics research, for the Scratchpads project. I realised the advantages of Scratchpads to share taxonomic information and published both of these data sets under the names of GrassWorld http://grassworld.myspecies.info/ and AusGrass2 http://ausgrass2.myspecies.info/. There are currently 206 Scratchpads covering a range of animals and plants from all parts of the world as well as a couple on Alfred Russell Wallace.

It is planned that AusGrass2 will have all the information of AusGrass (common names, descriptions of genera and species, dichotomous keys to genera and species, distribution maps, scanned images, synonyms, references, glossary) as well as new information and new images that will be added from time to time. The dichotomous keys to genera and species hyperlink to the relevant descriptions as they do with AusGrass. At present the interactive identification component of AusGrass that operates using Lucid, is not planned to be part of the Scratchpad although it seems possible eventually to do so when looking at other Scratchpads (Gateway to African Plants http://gateway.myspecies.info/). In the meantime interactive sets of both AusGrass2 and GrassWorld.
will be launched on the Delta Website using
Intkey, but not in the immediate future.  

AusGrass2 is functional at present in terms of
accessing the dichotomous keys, generic and
species descriptions. Images of generic and
species distributions are being downloaded from
AVH to the fact sheets from current data on the
AVH site. Although this database requires further
scrutiny for some records (an example being five
records of the coastal genus Spinifex from inland
localities) nevertheless their presence on the fact
sheets depict present distribution of taxa better
than the AusGrass maps which are about ten years
old. However the AusGrass map images will also
be inserted under a separate directory to indicate
how distributional data has changed in some cases
since AusGrass was published. There is also a
direct link to the AVH website under Useul Links,
so that real time distributions are also available.
All the AusGrass scanned images will be attached
to the fact sheets in addition to many new ones
that have become available since then.

It is hoped that many users and testers of the
keys and data will register as members of the
AusGrass2 Scratchpad. In this way this facility can
develop to become a multi-authored website for
the maintenance of current and future taxonomic
data on Australian grasses.

As an example of the rapid progress of taxonomic
research in some groups, a recent new classification
of the danthonioid grasses has been published
(Linder et al. 2010) where the names already
supercede those published in the Flora of Australia
volume (Mallet 2005). The main change in this
paper as it applies to Australia, is the sinking of
Austrodanthonia, Notodanthona and Joycea into
Rytidosperma following the molecular cladistic
analysis of a new wide sampling of danthonioid
material following recent intensive field work
in the Southern Hemisphere (Humphreys et al.
2010).

Two other notable examples of large genera
with many name changes since AusGrass are the
transfer of most species of Brachiaria to Urochloa
and the synonymising of all species of Pennisetum
into Cenchrus.

In the case of Brachiaria and Urochloa, although
the name transfers had been made earlier than
AusGrass (references in Torres Gonzales &
Morton 2005) at the time we considered it
premature to follow this nomenclature, pending
a cladistic analysis of the whole group. This has
been done for a limited sample size based on
molecular data (Torres Gonzales & Morton 2005),
where species formerly placed in Brachiara and
Urochloa are mixed together in one cladogram,
although it must be pointed out so are species that
are still regarded as belonging to other genera
that are currently recognised (Melinis, Eriochloa,
Moorochloa (as U. eruciformis), Megathyrsus (as
U. maxima).

The phylogeny of the bristle clade of the
panicoid grasses that includes both Cenchrus and
Pennisetum has been researched for about ten years
by a number of authors, summarised in the recent
amalgamation of the two genera (Chemisquy
et al. 2010). This applies to all Australian taxa
formerly placed in Pennisetum (Simon 2010),
although some other species had prior names
under Cenchrus. These included the buffel
grasses that had only recently been transferred to
Pennisetum (Simon, Sharp and Thompson 2007,
2010) based solely on morphological spikelet
characters (Wipff 2001).

In AusGrass2 there is a link to the Poaceae of
The Australian Plant Census (APC http://www.
anbg.gov.au/chah/apc/) (Lepschi et al. 2011). All
names of APC link to the Australian Plant Name
Index (APNI) http://www.cpbbr.gov.au/apni/
index.html), whereby a complete synonymy for
Australia grasses can be found. At present some
of the APC names do not reflect some current
taxonomic treatments (Linder et al. 2010 for a
new danthonioid classification; Chemisquy
et al. 2010 and Simon 2010 for the synonymising
of Pennisetum in Cenchrus; Barkworth & Jacobs
2011 for Australian Triticeae) but will do so in
future versions.

Under Useful Links I have set up links to some
other Australian based sites connected with grass
distribution, including AVH, FloraBase, PlantNet,
eFlora. SA, and GrassWorld.

