

News and Notes

The Seventh International Botanical Congress

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The Seventh International Botanical Congress was held at Stockholm, Sweden, July 12-20. This congress had been planned for 1940; because of its postponement a period of 15, rather than the normal 5, years had elapsed since the Sixth Congress, held at Amsterdam in 1935. More than 1,500 delegates, many accompanied by members of their families, took part in the Stockholm meeting. The president of the congress, Carl Skottsberg, opened the first plenary session on July 12, introducing to the delegates H.R.H. the Crown Prince, who welcomed them to Sweden. Formal invitations to hold the Eighth Congress were received from representatives of France, the United States, and Canada, and a Resolutions Committee to consider these invitations was appointed.

The plenary sessions were held in Concert Hall, near the center of the city, and congress headquarters and the sectional meetings were at the conveniently located University of Stockholm, where adequate meeting rooms and projection equipment were available. The congress was divided into 15 sections, which held concurrent or joint meetings throughout the period. More than 600 formal papers were presented in 14 of the sections, the discussions in the Section on Nomenclature being general. Of course, each delegate could hear only, comparative few of the papers, which will be abstracted in the *Proceedings* of the Congress.

On the afternoon of the opening day the Crown Prince received the delegates at the Royal Palace of Drottningholm. On July 13 several excursions to various islands of the Stockholm Archipelago were made, permitting the delegates to see this region under ideal conditions. On July 15 the members visited three of the botanical institutions near Stockholm—the Forest Research Institute, the Natural History Museum, and the Bergius Botanic Garden. On the following day there was a general excursion to Uppsala, where delegates examined the university, Linnaeus' botanical garden, and his estate in near-by Hammarby; this was followed by a dinner for all delegates at the famous castle in Uppsala.

Before and after the congress numerous excursions were made, covering practically all parts of Sweden and lasting, in some cases, for more than two weeks. These excursions offered the delegates an unparalleled opportunity to visit remote parts of Sweden under the guidance of expert leaders. The committee in charge of the excursions and the numerous individuals who acted as leaders deserve the utmost credit for their enthusiasm and generosity.

At a final plenary session on July 20 the congress approved the decisions made by the various sections. The

report of the Resolutions Committee was received and approved, and it was agreed to hold the Eighth International Botanical Congress at Paris, probably in 1954. It was decided that, in the future, meetings will be alternated between Europe and some non-European country, and that the intercongress period will be shortened to 3 or 4 years, when possible.

All delegates to the Stockholm Congress will agree that the meetings were eminently successful and enjoyable. The natural beauties of the city and country, the excellent organizational work of our hosts, and the cooperation of officials of the Swedish government combined to make this largest of international botanical congresses a very memorable one.

NOMENCLATURE

Although the work of the Section on Nomenclature is specialized, the decisions made by this section and approved by the congress as a whole affect, in one way or another, every botanist; consequently, it is felt that a report on the Stockholm Congress from this point of view will be useful.

The Section on Nomenclature, under the joint presidency of E. D. Merrill and T. A. Sprague, began its deliberations in advance of the congress, on July 7. It was hoped that the work of this section might be completed by July 12, but three additional sessions were held after the opening of the congress, a total of 11 half-day sessions being necessary for the completion of business. Faced with a 255-page "Synopsis of Proposals," prepared by the *rapporteur général*, J. Lanjouw, the delegates were expected to reach decisions to accept or reject (or modify) each proposal concerning the present (third) edition of the *International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature*. That the task was completed at all was due to the excellent preliminary work of Dr. Lanjouw and his associates, to the skillful handling of the meetings by the presidents, to the zeal of numerous committees and their chairmen, and to the good will and cooperation of the delegates in reconciling their often divergent opinions. The average attendance at each session of the section was more than 100.

On the first day the *rapporteur général* explained the basis upon which the organizing committee of the congress had allotted votes for use in the Section on Nomenclature. Votes were automatically granted to members of committees, members of the Bureau of Nomenclature, and proposers of changes in the *Rules*. The greater number of votes, however, were allotted to botanical institutions and organizations throughout the world, ac-

cording to their size, number of workers, and activity, with a maximum of 5 votes. The organizing committee weighed all requests for voting privileges and was generous in allotting them. Voting upon each question was by a show of hands unless the decision was close, in which case secret ballots were used. On only ten occasions were ballot votes taken, and these indicated that approximately 360 votes had been allotted by the organizing committee (or at least had been claimed by delegates).

