

## THE NIGERIAN FIELD

Volume 68, Part 2, October 2003

### EDITORIAL

Rubbish. The bane of urban living in Nigeria today, exacerbated by the widespread use of the plastic bag. In the past, meat, tomatoes, pepper, onions, condiments and cooked food purchased in the market were wrapped in *Sarcophyrynium* leaves which, if carelessly tossed away later, could be eaten by a passing goat or pulverised by the elements. Nowadays everything is put into a non-biodegradable plastic bag, known in local parlance as "a nylon bag" or simply "a nylon". 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. An additional 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 road-side 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 biodegradable rubbish near markets pollute the air with their odour and attract flies, often spilling over onto the roads. However, Professor Sridhar and his team from the University of Ibadan have turned this curse into a blessing through a bio-fertilizer plant set up near the busy Bodija Market in Ibadan. The leading article in this issue of *The Nigerian Field* describes this project in detail.

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### THE 2004 ABM

The Annual Business Meeting 2004 will be held in Lagos on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Lagos Branch will host seven delegates from each branch of the Society, providing board and lodging. After the meeting, there will be a boat tour of Lagos Harbour with dinner on board.

Branch secretaries should contact Robert Warren [robertdavidwarren@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robertdavidwarren@yahoo.co.uk), copying the Secretary, [kennyop@nig.op.org](mailto:kennyop@nig.op.org), with the names of delegates who will be attending the meeting.

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**Frontispiece:** The Goatbell Orchid (*Eulophia guineensis*). Warri, Sept. 1939, by F.J. Harper.