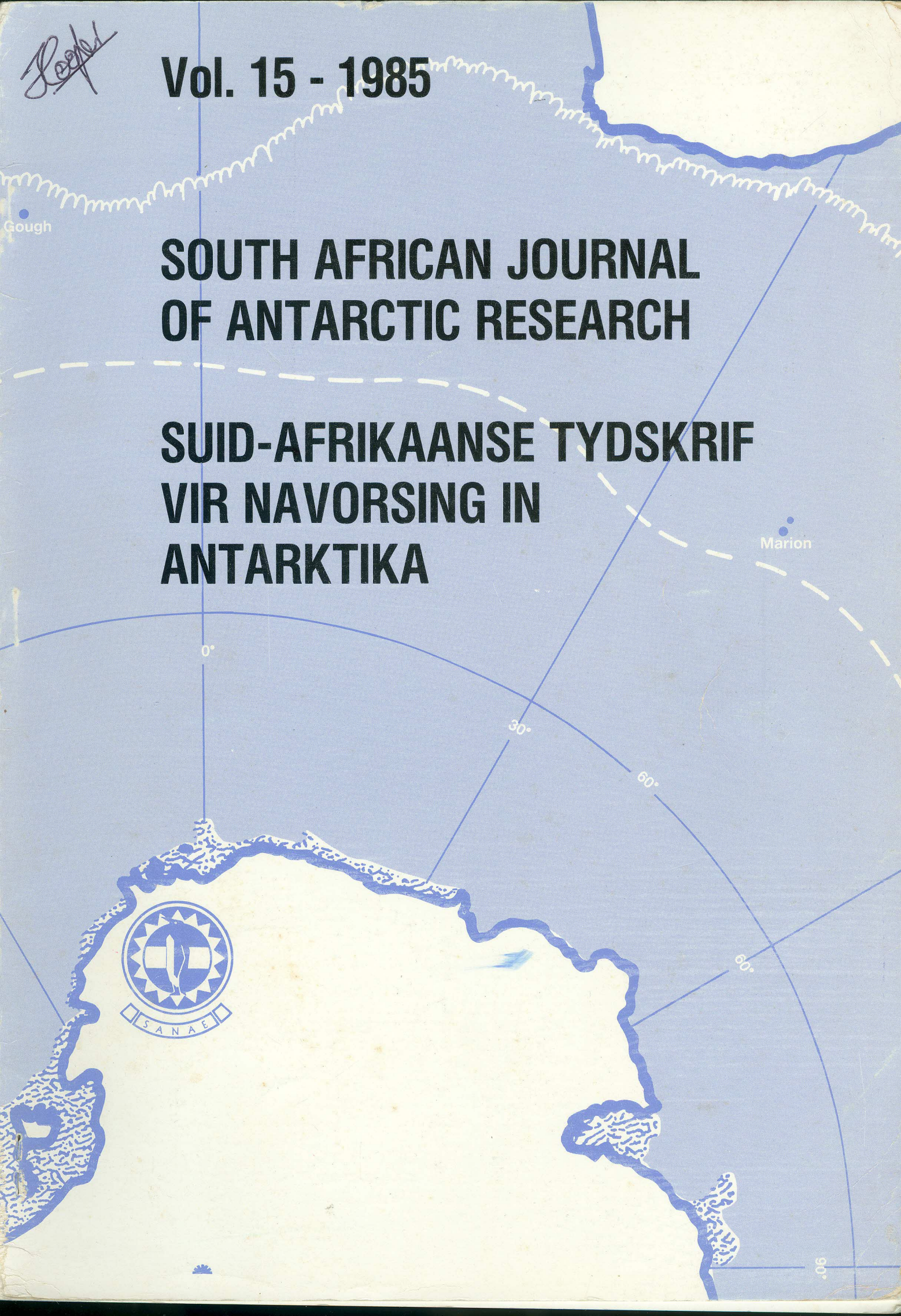


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Vol. 15 - 1985

**SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL
OF ANTARCTIC RESEARCH**

**SUID-AFRIKAANSE TYDSKRIF
VIR NAVORSING IN
ANTARKTIKA**



South African Journal of Antarctic Research

Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Navorsing in Antarktika

Vol. 15, 1985



A South African National Antarctic Programme publication issued under the auspices of the South African Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.

'n Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Antarktiese Program publikasie uitgegee onder beskerming van die Suid-Afrikaanse Wetenskaplike Komitee vir Antarktiese Navorsing, Posbus 395, Pretoria, Republiek van Suid-Afrika.

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Alle bydraes en korrespondensie moet gerig word p/a Die Redakteur, Suid-Afrikaanse Tydskrif vir Navorsing in Antarktika, SNO, WNNR, Posbus 395, Pretoria, 0001.

Produced and distributed by the Foundation for Research Development, CSIR, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria, 0001.

Versorg en versprei deur die Stigting vir Navorsingsontwikkeling, WNNR, Posbus 395, Pretoria, 0001.

Printed in the Republic of South Africa by the Graphic Arts Division of the CSIR.

In die Republiek van Suid-Afrika gedruk deur die Afdeling Grafiese Kunste van die WNNR.

ISSN 0081-2455

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This volume of the South African Journal of Antarctic Research has been given over entirely to a presentation of the preliminary results of the first of South Africa's Second International BIOMASS Experiment (SIBEX I) cruises into the Prydz Bay region, Antarctica. The primary aim was to contribute towards the identification of the dominant physical, chemical and biological features of the region. Similar survey programmes were attempted in adjacent areas between December 1983 and March 1984 by France, Japan and Australia. The areas to be covered by these participating nations, and the survey grids within them, were established at a SIBEX Planning Meeting held during the Fourth SCAR Symposium on Antarctic Biology at Wilderness, September 1983.

Since all contributions in this volume arise directly from the SIBEX I cruise of the *SA Agulhas*, and present preliminary results, with the final analyses and interpretations of data to be published independently by the participants in the open scientific literature, the layout of this volume departs slightly from the norm. An overall synopsis has been included in order to bring together the individual contributions in the form of an integrated, interdisciplinary summary of the main findings of the cruise.