In addition to specific entry points to the
various categories of information found within
AusGrass2 that will be familiar to AusGrass
users, the data are supplemented with information
from high quality web accessible databases, to
automatically construct content rich web pages about any documented taxon. Currently these sources include Genbank, Morphbank, GBIF, Biodiversity Heritage Library, Yahoo! Images, flickr, Google Scholar and Wikipedia. However sometimes information is presented on some of these panels that bears no relation to grasses and future versions will require a judicious screening of some of these panels.

Acknowledgements

Assistance from Kehan Harman and Irina Brake of the Scratchpad team is much appreciated during the process of learning about and becoming familiar with the Scratchpad environment. Many thanks also to Yucely Alfonso for her meticulous data entry work.

References


It is my pleasure to announce that both resolutions were passed. Therefore, we are now known as the “The Australasian Systematic Botany Society Incorporated” and the wording to Rule 30(5)(b) has been changed to “it is approved by the vote of at least 75% of those members of the Society who, being entitled to vote, vote in person or by proxy at the meeting”. The updated ASBS rules and minutes from the special general meeting are available on the ASBS website. Thank you to all members who voted. Gillian Brown, ASBS Secretary

Special Resolutions Outcome

The second General Meeting to decide the outcome of two Special Resolutions to change the Society’s rules took place on Tuesday, 15 March 2011 at the National Herbarium of New South Wales. Twenty members and four councillors were present at the meeting. Prior to the meeting, 86% of financial members had voted, with two additional members voting at it in person.

The second General Meeting to decide the outcome of two Special Resolutions to change the Society’s rules took place on Tuesday, 15 March 2011 at the National Herbarium of New South Wales. Twenty members and four councillors were present at the meeting. Prior to the meeting, 86% of financial members had voted, with two additional members voting at it in person.
Morphological and molecular variation within the *Lejeunea tumida* Mitt. species group (Lejeuneaceae: Jungermanniopsida).

Matt A.M. Renner  
School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney, NSW 2006  
and  
National Herbarium of New South Wales  
Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney  
Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW2000.

**Background and Introduction**

The Lejeuneaceae contains more than 1,000 species, which is approximately one eighth of all liverwort species, and is probably the most species-rich and morphologically diverse leafy liverwort family. Morphological diversity is coupled with varied life history strategies ranging from synoicous species through monoicous and paroicous species to dioicous and even sexually dimorphic dioicous species (Schuster 1980). Various species of Lejeuneaceae occupy virtually every conceivable microsite, from submerged rocks to living leaves, from tropical lowland rainforests to subantarctic alpine herbfields.

About 127 genera have been proposed within the Lejeuneaceae to accommodate this morphological and ecological diversity. The most recently described genus was proposed to accommodate four new epiphyllous species from Papua New Guinea, in the new genus *Papillolejeunea* (Pócs 1997). These species were distinct from *Lejeunea* in their multicellular lobule apical tooth, heavily inflated lobules, and inflated ecarinate perianths. Schuster (1980) noted that the lobules of *Lejeunea tumida* s.l. were “quite unique within *Lejeunea s. lat.*, the 2-celled apical tooth is found again in no other *Lejeunea* known to me, and the almost ovoid-spheroid lobule form is also without any exact parallel”. However, these lobule characters agree with neither Mitten’s protologue, nor the lectotype designated by Grolle (1982). Furthermore, in the paper synonymising *Papillolejeunea*, Schuster (1998, p.83) remarked that for *L. pócsii* “in MS I had this species representing a monotypic subgenus of *Lejeunea* on the basis of two features: (1) the peculiar apical tooth, and (2) the strongly inflated lobules of the leaves, with conspicuously involute free margins.” These two characters are shared with Schuster’s *Lejeunea subg. Sphaerocolea*, based on *L. tumida*. So now we have three subgenera, one from New Guinea and two from New Zealand linked by various combinations of character states. For the
oldest of these subgenera, and presumably the one that will take priority when relationships between these species are resolved, we have contradictory published statements regarding the morphology of the subgeneric type, *L. tumida*.

Much has been made of the inability of morphology to provide conclusive data on species membership and relationships between species in liverworts (Gradstein *et al.*, 2003; Heinrichs *et al.*, 2004; Ilkiu-Borges, 2005; Reiner-Drehwald and Goda, 2000). Morphology supposedly confuses and confounds endeavours to resolve relationships due to its ‘enormous variability in gametophytic characters’ (Heinrichs *et al.*, 2004), and ‘the lack of stable morphological boundaries between species’ (Feldberg and Heinrichs, 2006). These assertions have been presented hand in hand with moves toward broader specific (Heinrichs *et al.*, 2001; Heinrichs *et al.*, 2004; Reiner-Drehwald and Ilkiu-Borges, 2007; Reiner-Drehwald, 2005; Reiner-Drehwald and Goda, 2000), and generic concepts (Gradstein and Reiner-Drehwald, 2007; Grolle and Zhu, 2000; Ilkiu-Borges, 2005). However, the view that leafy liverwort morphology is exceptionally variable within species that are simultaneously character-poor may reflect more on the interpretation of morphological data than morphology as a data source.

