



Announcement of a symposium

“Fifty years of invasion ecology – the legacy of Charles Elton”

12-14 November 2008

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Hosted by the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology,
Stellenbosch University

www.sun.ac.za/cib

2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of a remarkable book – Charles S. Elton’s *“The ecology of invasions by animals and plants”*. The book has been acclaimed variously as: “an accessible and enduring classic”, the “bible of invasion biology”, a “classic book”, “the cornerstone work in [invasion ecology]”, an “invasion classic”, a “magisterial book”, “one of the most forward-looking publications in ecology”, a “pioneering work”, and a “seminal work”. It is generally accepted as the foundation for the scientific study of biological invasions. It has been cited more than 1500 times in the international literature (more than any other single publication in the field), and continues to be cited more than 100 times a year.

Elton’s landmark volume brought together previously disparate themes (including biogeography, conservation biology, epidemiology, human history, population ecology) to show the true global scale and the severe and escalating implications of biological invasions for life on earth. It placed the phenomenon in the context of ecological understanding of the time, and provided a map for new research directions.

The study of biological invasions has, like invasions themselves, exploded over the past half century, and invasion ecology is now firmly established as an important and popular field of study.

The aim of this symposium is to explore developments in invasion ecology, to assess the level of understanding of different facets of invasions and our ability to manage them, and to discuss priorities for the future.

Keynote speakers include:

Tim M. Blackburn, Zoological Society of London, UK

James T. Carlton, Williams College, USA

Steven L. Chown, Centre for Invasion Biology, South Africa

Mark A. Davis, Macalester College, USA

Harold A. Mooney, Stanford University, USA
Guy Preston, Working for Water programme, South Africa
Petr Pyšek, Institute of Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
David M. Richardson, Centre for Invasion Biology, South Africa
Daniel Simberloff, University of Tennessee, USA
Peter M. Vitousek, Stanford University, USA
Michael J. Wingfield, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Attendance will be strictly limited to 150 people. Sessions will address key themes, with 1-2 invited speakers per theme. Ideas for poster presentations are invited. Time will be allocated for break-away sessions, workshops, and panel discussions. The registration fee will include lunches, teas, and a symposium dinner. The venue for the meeting will be the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (<http://www.stias.ac.za/>).

Further details are available at www.sun.ac.za/cib