

COMPILATION OF AN ECÔLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

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First of all it should be explained why the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, considered it necessary to produce an ecological bibliography for Southern Africa. By Southern Africa is meant Southern Africa in its broad and systematic sense i. e. South Africa and South Tropical Africa. From time to time, ecologists of the Institute require all the literature references they can find relating to areas which they intend studying. Usually this is time-consuming work and involves much bibliographical research and reliance on the memory of the Institute's librarian. In addition to its own requirements, the Institute has to cater for the reference requirements of other institutions e. g. the universities, the provincial fauna and flora organizations and other institutes of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services. From what has been said, it should be clear that there is a real need for an ecological bibliography.

Since the beginning of their botanical careers the two authors have kept and maintained fairly exhaustive card indexes to the literature of Southern African ecology. The first step was to combine the two card indexes. A technical assistant was then detailed to comb 34 different local and overseas journals, extracting all references to ecological studies of plants and vegetation as well as plant geography up to the end of the year 1969. Those references dealing with cultural treatments e. g. the effect of fertilizers on natural pastures have been excluded. There is already in existence in South Africa a comprehensive bibliography to pasture management. Eighteen hundred volumes were consulted and, to date, some 2,000 references have been indexed. At present the information from the cards is being typed and will be roneoed and the lists distributed to interested persons for comments and additions.

It is planned to arrange the bibliography in two parts : 1, an author index and 2, a subject index with cross references. The subject index will consist broadly of :

1. phytogeography, including floras and checklists
2. paleoecology
3. autecology, arranged systematically
4. vegetation

- (a) arranged according to region e. g. Lesotho, Cape etc.
- (b) specific vegetation types e. g. forest, grassland etc.
- (c) vegetation maps

The following will probably be included as well :

- 5. ecological methods
- 6. fire and vegetation .
- 7. climate and vegetation
- 8. geology, soils and vegetation
- 9. animals (wild and domestic) and vegetation
- 10. naturalized exotic vegetation
- 11. plant succession
- 12. cryptogamic ecology.

It is sincerely hoped that by the next AETFAT Congress the bibliography will be an accomplished fact.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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Artikel/Article: [Compilation of an ecological bibliography for southern africa 487-488](#)