Crucially, no species within the Lejeuneaceae has been critically re-evaluated using anything other than a subjective assessment of morphological data. Although a handful of species have been re-evaluated using molecular data, these studies have not revisited morphology in lieu of resolved phylogeny. For example, the molecular test of species boundaries within *Bryopteris* by Hartmann *et al.* (2006) derived all five of their morphological characters from Gradstein (1994) and Stotler & Crandall-Stotler (1974). Primary hypotheses of morphological homology are more than simply rejected in the face of conflict with molecular data (Vogt 2008). However, because hypotheses of homology are in and of themselves testable against specific criteria (Rieppel, 2003), they can be falsified if re-evaluation finds that they fail to meet those criteria. For morphology-based analysis this means that morphological characters are based on descriptions that can themselves be critically evaluated and potentially rejected. If knowledge of phylogeny is incorporated into this evaluation, so much the better.

The published conflict, all of it based on morphological data, suggested that there really was no better place to start a re-evaluation of the utility of morphological data in informing relationships between individuals within the Lejeuneaceae, than *Lejeunea tumida*.

**Project aims:**

My PhD had three broad aims

Test the monophyly of *Papillolejeunea* + *L. pócsii* + *L. tumida* on the basis of morphological data.

Conduct independent tests of the monophyly of *Lejeunea tumida* on the basis of morphological and molecular data.

Examine patterns of morphological variation within and between *L. tumida* and *L. pócsii*.

The financial support provided through the Hansjörg Eichler Scientific Research Fund made testing the monophyly of *L. tumida* on the basis of molecular data possible.

**Summary of main findings:**

*Papillolejeunea.*

Morphological evidence does not support the monophyly of *Papillolejeunea* + *L. pócsii* + *L. tumida*. It transpires that all three characters defining *Papillolejeunea* are homoplastic within the suite of 75 individuals belonging to 23 species of Lejeuneaceae subf. Lejeuneoideae included in my analysis. Neither on their own, nor in combination do these characters furnish us with sufficient group membership criteria because *Papillolejeunea* was resolved as polyphyletic and nested well within *Lejeunea* by cladistic analyses. The logical problem of where to place *L. pócsii*, either in *Papillolejeunea*, or in *Lejeunea*, or between the two, is a non-problem because morphological data suggest that *Papillolejeunea* is not a real historical entity. Within this context *L. pócsii* cannot be intermediate between it and *Lejeunea*. This finding, along with methods and results, was published in Renner *et al.* (2008).

*Lejeunea pócsii*

It transpired that two names, *Lejeunea helmsiana*...
and *L. pócsii*, were applied to New Zealand *Lejeunea* that possessed the following three characters: a multicellular first lobule tooth, an inflated lobule carinal region, and pentacarinate perianth. I explored whether the recognition of two species was warranted by searching for size and shape differences in underleaves, lobules, and leaf lobes of nine individuals with these three characters. Cluster analysis identified three groups on the basis of size data, and two on the basis of shape. There was no concordance between cluster membership and individual membership for modules, which was evidence against the existence of more than one taxon, rather the clusters represented intra-individual polymorphism. Morphological data described an allometric relationship that appeared to account for shape differences between the types of *L. helmsiana* (Steph.) Steph. and *L. pócsii* R.M.Schust. The Helms specimen of *L. helmsiana* (one of two syntype specimens) consisted entirely of shoots with relatively large lobules and small underleaves, a morphology that was uncommon within our sample set. By contrast, the illustrations of *L. pócsii* in Schuster (1998) are more reflective of the average module morphology observed in our sample set. Although the types appear different, this may be in part due to the Helms specimen mis-representing patterns of variation by virtue of its exceptionally fragmentary nature. However, specimen size did not allow quantitative examination of the Helms specimen in herb. Stephani (G), and the type of *L. pócsii* was not available for study (in herb. R.M.Schuster). Nevertheless, I rejected the hypothesis that the names *L. pócsii* and *L. helmsiana* apply to distinct evolutionary entities. Schuster (1998) evidently overlooked Stephani’s species when describing *L. pócsii*, and as a result proposed a heterotypic synonym of *L. helmsiana*. This finding, including methods and results, was published in Renner et al. (2009).

*Lejeunea tumida*.

