

Editorial

The editors are pleased to publish this special *ABN* issue on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Royal Botanical Society of The Netherlands. Evolution has been one of the most challenging concepts since the middle of the last century. The jubilee symposium of the Society on 'Plant and Evolution', which was held at Nijmegen on 18 May 1995, was a good opportunity to evaluate the state of the art in a historical perspective. For that purpose, highly reputed scientists were invited by the Board of the Society. The editors of *ABN* are indebted to them for their willingness to prepare their papers for publication in our journal. Not only did they contribute to the celebration of the Society's jubilee, but they have also produced a useful document for botanists everywhere.

After the opening address of the President of the Society, five invited jubilee papers are presented. A number of satellite papers are also included, dealing with several subjects related to the central theme.

The jubilee meeting was attended by 250–300 members and guests. After the scientific meeting, Patricia Faasse's book *Between Seasons and Science* was presented. It describes and comments upon the long history of the Society in a fascinating way. The celebration was further highlighted by awarding medals of honorary membership to Professor A. Quispel and Dr A. M. C. Emons.

The colour plate on the front cover was kindly placed at our disposal by Professor S. C. H. Barrett, one of the invited authors. It is a picture of a mass flowering clone of *Eichhornia crassipes* in Louisiana, USA.

The reader will certainly enjoy travelling through the contents of this jubilee issue.

THE EDITORS