

forms a stable complex only with copper (II).

The regularities noted are as follows:

1. In a series of analogous dyes there is a decrease in stability of the metal compounds with increased acidity of the dye.
2. A terdentate group forms a more stable compound than a bidentate group.
3. The hydroxyl group is a stronger coordinating group than the carboxyl group.
4. The simple pyrazolone dyes (Type V), although stronger acids than the simple monohydroxy (Type VI) compounds, form more stable compounds.

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## Comments and Communications

### *Alternaria* within Pericarp of Wheat Seed

IN a communication to *Nature* (1) on "The problem of wheat rust," I stated that I obtained *Alternaria* from a majority of fresh and healthy Indian wheat seeds of the current year when they were aseptically treated and planted in culture tubes. From culture of surface-sterilized grains of Barsée wheat (a rust-resistant variety), Miss Hyde (June 1950) observed that the "most common subepidermal fungus is *Alternaria tenuis* (in 64.4% of grains);" she further holds that the subepidermal mycelium apparently arises either from systemic infection of the wheat plant (as in case of *Lolium* spp.) or from fungal spores and hyphae present on the outside of the developing grains and among the dead floral parts. She has not been able as yet, however, to find an instance of actual penetration of the epidermis—the method of entry of the subepidermal mycelium—although she is still trying to find it. From the basal internode (about 1–2 in. long) of flowering stems of Barsée wheat and from stems immediately below the inflorescence, she could get, under aseptic condition in culture plates, *Alternaria tenuis* in 40 and 43 stems out of 70 (*cf.* Table 3, at p. 355, *loc cit.*).

When healthy wheat seeds, aseptically treated, germinated within the culture tubes, sections of the plumules and radicles of healthy wheat seedlings showed the same septate and branched hyphae within their tissues, which in pure culture produced *Alternaria* spores; and, as stated in *Nature*, "repeated isolation of mycelium of *Alternaria* sp. from surface-sterilized seeds indicated that the fungus remained within the seed tissues." Christensen (3) seems to hold *Alternaria* mostly to be a storage mold in the case of high-grade wheats. But it is clear (4) that he definitely holds *Alternaria* to be "of no known signifi-

cance in the deterioration of stored seed." Now, of the two alternatives left (i.e., parasite and symbiont), *Alternaria* obviously cannot be a parasite within the seed pericarp of all the healthy wheat plants of the world. Hence, I hold that there can be no other conclusion than that *Alternaria* should be regarded as a symbiont and that further work on eradication of wheat rust should proceed along this new line.

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### Zoological Nomenclature

NOTICE is hereby given that, as from April 15, 1953, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature will start to vote on the following cases in the Class Aves, 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 October 15, 1952, in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, in Triple-Part 1/3 of Vol. 9.

(1) *Colymbus* Linnaeus, 1758, and *Gavia* (all uses prior to *Gavia* Forster, 1788) [suppression]; (2) *caspicus* Hablizl, 1783, *Colymbus* [suppression]; (3) *cafra* (Otis), *cafer* (*Cuculus*), *sulphuratus* (*Cuculus*), *flavescens* (*Lanius*), all of Lichtenstein, 1793 [suppression]; (4) *nortoniensis* Gmelin, 1789, *Fringilla* [suppression]; (5) *natka* (*Lanius*) and *septentrionalis* (*Lanius*), both of Gmelin, 1788, and *eimeensis* (*Columba*), *unalaschkensis* (*Hirundo*), *borealis*