Three morphological entities belonging to two separate clades were resolved within *L. tumida* on the basis of morphological data collected from herbarium material. Morphological data suggested the species was polyphyletic. Traditionally, perianth morphology has been interpreted to comprise two states, either pentacarinate or inflated and ecarinate (Schuster 1963a, 1963b; Reiner-Drehwald and Schaefer-Verwimp 2008). *Lejeunea tumida* has been circumscribed by its inflated and ecarinate perianths. However, my study found that perianth morphology was best described by four homologous characters associated with perianth wall conformation and the presence or absence of dorsal, lateral, and ventral carinae, because the dorsal, lateral and ventral carinae comprise three distinct structures, no matter how carinae are homologised across the Lejeuneaceae (M.A.M. Renner unpublished data). In my interpretation of perianth morphology, tumid perianths result from seemingly independent processes of inflation of perianth walls and loss of various carinae, rather than a single correlated transformation between pentacarinate and ecarinate states. Inflated, ecarinate perianths can be ‘constructed’ by the gain of convex perianth walls, and various combinations of carinae loss. Not surprisingly, morphological data suggest that inflated ecarinate perianths have at least two independent origins. These results are in preparation for resubmission to *The Bryologist* (Renner et al. in prep).

During fieldwork for DNA material in New Zealand, a fourth entity was apparently collected for the first time. This entity was subtly different from its coastal-lowland inhabiting near relative, and apart from growing in scrub on frost flat margins in the central North Island, lacked the unique insertion of CATT in *trnL*-F possessed by the former. The phylogeny based on nrITS1 and *trnL*-F resolved 21 individuals of *Lejeunea tumida* in two clades either side of the basal-most node within *Lejeunea*. It is impossible for *L. tumida* to be more polyphyletic and still be attributed to a single genus under the existing generic classification. The combination of morphological and molecular data supported the division of *Lejeunea tumida* into four species, including two new species and one synonym reinstated as a new combination. The taxonomic component of this study has been published in Renner et al. (2010), and the molecular results are currently in press (Renner et al. 2011).

**Main conclusions drawn.**

*Lejeunea tumida* comprises four, not one, species.
Morphology is capable of unambiguously informing relationships between individuals on the basis of unique combinations of homologous characters, and should continue to have high utility in alpha-taxonomic investigations within the Lejeuneaceae, so long as interpretation of morphology is appropriate. Extensive phenetic overlap has the potential to obscure subtle yet significant qualitative character differences between species, be they closely or distanty related.

Morphology is not capable of unambiguously informing relationships between species, due to convergence and homoplasy in homologous characters. This may in part explain the shambolic state of the generic and infra-generic classification within the *Lejeunea*-generic complex.

The challenges associated with resolving the true identity of *Lejeunea tumida*, the type species of *Lejeunea* subg. *Sphaerocolea*, suggest that full and robust resolution of generic and infra-generic boundaries within the *Lejeunea* generic complex that is meaningfully tied to species taxonomy is yet some way off. However, that end is at least one step closer to fruition.

**Acknowledgments**

I would like to thank the Australian Systematic Botany Society for financial support provided through the Hansjörg Eichler Scientific Research Fund; everyone who put up with me and my thesis (more apology than thanks); Assoc. Prof. Glenda Wardle and Dr Elizabeth Brown, my supervisors; and I would like to make special mention of David J. Clarke, Sam Clayman, Carolyn Connelly, Endymion Cooper, Yvonne Davila, Graeme Finlayson, Lindsey Gray, Margaret Heslewood, Tim Parrat, Lou Pastro, Georgia Ward-Fear, Moira Williams, and Trevor Wilson for making completing this project far more entertaining.

**References**


13
Nova Hedwigia 89, 335–348
Stephani F (1896) Hepaticarum species novae. IX. Hedwigia 35, 73–140.

Lejeunea rhigophila M.A.M.Renner, from the holotype (AK300147).

ABRS Report

Staffing

We welcome John Hook as our new database manager, filling in for Robin Lawrence, whose secondment to the Atlas of Living Australia project has been extended to the end of June 2012.

Anne Ferguson is our Bush Blitz manager until mid-May, when Jo Harding returns from maternity leave. Also with the Bush Blitz team until mid-May is Berlina Bowler, as part the department’s Graduate Program.

Leah Schwartz, another member of the Bush Blitz team, has been promoted to a job elsewhere in the department, and we are recruiting her replacement, as well as a new Grants and Business Officer. Sam Cocks is currently acting as the latter role.

ABRS Advisory Committee

The ABRS Advisory Committee met in Canberra on the 6th and 7th of April, to consider applications for the National Taxonomy Research Grants round for 2011–2012.

Bush Blitz

The latest Bush Blitz (21 March to 1 April) was held in Victoria at Lake Condah, in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape, which covers several Aboriginal-managed properties. Scientists from Parks Australia, Museum Victoria, the National Herbarium of Victoria, the University of New South Wales, and the South Australian Museum took part in this Bush Blitz, the first to be conducted in Victoria as well as the first on Aboriginal-managed lands.