Preliminary voting forms had been distributed in advance of the congress with the "Synopsis of Proposals"; a tabulation of the preliminary vote was made available to the delegates. In order to save time, it was agreed not to discuss any proposal which failed to receive at least one-third of the votes in the preliminary balloting, unless the proposer, or someone acting for him, wished to explain the proposal and ask for reconsideration. After the first 2 days it was further agreed to limit each speaker to 2 minutes and to permit him to speak only once on each proposal. Although this agreement was not strictly enforced, it served to keep the debate within reasonable limits.

It is not possible here to mention all the changes made in the *Rules*, but those of particular consequence will be briefly discussed, the order of articles being that of the current *Rules*.

Art. 8 was modified to permit the use of a recently coined word, *taxon* (plural: *taxa*), in place of "taxonomic group." The adoption of this proposal will mean many changes throughout the text of the *Rules*; the word *taxon* has already met with uniform approval among systematic botanists, many of whom use it in their writings.

Art. 18. This is the article which discusses the type method. Numerous suggestions for revising the article had been received, and the task of coordinating these was so formidable that a special committee was appointed to consider the whole matter of the type method, which is so fundamental a part of our current system of nomenclature. This committee composed a substitute for the present Article 18, considerably expanding and clarifying it, which was accepted by the Section on Nomenclature.

Art. 21. This article, which limits the principle of priority by providing for the conservation of generic names, was expanded to provide for the conservation of names of taxa above the rank of genus. Many proposals had been submitted to permit the conservation of specific names or at least to list certain names as *nomina excludenda*. After considerable discussion of this fundamental matter, the section rejected the principle of *nomina specifica conservanda* by a ballot vote of 320 to 40. Similarly, the principle of *nomina specifica excludenda* (*rejicienda*) was rejected by a vote of 242 to 116.

Art. 28 bis, a new article, was adopted. This makes it mandatory to repeat the specific epithet for any taxon of lower rank than a species which includes the type of the species, if it is to be referred to by name. Such an epithet is to be used without citation of an author's name, and the principle of priority does not apply to it. This is perhaps the most consequential change made by

the Section on Nomenclature at Stockholm. As a corollary, another new article, numbered 68 bis, declares illegitimate subdivisional epithets such as *typicus*, *originarius*, and *genuinus*. The result of this legislation will mean the substitution of the repeated specific epithet for the many thousands of varieties *typicus* in current usage.

Arts. 31-34 make up Subsection 6 of Section 4 of the present *Rules* and deal with names of hybrids, etc. In recent years it has become apparent that these articles are inadequate to provide for the complicated situations faced by experimental taxonomists. A special committee considered the numerous proposals to revise this subsection and recommended a new and expanded text for Articles 31-34. This new text, subject to minor changes by the Editorial Committee, was accepted by the Section on Nomenclature.

Art. 35, dealing with names of plants in cultivation, was also greatly in need of revision, in view of modern progress in the taxonomic understanding of such plants. This article was reworded and expanded, and a special committee was appointed to draw up an amplified appendix dealing with the nomenclature of cultivated plants.

Art. 63 and Rec. XXXVII, dealing with *nomina dubia*, were deleted. It was the majority opinion of delegates that only a specialist can decide whether a name is "dubious," and that legislation discussing such names is not desirable.

Arts. 62 and 64, dealing with *nomina ambigua* and *nomina confusa*, provided for lists of names to be abandoned (Appendices IV and V, thus far never compiled). It was felt that such lists are not desirable, and the provision for their compilation was deleted. As now worded, the articles leave the decision as to whether names are ambiguous or confused to the discretion of workers.

Art. 69 discusses the selection of a new name or epithet for a group for which no legitimate epithet exists. An author may select for such a taxon an epithet previously given to the group in an illegitimate combination; but it is now positively stated that *the resultant combination is treated as a new name*.

Rec. XLIII is the much discussed recommendation dealing with the capitalization of specific epithets. It was reworded in such a way that the emphasis has been shifted; i.e., it is now recommended that all specific and trivial names be written with a small initial letter, but provisions for the traditional use of capitals in certain special cases remain in the recommendation for those who wish to use them.

The foregoing discussion summarizes only the most outstanding changes that were made in the *Rules*, and it will be seen that most of these are secondary in nature. Special committees that had been working during the intercongress period on problems in the nomenclature of fungi and fossil plants presented their suggestions to the section, and their reports were accepted, subject to modification by the Editorial Committee. Such reports are too detailed and specialized to be discussed here. The long lists of generic names that were proposed for conservation were referred to the appropriate committees for consideration.

