



BOTSOC NEWSLETTER October 2009

Dear Botsoc Member

The first very welcome showers have come and gone but what a joy they were. The world was washed clean, there were sparkling diamonds of water on trees, flowers and grass and we were refreshed. There have been walks in the Garden and as usual, some interesting talks. The plant ID workshop held on Saturday 19 September was not well attended and there seem to have been various reasons for that. However, we were able to identify some plants for the folk there and it was a pleasant morning.

The Biodiversity Report has been delivered to the Windhoek Municipality and we were fortunate that 2 of our CAPP members gave input to that report. At our last meeting a few extra points were noted and we need to pray and trust that the Municipality will take cognizance of the issues raised and suggestions for stopping the appalling destruction of the natural heritage in this city. Some of you may have seen the letter written by Luise Hoffmann regarding the cutting down of the trees near Maerua Mall. Obviously, the authorities need a greater awareness of how long it takes for these trees to grow and the fact that they are indigenous means they have grown without having to have special care.

We have also, as the Society, signed the petition to have the 2005 Vienna decision to retypify the genus ACACIA with an Australian species over ruled. This will be brought up at the International Association of Plant Taxonomists in Australia in 2010 and we need a really strong platform to stand on. Barbara Curtis and Ezekeil Kwembeya can provide you with more details if required.

We have a busy time ahead with the Plant Sales Day, the TREE AWARD ceremony and Talk as well as walks in November and December. See details below.

I trust you are keeping up with rush that accompanies this time of year and that Octoberitis will be just a word and not a condition!

With warm wishes to you all

Diana Thompson

UPCOMING TALKS AND WALKS OF INTEREST

INDIGENOUS PLANT SALE DAY

Saturday 10 October 2009, 08:00 – 13:00 at the Botanic Garden, 8 Orban Street
An opportunity to buy those indigenous plants you always wanted – at a reasonable price!
There will be horticultural advice, guided walks and refreshments will be on sale.

TREE AWARD CEREMONY and TALK:

Thursday 22 October 2009 at the NBRI **19:00**, 8 Orban Street, Windhoek. Talk by Steve Carr starts **19:30**

WALKS:

The next guided walk in the National Botanic Garden will take place on **Saturday 7 November 2009 at 08:00**
Entrance for non-members is N\$10. Muffins and tea/coffee will be on sale.
The last guided garden walk in 2009 will be on **Saturday 5 December 2009**

Flowers seen on a walk in the vicinity of Windhoek:

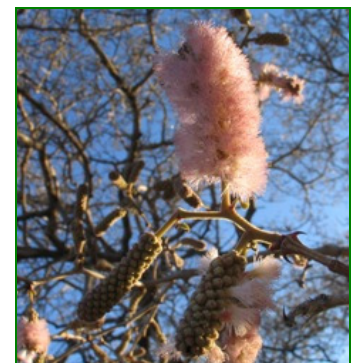
Photos: Uschi Kirchner



Elephantorrhiza suffruticosa



Ozoroa crassinervia



Acacia erubescens

BOTANIC GARDEN NEWS FLASH**What is flowering in the Desert House and in the Garden?**

Photos: Diana Thompson

***Gethyllis namaquensis******Pelargonium spinosum******Kigelia africana (Sausage Tree)*****“Bome en Struik van die Khomas Hochland :**

by Luise Hoffmann

‘n Gids vir Jagters en Veldliefhebbers” - a new book on trees and shrubs of the Khomas Hochland is now available in Afrikaans. The author, **Dr Piet van Rooyen**, describes 61 species on 134 pages, and in several cases provides more than one photograph per species. The occasional photo is a bit fuzzy but on the whole they are very typical of the plants under discussion and well reproduced.

