

A BRIEF NOTE ON TCD AND DBN AND THE HERBARIA OF SONDER,
HOOKER AND HARVEY

Recently I had the opportunity to spend two days at the herbarium of the School of Botany, Trinity College, Dublin (TCD) and one day at the National Botanic Gardens of Glasnevin in Dublin (DBN). As the collections were so much richer than I had expected, I write this note, based on my very inadequate information, to alert other botanists to the importance of the collections housed at TCD and DBN.

Although there had been a small collection of plants at TCD, the herbarium was really developed by W. H. Harvey, from 1845 onwards. Harvey held the post of curator from 1845, and in 1848 was appointed as Professor of Botany of the Royal Dublin Society, and in 1856 Professor of Botany at Trinity College. He had worked in the Cape for about four years between 1835 and 1842, and started the *Flora Capensis* in collaboration with Sonder. They pro-

duced the first three volumes between 1860 and 1865. To this end Harvey received numerous collections from amateur and professional collectors in the Cape Province and Natal, mainly between 1850 and 1870. He published many new species, the holotypes of which are at TCD. In addition, the relevant sections of the herbarium were loaned to Kew during the preparation of the second part of the *Flora Capensis* under Thiselton-Dyer (between 1896 and 1913) and so contain iso-, syn-, and some holotypes of the very numerous new species published during the preparation of that great work.

After Harvey's death in 1866 the College did not spend any more money on the herbarium, although further gifts of material were received from all over the world. Much of this material was not mounted or incorporated, and was kept in boxes. Some of this material was donated to the National Botanic Gardens of Glasnevin. Unfortunately they are as short-staffed as the University, and consequently much of this material is still in the original parcels. It does contain at least some material from Harvey's herbarium, and might contain historically important collections.

As a sample of what TCD contains, I surveyed two subtribes of the Orchidaceae. The following collectors were represented in the Disinae: Harvey (about half of the collections, mostly around the Cape Peninsula), Ecklon & Zeyher (material from the Uitenhage area), Drège, Hutton, Fannin (some watercolours, with vouchers collected by G. F. F. (George F. Fannin), Gerrard & McKen, MacOwan, Bowker, Barber (they often collected together, signed as F. W. B. and J. H. B.), Hallack, Saunders, Sanderson, Holland, Cooper, Plant, Krauss, Ver-

reaux (acquired from the Delessert herbarium in 1844), W. S. M. D'urban and Brownlee. This collection includes the types of 17 names, of which several are holotypes.

In the Coryciinae (Orchidaceae) there are even more types. In several other groups there are interesting collections: a large set of Ericaceae from the Cedarberg collected by Wallich and a set of Cyperaceae from around Graaff-Reinet by H. Bolus. I am sure that more detailed research will expose much more material of great interest.

DBN houses, amongst others, a collection by McNab, that includes a set of all plants that flowered at Kew in the first decade of the nineteenth century. This is being catalogued by Dr Nelson, the botanist at Glasnevin. This collection may provide types for names published in the *Hortus Kewensis*.

Until 1870 there were three large herbaria of South African plants: those of Sonder, Harvey and Hooker. Sonder's herbarium included a fairly complete set of Ecklon & Zeyher collections, as well as other collectors. The Cape plants in this herbarium were sold to Stockholm and to Melbourne, and it is not always clear where the types are. Hooker's herbarium is at Kew, and forms the core of the modern collections there. Harvey's herbarium is still preserved intact. As very little material has been added to it since 1868, it constitutes a time-capsule of the material available to botanists in the mid-nineteenth century, and so can be invaluable in illuminating the species concepts of authors such as Harvey and Sonder.