

The Nigerian Field

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Canavalia ensiformis

**THE NIGERIAN FIELD SOCIETY
FOUNDED BY A.F.B. BRIDGES 1930**

An organisation devoted to the study of West Africa, its plants, animals and environment, its peoples and their culture.

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COVER DESIGN BY JOAN BACON

THE NIGERIAN FIELD

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EDITORIAL

Rubbish. The issue of rubbish disposal in Nigeria is exacerbated by the widespread use of the plastic bag. In the past, most vendors used paper cones, condiments and cooked food purchased in the markets were wrapped in paper or banana leaves which, if carelessly tossed away, would not present any real problem or pulverized by the elements. Nowadays, however, the use of the ubiquitous plastic bag, known in local parlance as "a nylon bag" or "nylon" has become a major problem. These bags are often carelessly discarded or filled with rubbish and dumped by the roadside, even though there are areas designated as rubbish collection points. A significant environmental menace has arisen from the sale of drinking water in plastic sachets. These litter the ground in areas where inter-city cars and buses collect their passengers (motor parks) and around premises of women selling cooked food. Some roadside horticulturalists pay children to collect the sachets which they use to plant seedlings, but this is not enough to solve the problem.

The accumulated heaps of bags and debris near markets pollute the air with their odour and attract flies, other insects and rodents. However, Professor Seidhar and his team from the University of Lagos, have turned this curse into a blessing through a bio-fertiliser plant which uses the plastic bags as substrate. The leading article in this issue of *The Nigerian Field* describes this project in detail.

The Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Field Society, Branch 13, Lagos Branch will be held on Saturday, 11th October 2003 at the Lagos Club, providing food and lodging. After the meeting, there will be a tour of Lagos Harbour with dinner on board.

Branch secretaries in other states should contact the Lagos Branch secretary, info@nigerianfield.org, copying the secretary, secretary@nigerianfield.org with the names of delegates who will be attending the meeting.

THE GOATBELT
ORCHID

Volume 14, Part 2, October 2003
Warr. 29p. '99

Example: The Goatbelt Orchid (Spathoglottis plicata) in the wild.



THE GOATBELL
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(*E. guineensis*)
Warri, Sept., '39