An important development took place at a brief joint meeting of the Section on Nomenclature and the Sections on Taxonomy (Phanerogams and Cryptogams). An International Association of Plant Taxonomists was established, and a committee to organize the initial phases was

appointed, with C. Baehni (Geneva) as president and J. Lanjouw (Utrecht) as secretary. Botanists throughout the world interested in taxonomy and related subjects will be informed concerning membership in the new association in the near future.

About People

George Gelman, technical director of the Quartermaster Food and Container Institute for the Armed Forces, has resigned to accept appointment on November 4 as vice president of the Vico Products Company, Chicago, manufacturers of yeast, yeast derivatives, hydrolysates, and vitamins.

C. M. Hasselmann, chairman of dermatology and venereology and chief of clinics at Erlangen University, American Zone of Germany, has been appointed expert adviser for a yaws control project being conducted in Indonesia by WHO, the UN International Children's Emergency Fund, and the Indonesian government. He succeeds **Frederick R. Hill**.

Donald Mainland has been appointed professor of preventive medicine in charge of medical statistics at New York University College of Medicine. He was formerly professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine of Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and is at present engaged in research on the relation of aging to changes in bones and joints.

Fillmore H. Sanford, formerly of Haverford College and the Institute for Research in Human Relations, is the new executive secretary of the American Psychological Association. He replaces **Dael Wolfe**, who on October 1 became director of the Commission on Human Resources. The commission's purpose is to assess the national supply and needs for top-level talent in all fields that require long education and training. Sponsoring the commission are the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Council on Education, the National Research Council, and the Social Science Research Council.

Roman Smoluchowski, professor of metallurgical engineering at Car-

negie Institute of Technology, has been appointed a consultant to the chairman of the Research and Development Board on matters pertaining to research in the field of physics and solids.

Joel Stebbins, research associate at the Lick Observatory, University of California, will deliver the George Darwin Lecture before the Royal Astronomical Society, London, on October 13. He will also speak before the Royal Society of Edinburgh and at the Universities of Glasgow and Cambridge.

Visitors

Jean Glangeaud, professor of geology at the University of Besancon, France, is visiting the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., and may be reached there through W. D. Johnston, Jr., or Francis G. Wells. **Bertil Hallert**, professor of photogrammetry at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, was a recent visitor at the Survey.

Boris Ephrussi, professor of genetics, Laboratoire de Génétique, University of Paris, will deliver the second Harvey Lecture of the current series at the New York Academy of Medicine on October 26. Dr. Ephrussi will speak on "The Interplay of Heredity and Environment in the Synthesis of Certain Respiratory Enzymes in Yeast."

Grants and Awards

G. L. Royer was awarded the **Olney Award Medal**, presented annually for outstanding achievement in the field of textile chemistry, including the development of chemical agents or chemical processes used in the manufacture of textiles or methods for their evaluation. The award was made September 30 at the 29th annual convention of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists.

The **Howard N. Potts Medal** will be awarded by the Franklin Institute to Merle A. Tuve, director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism at Carnegie Institution, on October 18. Dr. Tuve was cited for his leadership in developing the first workable proximity fuse, which played a major role in World War II.

The National Academy of Sciences conferred the **John J. Carty Gold Medal and Award** upon Irving Langmuir, recently retired associate director of the General Electric Research Laboratory at the academy's autumn meeting on October 11. In addition to the medal the bestowal carries with it the award of the net accumulated income since the time of the preceding award.

NRC News

Particle and Quantum Detectors, Preliminary Report No. 7 of the NRC Nuclear Science Series, is available without charge to workers in nuclear science. The report is one of a series being compiled by the Committee on Nuclear Science of the NRC's Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and it is planned to publish the complete work later as a handbook of nuclear instruments and techniques. Report No. 7 was prepared by R. R. Wilson, D. R. Corson, and C. P. Baker, of Cornell University. It includes sections on ionization, proportional and Geiger counters, and on electron multipliers and scintillation counters. Pulse shape, pulse time, electronic amplification, and similar characteristics and techniques are discussed for each type of detector.

A second edition of **Survey of Food and Nutrition Research in the United States** has been prepared by the NRC's Food and Nutrition Board. The new survey, covering 1948-49, includes nearly 4,500 research projects being conducted by

650 academic, industrial, and government laboratories in numerous fields of research under major classifications of physiology, chemistry, technology, microbiology, food acceptance, and nutrition education. A list of organizations supporting or conducting research in food and nutrition is included.