Publications

Flora of Australia volume 39, Alismatales to Arales has been sent to press, and publication is expected in time for the International Botanical Congress in July. It will be available from CSIRO publishing.
This volume describes 17 families of monocots in 76 genera and 256 species. Most of the families are aquatic, and include the sea-grasses, pond weeds, and some major agricultural weed species. Four families are entirely or mostly terrestrial.

These latter are probably the most recognisable and include the Palms, Pandans and Aroids.

Annette Wilson
Editor, Flora of Australia
April 2011

Obituary

MARY TINDALE
1920 – 2011

A Eulogy delivered by Dr Penny Farrant (of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Sydney) at Mary Tindale’s funeral, held at St Peter’s Presbyterian Church, 234 Blues Point Road, North Sydney, at 10 a.m., 7 April 2011.

Mary Douglas Tindale was born in Randwick, Sydney, in September 1920, the only child of George Harold and Grace Matilda Tindale. The cat was only let out of the bag last year when her cousin Elizabeth held a 90th birthday afternoon tea for her. For most of her life Mary lived by the old adage that ‘a lady should not divulge her age’.

At around ten years of age Mary’s family moved to New York. Her father, a Commonwealth Public Servant in the Diplomatic Corps, had been newly posted to New York for the purpose of working with the British Ambassador to the USA. It is here that Mary completed her Primary School education. On her return to Sydney she attended high school at Abbotsleigh in Wahroonga. After leaving school, she attended most, if not all, the yearly class reunions.

After finishing school, Mary went to Sydney University, where she completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Botany. She then did research work on fungi on parachutes for her Masters degree. This was a practical project that would assist with the war effort. At this time she also taught botany at the Roseville Girls School. She commenced work at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney in April 1944 as Assistant Botanist, mainly to do research work for a new Flora of New South Wales.

From 1949 to 1951 Mary was the first Gardens’ staff member to be appointed to the important position of Australian Botanical Liaison Officer, at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in England. In this role she enabled ‘various important research problems’ to be resolved by reference to essential literature and type specimens.

Mary travelled to England, with her mother as chaperone, aboard the P&O liner Stratheden which sailed through the Suez Canal – a voyage of just over 5 weeks. In those days flying was only for the very rich. In England they stayed in an apartment that was part of a house on the flat area of Richmond close to Kew.

Mary did a great deal of fern research at Kew and also visited herbaria all over the UK and Europe. It was while at Kew that she met three botanists that were to have an important influence on her botanical career – namely Professor Holttum from Singapore, Professor Pichi-Sermolli from Florence, and Madame Tardieu-Blot from Paris – who named a fern after her.

In 1964 Mary was awarded a Doctor of Science degree by the University of Sydney by an International Committee, one of the most seldom awarded and highest tiers of doctorates available today. She was then, in 1969, reclassified by the Public Service Board as Senior Research Scientist. Later, she became the first officer in the NSW Public Service to be appointed at the level of Principal Research Scientist.

Mary was an authority of ferns, wattles and the native soya bean *Glycine*. She was one of the authors of the *Flora of the Sydney Region*. During her long career as a renowned botanist, Mary served on many international committees pertaining to ferns. She was a member of the Special Committee for Pteridophytes in the International Bureau of Plant Taxonomy and Nomenclature from 1965 to 2005. She was Secretary of the Systematic Botany committee of ANZAAS. She assisted in the CSIRO program on *Glycine* by differentiating a number of native species, on which she published four papers. She prepared a large section of the text for the volumes on *Acacia* in the *Flora of Australia* series. At different times, Mary was editor of three botanical journals, namely *Telopea*, *Contributions from the New South Wales National Herbarium* and the latter’s *Flora Series*.

Mary attended as many International Botanical Conferences as possible. She always blushed when she told me stories about dancing the night away with foreign botanists. She lived in that wonderful era of elegant gowns and romantic dances and confessed she loved dancing the tango. I always felt she was proud of never having married – because of course in those days ‘one had to give up work as soon one married’. She was extremely proud to be a woman with an important, academic career. But she did have a boyfriend, Bill, who was killed in the war. We only found out recently whose photo that was on the wall in her room at Lansdowne Gardens – above the photo of herself that she’d had taken for him.

Mary’s assistants during her time at the Botanic Gardens were mostly men. They included David Keith, Don Fortescue, David Morrison, Clare Herscovitch, Stuart Davies, Phillip Kodela, Chris Puttock and Peter Wilson. From what I’ve heard, Mary was a very exacting boss, keeping them on their toes and toughening them up for their respective botanical careers. She also had an important collaboration with Dr Roy from Varanasi, India, who came to Sydney to work with her studying fern chromosomes.

