

IS AN INTERNATIONAL LIST OF GENERA OF CULTIVATED PLANTS POSSIBLE?

For three years correspondence has been in progress between about fifty botanic gardens in different parts of the world with a view to a possible simplification of the international exchange of seeds. Expressions have been received from a number of gardens favoring agreement as to genera and families of cultivated plants, as follows:

Kirstenbosch, South Africa: I approve of the formation of an international list of genera of cultivated plants, provided that it is clear that this is entirely for practical convenience, and that it is not intended to be an authoritative work on systematics (*R. H. Compton*).

Melbourne, Australia: We shall be glad to cooperate with other botanic institutions in the formation of an international list of genera of cultivated plants. We follow the Engler system in the Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium. It is the most widely accepted classification and is, I think, the best for general use (*Wm. Laidlaw*).

Montevideo, Uruguay: While we fully accept the position of the International Congress of Vienna, we are forced, in the cases where we can not look into details, that is, in a great majority of cases, to accept names of the Engler system without criticism. Most botanic gardens are probably in the same position. When one once leaves the nomenclature of the Index Kewensis, which is regrettable, one must accept a number of peculiarities of the Engler system, for example the word *Thuja*, awkward for the Spanish (which is pronounced *Thucha*) instead of *Thuya* (which would be pronounced *Thuia*) (*Luis Guillot*).

Ottawa, Canada: While absolute uniformity is hardly likely to be realized, I think the curators of most botanic gardens will see the advantage of falling in line with the majority. . . . The acceptance of an international list of genera would lead to the uniformity in procedure so much to be desired (*J. Adams*).

Arnold Arboretum, Massachusetts: Generally we follow Dalla Torre and Harms except in cases where we have formed a different opinion. . . . If an international list of genera should be confined to disputed genera, it could easily be printed on a single sheet, and would be convenient to consult, and being inexpensive, would have a wide distribution (*Alfred Rehder*).

Kew, England: The formation of an international list of genera of cultivated plants would serve a useful purpose in tending to promote greater uniformity in nomenclature of cultivated plants (*A. W. Hill*).

Edinburgh, Scotland: I would be in favor of an approved list of *nomina conservanda* which insures the retention of all well-known generic names, the avoidance of subdivision of long established families and genera, and recognition of the difficulty of changing generic and specific names already rooted in horticultural practice (*W. W. Smith*).

Dublin, Irish Free State: I am strongly in favor of the idea of an international list of genera of cultivated

plants. So far as our small staff can, we will cooperate with the suggestion (*H. H. Dixon*).

Groningen, Holland: I shall readily accept in the seed list of our garden the use of the names and classification as established by the cooperating institutions (*F. C. Schoute*).

Copenhagen, Denmark: I feel convinced that it would be of real value if all botanical gardens used the same family and generic names, but I am afraid it will be a very troublesome job to unite all gardens in this way (*Axel Lange*).

Lisbon, Portugal: I promise you our cooperation (*R. Palkinha*).

A number of gardens favor adopting exactly the genera of Dalla Torre and Harms, for example:

Delft, Holland: We prefer to take the family and generic names exclusively from Dalla Torre and Harms and to follow the Index Kewensis and Christensen's Index Filicum for the names of species. We still think this the most simple way to come to an agreement (*G. van Iterson*).

Coimbra, Portugal: The system of Engler and the Index of Dalla Torre and Harms are no longer in accord with the latest works of systematists. But a collection of plants can not be changed every year. We are of the opinion that the most simple and most practical is the adoption, in principle, of the names of Dalla Torre and Harms for the Siphonogama, and of Christensen for the ferns. Those who, for systematic or other reasons, wish to use other names, could print these in slightly different characters, or mark them by a conventional sign (*L. W. Carrisae, F. A. Mendance*).

In the hope of aiding progress toward international agreement in this matter the Brooklyn Botanic Garden intends to publish, early in 1926, a preliminary list of about 2,500 genera of plants offered in the seed lists of about a hundred botanic gardens. The names will be printed in large or small type, according to the information we have received, as to whether they are more or less generally acceptable. The list will be mailed to botanic gardens and herbaria, and, on request, to others interested.

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NOTE ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROTOZOAN GENUS CRYPTOCHILUM MAUPAS¹

WHILST working on the Protozoa of Bermuda in the summer of 1919 my attention was called to a parasitic form of ciliate Infusoria found, with others, in great numbers in the intestinal tract of

¹ Contributions from the Bermuda Biological Station for Research. No. 152.