The publication can be obtained from the Office of Technical Services of the U. S. Department of Commerce, for \$1.75.

Industrial Laboratories

Bausch & Lomb Optical Company has appointed Kuan H. Sun as a special consultant in optical glass research. Dr. Sun will collaborate with Norbert J. Kreidl, head of Bausch & Lomb's Chemical Laboratory, on the behavior of glass under radiation, including high-energy gamma rays and neutrons.

Pulverization of previously hard or impossible-to-grind materials now can be accomplished by a method developed by **The Linde Air Products Company, of the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation**. The new technique uses liquid nitrogen, in spray form, to cool the material rapidly to a point of maximum fragility, and thereby reduce the amount of energy required for its fracture. The new process promises to accelerate the high-speed pulverization of mechanically-tough or heat-sensitive materials such as plastics, pharmaceuticals, insecticides, foodstuffs, substances containing vitamins, and other organic materials.

Meetings

A symposium on shock and vibration will be held October 18-19 at the Armour Research Foundation in Chicago, under the sponsorship of the Department of Defense Research and Development Board. Elias Klein and Arthur Park, of the Naval Research Laboratory, which is conducting the meetings, are in charge of arrangements. Additional information, including subjects of papers to be presented, may be obtained from Mr. Park, Naval

Research Laboratory, Washington 25, D. C.

The National Malaria Society, American Society of Tropical Medicine, and the American Academy of Tropical Medicine will hold joint annual meetings at the Hotel DeSoto, Savannah, Ga., November 6-10. In addition to scientific reports on the latest advances in the field, two symposia—"Nutrition in Relation to Tropical Medicine" and "Nation-wide Malaria Eradication Projects in the Americas"—will be held. Outstanding workers in the Western Hemisphere have been invited to participate in the symposia.

The third Inter-American Congress on Brucellosis will be held in Washington, D. C., November 6-10, under the auspices of the Inter-American Committee on Brucellosis, the Committee on Brucellosis of the National Research Council, and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, regional office of WHO. Governments throughout the Western Hemisphere have been invited to send official delegates, and all physicians, veterinarians, medical technicians, bacteriologists, and professional persons interested in the study and control of brucellosis are invited. Representatives from England and Europe will also attend. The main objectives of the congress are the exchange of ideas on techniques of combating brucellosis and discussion of related scientific work, with the aim of establishing uniform methods of diagnosis and improving treatment and control. The program will include papers on epidemiology, bacteriology, research and clinical observations on human brucellosis, veterinary research, and control of brucellosis. Open discussion will follow each paper. Sessions will be held at the Departmental Auditorium, Department of Commerce. On Wednesday, November 8, delegates will visit the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., and the laboratories of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Beltsville, Md. The registration fee of \$5.00 includes a copy of the printed proceedings. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Wesley W. Spink, Chairman of

the Organizing Committee, University Hospitals, Minneapolis 14, Minn.

Miscellaneous

The Nature Conservancy is the new name which was adopted by the former Ecologists Union at its annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, September 11.

Officers elected include Stanley A. Cain, of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, president; George B. Fell, of Washington, D. C., vice president; and Joseph J. Hickey, of the University of Wisconsin, secretary-treasurer. William Vogt was elected to the Board of Governors. Former members of the board still serving are Richard H. Pough, of the American Museum of Natural History, and Victor E. Shelford, of the University of Illinois.

Principal work of the organization is carried on by the Committee on the Study of Plant and Animal Communities, under chairmanship of S. Charles Kendeigh, University of Illinois, and the Committee for the Preservation of Natural Conditions, of which Dr. Pough is chairman.

Purpose of the Nature Conservancy, as stated in its constitution, includes "the preservation of adequate samples of all biotic communities and other features in each distinctive natural region, and the encouragement of the study of these communities." Emphasis will be placed on saving small natural areas for their scientific, educational, and aesthetic values. An extensive program of acquisition and preservation activities is being planned in cooperation with local groups and agencies in all parts of the country.

The Nature Conservancy maintains an office at 1214 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

The editors of *Growth* have for sale a limited number of *Growth symposia* at the reduced rate of \$1.50 per copy. The complete series, Symposia 1-4, 6, 7, and 8 (proceedings of the fifth symposium were never printed), is \$10 per set. Orders should be mailed to the Editorial Office, *Growth*, Fox Chase, Philadelphia 11, Pa.