



INTRODUCTION

The first *Protea* cultivar names were registered in 1974. In 1980 the South African Department of Agriculture was appointed as the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) to compile and maintain the International Proteaceae Cultivar Register (IPCR).

After the introduction of the IPCR to the international *Protea* community at the joint International *Protea* Association (IPA) conference and International *Protea* Working Group (IPWG) symposium in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1993, the first edition of the IPCR was published in 1994. Since then cultivar registration received regular publicity through publication and presentations regarding the status of the IPCR and the role of cultivar name registration.

Breeders and originators of cultivars participated actively in the registration of cultivar names during the period from 1992 to 1996. From 1997 the activity decreased somewhat, but peaked in 2007 with a record 92 names submitted for registration. Since 2008 however there has been a significant decline in the number of applications (Fig. 1).

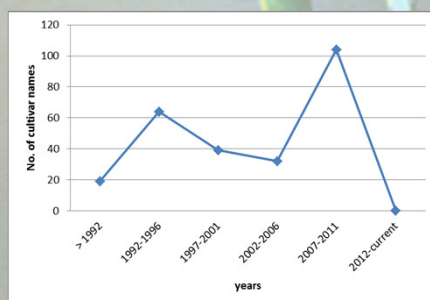


Fig. 1 Number of cultivar names registered per 5 year period

Two factors are suspected to be the main reason for this decline, namely the lack of visibility and exposure of the IPCR and the availability of Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) protection in all the *Protea* producing countries.



J Sadie and J Boshomane

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Directorate Plant Production, Private Bag X250, Pretoria 0001, South Africa



AIM

To bring cultivar name registration and the IPCR back into the spotlight to remind the international *Protea* community of the existence and significance of the IPCR, and highlighting the requirements for acceptable cultivar names.

DISCUSSION

The IPCR is a valuable source for breeders and originators who want to name new cultivars, enabling them to check if a desired cultivar name has been used before, thereby avoiding duplication.

The IPCR

IPCR registration is non-statutory and voluntary, undertaken once only and is valid in all countries. The rules followed for accepting a cultivar name for registration are in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP). All the registered names of commercially available cultivars in all the *Protea* producing countries should be registered in the IPCR. The number of applications for the IPCR has increased up to 2005 for the three main genera, i.e. *Protea*, *Leucadendron* and *Leucospermum*. Thereafter only few applications were received. It was only for *Leucospermum* that there was a once only large number of applications submitted in 2007 (Fig. 2).

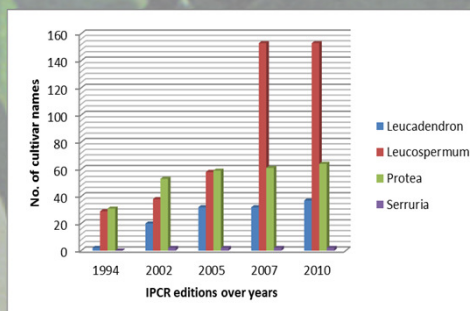


Fig. 2 Number of registered cultivar names over years per IPCR edition

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Management of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

WEB-SITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

<http://www.daff.gov.za/>
JoanS@daff.gov.za & JosephB@daff.gov.za

<http://www.ishs.org/scripta-horticulturae/international-code-nomenclature-cultivated-plants>

Main Rules for Cultivars Names

Article 19 of the ICNCP

(*Scripta Horticulturae* No. 10, 2009)

- A word or words in any language except Latin
- May not consist solely of a single letter or solely of numbers
- No punctuation marks, fraction or symbols in name
- No Latin or common name of the genus to which the cultivar belong
- No genus or species name of another denomination class
- Not too similar to an existing name
- Not exaggerating merits of the cultivar
- May be in form of a code

The International Checklist

The International Checklist, which forms part of the IPCR and consists of cultivar names that were published in the public domain, but not submitted for registration in the IPCR, complements the IPCR in adding to the record of cultivar names that have already been used (Fig. 3). The number of these cultivar names compared to the number of names submitted for IPCR registration, has lead to formulation of the statement for possible reasons for the decline in IPCR applications.

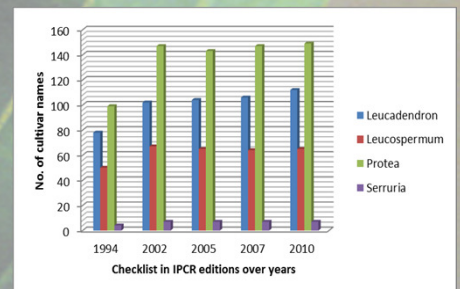


Fig. 3 Number of cultivar names in the Checklist per IPCR edition over years

CONCLUSION

Registration of cultivar names in the IPCR and participation in this free and voluntary system plays an important role in maintaining order and stability in the international *Protea* industry. This poster is the first step to return the spotlight on the IPCR and to promote registration of cultivar names.