

## Miscellaneous notes

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLEY MOMBERG, TECHNICAL EDITOR IN THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE

Over the past nearly 30 years, Mrs Beverley Momberg—or Bev, as everyone calls her—has been involved in the Publications Section of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), particularly as technical editor of *Bothalia* and also other scientific series. She will be retiring from this position on 31 October 2011. This issue of *Bothalia* is therefore the final one to which she will be applying her technical editing skills as a tenured staff member. During her career at SANBI, Beverley tirelessly worked on improving texts submitted for publication in a range of SANBI's scientific, technical, semi-scientific and popular series.

Beverley Ann Momberg (née Paola) was born on 10 October 1946 in Pretoria. She attended the Loreto Convent, Hillcrest, Pretoria, matriculating in 1963. She then went on to the University of Pretoria where she completed a B.Sc. degree in 1967, majoring in Entomology and Zoology. After she completed her undergraduate studies, she took a job in Johannesburg in the field of medical research with the identification of disease vectors as one of her responsibilities.

After her marriage in 1969, the next eleven years were spent at home rearing two sons and a daughter. When the youngest child was ready for school, she took a job in Pretoria in 1980, working with Dr Bernard de Winter, the then Director of the Botanical Research Institute (BRI), one of the forerunners of SANBI, assisting with arrangements for the 10<sup>th</sup> AETFAT Congress that was held in Pretoria in January 1982, and of which Dr De Winter was the Secretary-General. After the Congress, she worked with Dr Donald Killick, at the time Deputy Director and editor of the BRI's scientific publications, in producing the AETFAT Congress Proceedings that eventually appeared in volume 14 of *Bothalia* in 1983. Most of Bev's career of 31 years, in first the BRI, later the National Botanical Institute, currently SANBI, has therefore been spent in the technical editing of scientific publications. During this time she worked with the several scientific editors of the follow-

ing: *Bothalia*, *Memoirs of the Botanical Survey of South Africa*, *Flora of southern Africa*, *Strelitzia* and *SANBI Biodiversity Series*, namely Dr Killick, Dr Otto A. Leistner (Smith 1998) and Mr Gerrit Germishuizen (Smith 2011), which allowed her to further develop her love of, and natural capabilities in, the written and spoken word, which was fostered in her while attending school at the Loreto Convent. She was responsible for every stage in the production of *Bothalia* for the last 24 years.

Authors who submitted texts to, and saw them published in a range of SANBI's publication series, owe a debt of gratitude to Beverley for having competently polished and delivered their written effusions to the world. Many people—not only authors—make the publication of a book or journal a reality. It may not be common practice to acknowledge the work of technical editors, but in the case of Beverley Momberg it is more than appropriate.

In many respects, the end of the first and beginning of the second decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is ringing in changes for components of SANBI's suite of scientific and other publications. With the retirement of Beverley and, a year ago, Gerrit Germishuizen (Smith 2011), an era of high-quality, in-house science publishing has come to an end.

### REFERENCES

- SMITH, G.F. 1998. New editor for *Bothalia*. *Bothalia* 28: 113–115.  
SMITH, G.F. 2011. Tribute to Gerrit Germishuizen, editor of *Bothalia*. *Bothalia* 41: 229.

G.F. SMITH\*

\* Biosystematics Research & Biodiversity Collections, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Private Bag X101, 0001 Pretoria / H.G.W.J. Schweickerdt Herbarium, Department of Plant Science, University of Pretoria, 0002 Pretoria / Centre for Functional Ecology, Departamento de Ciências da Vida, Universidade de Coimbra, 3001-455 Coimbra, Portugal (email: g.smith@sanbi.org.za).