

THE CANBERRA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

ANNUAL REPORT, 1959

1959 was the inaugural year of the Botany Department. Temporary buildings were provided at Acton adjoining the old Department of the Interior offices, and adequate accommodation and facilities were available at the commencement of the academic year.

Teaching Programme and Curriculum

Botany Part 1 only was presented in accordance with the Melbourne curriculum, with agreed variations necessary to meet Canberra conditions. In particular, the number of field excursions was increased to five days.

Enrolments

Enrolments were 18, but the number attending was reduced for various reasons to 11 by the end of the year, one being a non-examination student. 10 students presented for the examination and 9 were successful, 1 gaining 1st class Honours and one 2nd class Honours.

| | <u>Enrolments</u> | <u>Sat Exam</u> | <u>Passes</u> | <u>Sat Hons.</u> | <u>Passed Hons.</u> |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Botany 1 | 18 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 2 |

Staff

Full time academic staff during the year was limited to only one, namely the Professor and Head of the Department, with demonstrating assistance from Mrs E.A.Boden. Dr W.Wittmann was appointed Technical Officer and was heavily engaged in assembling materials for teaching.

Relations with Botany Department, Melbourne

A great deal of assistance was received from the Botany Department, Melbourne, throughout the year, and special thanks are due to Professor Turner for this.

Visiting Lecturers

Dr Bryan Womersley, of the University of Adelaide spent two weeks in the Department and on field excursions to assemble the basis of an algal collection for use in teaching.

Research Programme

The appointment of a Technical Assistant and the provision of transport, coupled with most effective assistance from the Department of the Interior by the provision of glasshouse space and other facilities at Yarralumla Nursery, allowed research to be carried out actively in studies of inheritance, experimental taxonomy and nutrition, principally in Eucalyptus. During the latter half of the year this programme unfortunately was somewhat restricted by shortage of funds. This was mitigated to some degree by the generous provision of a plantation area at Bonville, N.S.W., by A.P.M. Forests Pty.Ltd. for experimental studies, principally with Eucalyptus grandis (Flooded Gum).

Publications

Publications during 1959 were as follows:-

- (1) L.D. PRYOR, "Species Distribution and Association in Eucalyptus", in Biogeography and Ecology in Australia, W.Junk, The Hague, 461-471, 1959.
- (2) L.D.PRYOR, "Evolution in Eucalyptus", Australian Journal of Science, Vol.22, No.1, 45-49, 1959.
- (3) L.D.PRYOR, with E.Gaubas, "Seed Coat Anatomy and Taxonomy in Eucalyptus, 11, Proc. Linnean Society N.S.W., 84: 278-291, 1959.

Equipment

Adequate financial provision was made during the first half of 1959 and the purchase of much essential equipment was arranged, but shortage of funds impeded further purchases and other activities towards the end of 1959.

It is anticipated that Botany Part 1 and Part 11 will be presented during 1960 and that the necessary equipment, staff and space will be forthcoming.

Lindsay Pryor
Professor of Botany

15th February, 1960