



M.P. de Vos M.Sc. (Stell.) D.Sc. (Stell.)

This issue of the Journal is dedicated to Miriam Phoebe de Vos (born 1912) who for many years was associate professor in the Department of Botany at the University of Stellenbosch and who will celebrate her eightieth birthday on the 26th of November this year.

She obtained her B.Sc., M.Sc. (both cum laude) and D.Sc. degrees at the University of Stellenbosch. Her teaching career started in 1939 with a junior lectureship at the University of Cape Town. In 1941 she joined the Botany Department at the University of Stellenbosch where she later became an associate professor. Her teaching responsibilities included the subjects cytology, embryology, anatomy and biosystematics.

In 1935 she was awarded the Queen Victoria Stipendium and in 1959 she received a Carnegie bursary to visit institutions at different universities in the United States of America. In 1974 she received the Havenga prize for Biology from the South African Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Her first research contributions were in the field of the cytology of the Proteaceae and the Aizoaceae and the embryology of various genera. Later on she turned to the field of taxonomy and the taxonomic revision of several genera of the Iridaceae can be attributed to her. Her major publication was on the morphology and taxonomy of the genus *Romulea* in South Africa which was published as Supplement 9 of the *Journal of South African Botany* in 1972. She also made several contributions regarding various botanists to the *South African Biographical Dictionary*.

After her retirement in 1977 she continued her work on the Iridaceae and nine of her 37 scientific papers were published during this time. She has already revised *Tritonia*, *Crocsmia*, *Chasmanthe* and *Ixia* for Volume 7, part 2, of the *Flora of Southern Africa* which will be published in association with other authors. She is currently assisting the team with the compilation of the *Flora of Namaqualand*.

Her devotion to her subject remains an inspiration to all who have the privilege of knowing her.