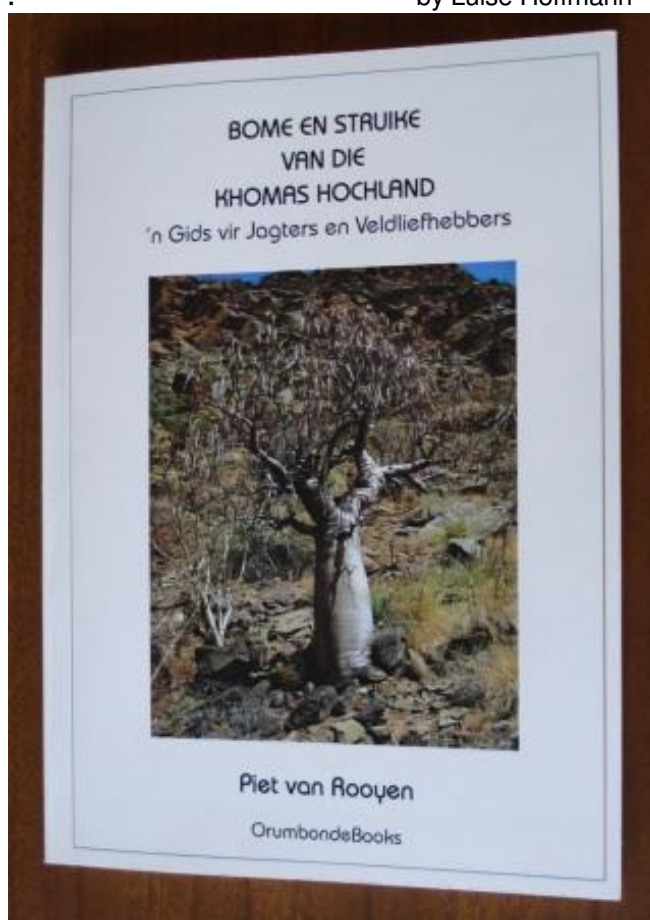
The author clearly is very enthusiastic about the woody vegetation of the Khomas Hochland. His descriptions show that he knows these plants intimately and they provide a very good impression of the trees or shrubs, even though van Rooyen sometimes confuses technical terms such as pods and berries. He also gives some novel and quite creative explanations for the meaning of botanical names, such as *apiculatum* supposedly meaning ‘a small bee’, while in actual fact *apiculatum* refers to the apiculate shape of the leaf, indicating that the leaf ends in a twisted point. In another instance he states that *anthelmintica* means ‘mint-like herbs’, while “helmint” refers to intestinal worms and *anthelmintica* thus means ‘against intestinal worms’. It is well known all over Africa that the bark of the Aruboom or Worm-cure *Albizia (Albizia anthelmintica)* is a remedy against intestinal worms. So it would have been a good idea to have the text edited by someone with a botanical background.

Of course it is always easy to point out the flaws in a publication, so much easier than producing a faultless product. With this in mind both the author and the publisher – OrumbondeBooks - are congratulated on publishing “Bome en Struik van die Khomas Hochland”, which – despite the above remarks – will be a great help for anyone wishing to identify the woody vegetation of this region. The book has the great advantage of being limited to the Khomas Hochland. The reader is thus spared the arduous searching, guessing or keying out of species involved in looking up plants in a volume describing woody plants from all over Namibia and / or southern Africa in general.

The author: Dr Piet van Rooyen is Professor in Political and Administrative Studies at the Faculty of Economics and Management Science at the University of Namibia. He is the author of several academic and popular books and articles with a Namibian content and an established author of literary fiction. His passion is nature conservation, wildlife and the environment.

The publisher: OrumbondeBooks cc specialises in publishing small editions of any kind such as the above volume or family chronicles/histories etc; in addition it publishes periodicals in small print runs e.g. the “Journal of Namibian Studies”.

“Bome en Struik van die Khomas Hochland” deur Piet van Rooyen is available at N\$170.00 at OrumbondeBooks situated at the Post Street Mall entrance to the Kaiserkrone.



NATIONAL ARBOR DAY, 9 October 2009

by Diana Thompson

Tree of the Year 2009: *Searsia lancea* Karee

This tree was named after Paul Sears (1891 – 1990) who was head of the Yale School of Botany; lancea (Latin) refers to the lance –shaped leaflets.

Common names: Karee; Willow rhus (English)
Soetkaree (Afrikaans)
Afrikanische Rivierweide (German)
!areb (Khoe-khoegowab)
Oruso (Otjiherero)

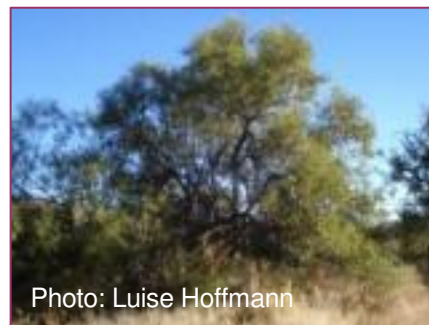


Photo: Luise Hoffmann

Searsia lancea is commonly known as the Karee, which means 'mead' in the Khoi language. It flourishes in the most arid parts of the country and is normally found along seasonal drainage lines, rivers and streams or on pan edges. It occurs naturally in *Acacia* woodland and is often found growing on lime-rich substrates. It is common in central Namibia and has a widespread distribution from Zambia in the north to the Western Cape Province of South Africa in the south.

Karee is a highly versatile and useful tree, recommended for shade and windbreaks. It provides natural soil stabilization and increases the infiltration of rainwater into the soil, thus reducing erosion and raising the groundwater table. It is protected by Forestry legislation in Namibia.

A comprehensive leaflet on this tree has been produced by the Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Private Bag 13184, Windhoek. Tel Mr Gerhard Boois, Directorate of Forestry, 061 2087671

We acknowledge that leaflet for the above information.

PLANT TREES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STABILITY

REGULAR INFORMATION & CONTACT NUMBERS

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National Botanical Research Institute)	Web: www.nbri.org.na
National Herbarium (8 Orban Street, Windhoek, Tel 202 2111
Botanic Garden)	open to visitors Monday – Friday 8h00 – 17h00, no charge

Kind regards

The CAPP team