

## Booking Form

*You are cordially invited to join us for a celebration of the  
centenary of the birth of*

*Professor David A. Webb*

*on Friday 16th November 2012*

*in the Botany Department, Trinity College Dublin, the adjacent  
SNLAM Building and the Dining Hall*

**Lectures: no charge**

**Dinner is €20.50 pp**

**Student dinner is €10.00**

**Places are limited so please book early!**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend the Lecture at 4pm ☐

I will attend the Lecture at 7.30pm ☐

I will attend the Dinner at 6pm ☐

No. of diners: ☐

**Please advise of any special dietary requirements**

(Cheques to be made payable to TCD No. 1 Account)

Please note that there is no parking available on campus

### RSVP:

Ms. Sophia Ní Sheoin / Ms Emma Clancy

Botany Department,

Trinity College Dublin 2.

Tel: +353 1 8961274.

Email: [botany@tcd.ie](mailto:botany@tcd.ie)

## Discipline of Botany Today

The Botany Department has grown over the last 300 years to accommodate academic staff supported by an executive officer and technicians on campus in addition to the TCD Botanic Gardens in Dartry which are maintained by two garden staff.

We deliver teaching to three undergraduate Moderatorships (Plant Sciences, Environmental Science and Functional Biology) and three taught masters (Biodiversity & Conservation, Environmental Sciences and Development Practice).

The department is also very active in research, supporting postgraduate students and research fellows working across a broad spectrum of topics. We invite you to explore our current activities in more detail through our web-site, [www.tcd.ie/botany](http://www.tcd.ie/botany)

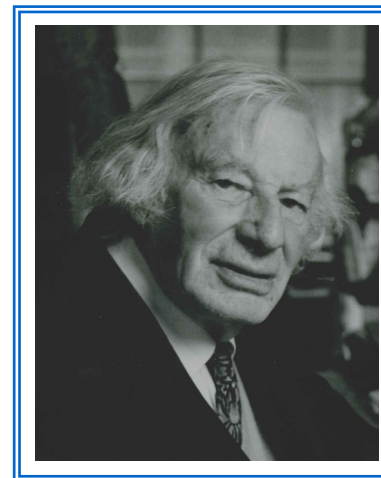


The Botany Department &  
The Botanical Society,  
Trinity College Dublin.

## David Webb - The man and the myth

### Centenary Celebration

**Celebrating the life and work of  
Professor David A. Webb  
on  
Friday 16th November 2012**



[www.tcd.ie/botany](http://www.tcd.ie/botany)

## Programme

- 3.30 **Arrival**—Tea and coffee and Photographic Exhibition in the Botany Library
- 4.00 Welcome – John Parnell, Professor of Systematic Botany, co-author of the latest edition of Webb’s ‘An Irish Flora’, in SNIAM Building Lecture Theatre (adjacent, south-east of Botany Bldg.)
- 4.05 **Dr Matthew Jebb — “Webb” - far more than just a flora**  
SNIAM Building Lecture Theatre.  
The lecture will include a brief excerpt from recordings of lectures by David Webb (courtesy of Dr James White UCD)
- 6.00 **Dinner: Commons, in the Dining Hall**
- 7.30 **Senator Sean Barrett — “David Webb: the College man”**  
Botany Lecture Theatre
- 8.30 Closing remarks — Prof. Daniel Kelly, Head of Botany Department, School of Natural Sciences.
- 8.35 **Wine reception**  
Botany Library & Foyer

## Speakers

### Matthew Jebb

Matthew Jebb gained his primary degree and PhD. at Oxford University. He was a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Botany Department TCD during which time he benefitted much from the wisdom of David Webb, then Emeritus Professor. His work at TCD involved preparation of a revision of the Araliaceae (Ivy Family) for the Flora of Thailand. Matthew has specialised in the taxonomy and biology of the ant plants (eg *Myrmecodia*), as well as the carnivorous plant genus *Nepenthes*. Matthew was Director of the Christensen Research Institute in Papua New Guinea. He has made substantial contributions to the Botany of both Ireland and the Asian Tropics. He has been Director of the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin since 2010.



A pitcher of *Nepenthes insignis* from New Guinea

### Sean Barrett

Senator Sean Barrett represents our College and University in Seanad Eireann. He is also Associate Professor in the Economics Department of Trinity College. Over the course of his career Sean has made a reputation for himself as one of Ireland’s foremost economists. Prof. Barrett is a courageously independent voice in Irish public life. He “has been one of the very few to have attacked the Cosy Consensus Cartel that dominated Irish economic thought over this period that has led directly to the bankrupting of the nation” (D. Hickey). Sean was a long-standing friend of David Webb, and has helped to keep ever-green the memories of David’s unique contribution to College life.



**David Allardice Webb** was born in Dublin on the 12th August 1912 (two months ahead of another eminent naturalist and future colleague, Frank Mitchell). David graduated in Natural Sciences at TCD in 1935. His earliest research was in Zoology and in 1939 he gained a Ph.D from Cambridge for his thesis on the biochemistry of marine invertebrates. However, his first employment was as Assistant in the

Department of Botany at TCD, and his interests shifted dramatically. By 1943 he had published *An Irish Flora*, now in its 8th edition. This book has become a household word—no botanical field-trip is complete without a ‘Webb’ in one’s rucksack. David became Professor of Plant Biology in 1949 and Professor of Systematic Botany in 1966. He was a superb lecturer. He introduced field-trips to the curriculum - a previously unknown concept in the Department. He was a towering figure not only in Irish but in European botany. His *magnum opus* is *Flora Europaea*, of which he was joint editor. He also published major work on the taxonomy of *Saxifraga* (saxifrages).

David was a Fellow of TCD and played a major role in the life of the College, which was his home for over 50 years. He was a man of extraordinary culture and erudition. His hospitality was legendary and he had a wide circle of friends. He was also ‘famously abrupt’; his foibles and *bons mots* continue to be remembered. It is timely to celebrate the life and work of one of Trinity’s most remarkable scholars.

