positive color reaction with sodium nitroferricyanide after irradiation for 1 hr with the Hanovia lamp but not before, and not if the radiation was first passed through an acetone filter which absorbs wavelengths shorter than 300 mμ. Because of this finding the isolation of homocysteine was attempted from an irradiated methionine solution. No *S*-benzylhomocysteine could be isolated; only unchanged methionine could be identified. It is possible that methyl mercaptan CH_3SH was formed.

References

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Manuscript received April 13, 1952.

Comments and Communications

Zoological Nomenclature

AS FROM March 1, 1953, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature will start to vote on the following cases involving the possible use of its plenary powers for the purposes specified in brackets against each entry. Full particulars of these cases were published on August 29, 1952, in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature,* those relating to cases (1) to (4) in Part 10, and those relating to cases (5) to (14) in Part 11 of Vol. 6. (1) *Sphinx* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Insecta, Order Peidoptera) [designation of type species]; (2) Houttuyn (M. H.), 1787, *Animalium Musei Houttuinensi Index* [suppression]; (3) *Phalaena* Linnaeus, 1758 (Cl. Insecta, Ord. Lepidoptera) [suppression, and validation as of generic status of eight terms used by Linnaeus for groups thereof: *Bombyx, Noctua, Geometra, Tortrix, Pyralis, Tinea, Alucita,* as from 1758, *Attacus,* as from 1767; and names of families based thereon; alternatively, for *Bombyx* and *Pyralis* (as from Fabricius, 1775), designation of type species]; (4) *Episema* Ochsenheimer, 1816 (Cl. Insecta, Ord. Lepidoptera) [designation of type species, thereby also preserving *Diloba* Boisduval, 1840]; (5) *cydippe* Linnaeus, 1761, *Papilio,* and *adippe* Linnaeus, 1767, *Papilio* (Cl. Insecta, Ord. Lepidoptera) [suppression, and validation of *adippe* Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775, *Papilio*]; (6) *hispidus* Olivier, 1811, *Palaemon* (Cl. Crustacea, Ord. Decapoda) [validation]; (7) *Sicyonia* Milne Edwards, 1830 (Cl. Crustacea, Ord. Decapoda) [validation]; (8) *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819 (Cl. Crustacea, Order Decapoda) [designation of type species]; (9) *Pyramidella* Lamarck, 1799 (Cl. Gastropoda, Subclass Prosobranchia) [validation, by suppression of *Plotia* Roeding, 1798]; (10) *Dasypeltis* Wagler, 1930 (Cl. Reptilia) [validation]; (11) *Trichopsylla* Kolenati, 1863 (Cl. Insecta, Ord. Siphonaptera) [suppression]; (12) *pungens* Walcknaer, 1802, *Pulex,* and *vespertilionis* Duges, 1832, *Pulex* (Cl. Insecta, Ord. Siphonaptera) [suppression]; (13) *simus* Linnaeus, 1767, *Coluber* (Cl. Reptilia) [determination of application]; (14) *Mellita* Agassiz, 1841 (Cl. Echinoidea) [validation].

Comments on the above cases should be sent to me as soon as possible.

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Comparative Anatomy, Embryology, and Histology Synthesized

COMPARATIVE anatomy, embryology, and histology of vertebrates are usually separate semester courses in undergraduate schools—an arrangement that results in some duplication of material. For the past four years I have offered at Lawrence College a year course in vertebrate morphology, which attempts to combine the three courses into an integrated whole. After a preliminary study of testis and ovary histology and germ-cell formation, we investigate fertilization, cleavage, and germ-layer formation. Then the various body systems are studied in the following order: skeletal, muscular, nervous, endodermal, urinogenital, and circulatory. For each system the development and the microscopic and gross structure of adult morphology are considered comparatively.

The forms used are frog, chick, and pig embryos; shark, *Necturus,* alligator, and cat adults; and histological sections from the four adult forms. The approach varies with the system. In the skeletal and muscular systems, a brief histological and embryological survey is followed by much more extensive work on comparative anatomy. The embryology of the nervous system is given a great deal of time, with histology and anatomy somewhat less. The endodermal systems emphasize histology most, embryology next, and anatomy less. The embryology and histology of the urinogenital systems are considered together, with anatomy following. In the circulatory system a short study of histology is followed by study of the morphology in the frog embryo, shark, and *Necturus* adults, chick embryo, alligator adult, pig embryo, and cat adult.