Mary retired on 29 July 1983 after a notable career of 39 years at the Gardens. She continued her investigations and writing as an Honorary Research Associate until quite recently.

Mary was a personal friend of mine as well as a work colleague and in 2006 she allowed me to interview her for the Gardens’ Oral History Project. From this interview I learnt that she had developed her love of botany, at age three, from her father who was keenly interested in natural history. At school she played tennis, and as a young woman she enjoyed horse riding and played golf. She had hoped to become a commercial artist but her parents thought botany would be a far more suitable career.

Mary was passionate about opera and ballet, which she attended regularly. She often took me, and other friends, as her guest to operas and ballets. In fact she went to the opera only a couple of weeks ago. She told me lots of stories, both on our outings and during the interview. The first opera she attended was in Paris, when she was in her 20s, the next one was in London. She saw Joan Sutherland sing in Lucia di Lammermoor, and later she saw a young Placido Domingo singing Cavernossi in Tosca, in Vienna. She went to the Royal Command Ballet Performance for the French president in Paris where she saw Helpmann and Fontaine perform together. Mary was a Life Member of the Opera Auditions Committee and took many of us to their functions and performances over the years.

We’ll probably all remember Mary for her hats, her lipstick – always plenty of it, but not always in exactly the right place, and for her handbags. She was always prepared for every eventuality! Phillip recalls accompanying her to a classy
function where there wasn’t enough light to read
the menu. She reached into her bag and got out
a magnifying glass and a large dolphin torch -
because. She was well known at work for hiding
things – and consequently losing things. We never
know what’s going to turn up in boxes of plant
specimens – perhaps a hat, some stockings, or
even galoshes! Mary grew up in the war era, so
had a habit of saving – everything.

I’ll always remember Mary for her stories of that
elegant age – travelling with huge chests full of
ballgowns on beautiful old ships, attending dinner
parties and balls, and owning elegant clothes and
hats. Mary only ever bought clothes at David Jones
7th floor or, in later years, from Jenny’s at Neutral
Bay. David Jones was her favourite place to shop
and I suspect she bought almost everything there.
She told me once that her cat Bam Bam would
never eat anything if he had to stay overnight at
the vets – and she suspected it was because she
only fed him fillet steak from David Jones.

Mary’s neighbours – Cherelle, John and Haydon
Kemp, and Sally and John Vigours, her cousins
Elizabeth and Douglas, Margaret and Carrick
Chambers, and the staff at Lansdowne Gardens,
cared for Mary in recent years.

Mary Tindale lived a long and full life. She was
thoughtful and kind, always with a gift for new
babies and birthday and Christmas presents for
friends, family and neighbours. She was full of
surprises and had a social conscience – and, as we
all know, she was not the retiring type but was one
who spoke her mind. Mary enjoyed good health
until very recently. She followed her interests of
opera and ballet to the full, led an active social
life, enjoyed life-long friendships, and pursued
a long, successful and distinguished career in
botany. We will miss her greatly.

Regional News

Plant diversification in space
and time – two workshops
held at the Australian Tropical
Herbarium/James Cook
University in Cairns

How to best reconstruct plant diversification in
space and time is currently a highly dynamic field
in plant evolutionary research. New approaches
to infer historical biogeography or diversification
rates are constantly emerging. These are often
based on a challenging theoretical framework
involving highly advanced algorithms and are
implemented in new software tools that may not
be quite straightforward to use (to say the least).
For us, the end user, it therefore may be difficult to
keep up with the new developments and to choose
the appropriate tools fitting best to the research
question and the data available or to simply run the
analyses using the variety of computer programs.

The Cairns chapter of ASBS in conjunction with
the Australian Tropical Herbarium held two one
day workshops (25th and 27th of January 2011)
for molecular systematists covering current
methods in biogeographical analyses and
diversification rate analyses across phylogenies.
The two workshops were presented by Daniele
Silvestro of the Research Institute Senckenberg
& the Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre,
Frankfurt, Germany.

The first workshop covered the topic
“Diversification in space: parametric approaches
for historical biogeography”. In this workshop
the most recent and commonly used methods
for biogeographic inference were reviewed with
a special focus on ancestral area reconstruction
along phylogenies. New analytical tools were
discussed that incorporate statistical models to
investigate the evolution of geographic ranges of
species and lineages in a phylogenetic context.
These aim at reconstructing the often complex
history of migration, dispersal, extinction,
and vicariance involving continental drift,
geomorphological events, and climate change
that caused the observed distribution of present
taxa. Daniele explained how these new analytical
tools infer where the ancestors were distributed,
measure rates and direction of dispersals, estimate
range expansions and contractions during
lineage diversification. The principal analytical
approaches were presented (e.g. S-Diva, Lagrange,
MrBayes4) discussing the pros and cons of parsimony, likelihood, and Bayesian algorithms. The practical part of the workshop focused on the use of the computer program Lagrange.

The second workshop dealt with the topic “Diversification through time: inferring speciation and extinction rates from phylogenies”. In this workshop the concepts of speciation and extinction rates and lineage-through-time plots were presented and the stochastic processes that can be used to infer the rates from phylogenies using maximum likelihood and Bayesian approaches. Investigating the tempo of diversification using molecular phylogenetic data has become a task of great interest with the increasing availability of molecular data and improving molecular clock methods.

The patterns of species richness reflect a process of evolution and extinction which is a key subject in evolutionary biology. Recently developed methods were presented that provide a statistical framework to estimate rates of speciation and extinction from dated phylogenies. Daniele outlined how the rates and their variation through time can be used to address a number of questions on evolutionary processes such as the impact of climatic changes or the effect of key innovations on species diversification. The practical part of this workshop demonstrated the use of a new computer program (BayesRates) developed by Daniele and his colleague Jan Schnitzler from the Biodiversity and Climate Institute Frankfurt, implementing these methods. The workshops were attended by researchers and PhD students from multiple disciplines and included Australian Tropical Herbarium staff and students, JCU Marine and Tropical Biology students, and overseas visiting PhD students from the U.S. Many thanks to Daniele for presenting these fantastic workshops.

Katharina Schulte and Mark Harrington

![Figure 1. Daniele Silvestro (in front) discussing the results of a Lagrange analysis with PhD student Yumiko Baba (JCU/ATH) at the plant diversification workshop.](image-url)
Chapter Conveners

Adelaide
Robyn Barker
State Herbarium of South Australia
Department for Environment and Heritage
PO Box 2732
Kent Town, SA 5071
Tel: (08) 8222 9348
Email: barker.robyn@saugov.sa.gov.au

Armidale
Jeremy Bruhl
Department of Botany
University of New England
Armidale, NSW 2351
Tel: (02) 6773 2429
Email: jbruhl@metz.une.edu.au

Brisbane
Laurie Jessup
Queensland Herbarium
Mt Coot-tha Road
Toowong, Qld 4066
Tel: (07) 3896 9320
Email: laurence.jessup@derm.qld.gov.au

Canberra
Vacant

Cairns
Mark Harrington
Australian Tropical Herbarium
PO Box 6811
Cairns QLD 4870
Tel: (07) 4042 1769
Email: mark.harrington@jcu.edu.au

Darwin
Philip Short
Northern Territory Herbarium
Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT
PO Box 496
Palmerston, NT 0831
Tel: (08) 8999 4512 / Email: phil.short@nt.gov.au

Hobart
Vacant

Melbourne
Frank Udovicic
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Vic. 3141
Tel: (03) 9252 2313 / Email: frank.udovicic@rbg.vic.gov.au

Perth
Kristina Lemson
Plant Systematics and Conservation
Centre for Ecosystem Management and School of Natural Sciences, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup WA 6027
Tel: (08) 6304 5369 / Email. k.lemson@ecu.edu.au

Sydney
Hannah McPherson
National Herbarium of NSW
Mrs Macquaries Road
Sydney, NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9231 8111
Email: hannah.mcpherson@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

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| ABRHS | Tel: (02) 6250 9417 | Fax: (02) 6250 9555 | Email: abrs@environment.gov.au |
| Australian Botanical Liaison Officer (ABLO) | Position Vacant |
| Australian University Herbaria | Contact CHAH representative: Murray Henwood, University of Sydney |

Australasian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter 146 (March 2011)
ASBS Publications

History of Systematic Botany in Australia
For all those people interested in the 1988 ASBS symposium in Melbourne, here are the proceedings. It is a well presented volume, containing 36 papers on: the botanical exploration of our region; the role of horticulturalists, collectors and artists in the early documentation of the flora; the renowned (Mueller, Cunningham), and those whose contribution is sometimes overlooked (Buchanan, Wilhelmi).
Only a few copies left!—available only from the Treasurer.

Systematic Status of Large Flowering Plant Genera
This _Newsletter_ issue includes the reports from the February 1986 Boden Conference on the “Systematic Status of Large Flowering Plant Genera”. The reports cover: the genus concept; the role of cladistics in generic delimitation; geographic range and the genus concepts; the value of chemical characters, pollination syndromes, and breeding systems as generic determinants; and generic concepts in the Asteraceae, Chenopodiaceae, Epacridaceae, _Cassia, Acacia_ and _Eucalyptus_.

Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter
Back issues of the _Newsletter_ are available from Number 27 (May 1981) onwards, excluding Numbers 29, 31, 60–62, 66, 84, 89, 90, 99, 100 and 103. Here is the chance to complete your set. Cover prices are $3.50 (Numbers 27–59, excluding Number 53) and $5.00 (Number 53 and 60 onwards). Postage $1.10 per issue, apart from $1.75 for the Large Genera issue (Number 53).

Evolution of the Flora and Fauna of Arid Australia
This collection of more than 40 papers will interest all people concerned with Australia’s dry inland, or the evolutionary history of its flora and fauna. It is of value to those studying both arid lands and evolution in general. Six sections cover: ecological and historical background; ecological and reproductive adaptations in plants; vertebrate animals; invertebrate animals; individual plant groups; and concluding remarks.
Also available from Peacock Publications, 38 Sydenham Road, Norwood, SA 5069, Australia. To obtain this discounted price, post a photocopy of this page with remittance.

Ecology of the Southern Conifers (Now out of print)
Edited by Neal Enright and Robert Hill. ASBS members: $60 plus $12 p. & p. non-members $79.95.
Proceedings of a symposium at the ASBS conference in Hobart in 1993. Twenty-eight scholars from across the hemisphere examine the history and ecology of the southern conifers, and emphasise their importance in understanding the evolution and ecological dynamics of southern vegetation.

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Contact details. Email: helen.thompson@environment.gov.au. Tel: (02) 6250 9445. Fax: (02) 6250 9448.
AUSTRALASIAN SYSTEMATIC BOTANY SOCIETY INCORPORATED

The Society

The Australasian Systematic Botany Society is an incorporated 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. Membership entitles the member to attend general meetings and chapter meetings, and to receive the Newsletter. Any person may apply for membership by filling in a “Membership Application” form, available on the Society website, and forwarding it, with the appropriate subscription, to the Treasurer. Subscriptions become due on 1 January each year.

The ASBS annual membership subscription is AU$45; full-time students $25. Payment may be by credit card or by cheques made out to Australian Systematic Botany Society Inc., and remitted to the Treasurer. All changes of address should be sent directly to the Treasurer as well.

The Newsletter

The Newsletter is sent quarterly to members and appears simultaneously on the ASBS Website. It 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 published pages in length) will be considered. Citation: abbreviate as Australas. Syst. Bot. Soc. Newslett.

Contributions

Send copy to Russell Barrett and Peter Jobson at the addresses given below. They preferably should be submitted as: (1) an MS-DOS file in the form of a text file (.txt extension), (2) an MS-Word.doc file, (3) a Rich-text-format or .rtf file in an email message or attachment or on an MS-DOS disk or CD-ROM. Non-preferred media such as handwritten or typescripts by letter or fax are acceptable, but may cause delay in publication in view of the extra workload involved.

Formatting of submitted copy. Please use Word in formatting indents, bullets, etc. in paragraphs and for tables. Do not format primitively with tabs, which change with the Normal style sheet. If embedding tables or references or other Objects from other software (Excel, bibliographic software, etc.) ensure that these are converted to Word tables or paragraphs. Letters in abbreviations of Australian States (SA, WA etc., but Vic.) and organisations (e.g. ASBS, ABRS) should not be separated by full-stops, but initials should be (e.g. W.R. Smith, not WR Smith).

Images: their inclusion may depend on space being available. Improve scanned resolution if printing your image is pixelated at a width of at least 7 cm (up to a 15 cm full page). Contact the Editors for further clarification.

The deadline for contributions is the last day of February, May, August and November. All items incorporated in the Newsletter will be duly acknowledged. Any unsigned articles are attributable to the Editors.

Authors alone are responsible for the views expressed, and statements made by the authors do not necessarily represent the views of the Australasian Systematic Botany Society Inc. Newsletter items should not be reproduced without the permission of the author of the material.

Advertising

Advertising space is available for products or services of interest to ASBS members. The current fee is $100 per full page, $50 per half-page or less.

Flyers may be approved for inclusion in the envelope for products or services of interest to ASBS members. The current fee is $100 per flyer, plus the cost of inserting them (usually roughly $25–30). Flyers are not part of the Newsletter and do not appear with the Newsletter on the ASBS Website.

A 20% discount applies for second and subsequent entries of the same advertisement. Advertisements from ASBS members are usually exempt from fees but not the insertion costs in the case of a flyer. Contact the Newsletter Editors for further information.

Editors

Russell Barrett
Kings Park & Botanic Garden
Fraser Ave
West Perth, WA 6005
Tel: (08) 9480 3640
Fax: (08) 9480 3641
Email: russell.barrett@bgpa.wa.gov.au

Peter Jobson
(ENV Australia)
29 Montreal Road
Woodbridge
WA 6056
Email: peter.jobson@env.net.au

Book Reviews:
John Clarkson
Department of Environment and Resource Management, PO Box 156
Mareeba, Qld 4880
Tel: (07) 4048 4745
Email: John.Clarkson@derm.qld.gov.au
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