

evaluate its need for his testimony before going to the trouble of subpoenaing him. Once subpoenaed, the individual will have a basis upon which to contest his duty to testify. He will not have to risk criminal prosecution in order to contest this duty for he will be able to challenge the probable cause for his subpoena prior to testifying. If the court finds that the individual does have a duty to testify, he will either have to rely on the fifth amendment, risk criminal prosecution for contempt, or provide the information required.

E. S. FETCHER

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene,
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

A Just View of Systematics

When a systematist talks to his own set, a congratulatory tone is expected. But publication of Mayr's address, "The role of systematics in biology" (1), exposing it to the nonsystematic public, irresistibly invites a rejoinder! Systematists may not have received due credit for their great contributions to biology but neither perhaps have they got just treatment for abetting biologists in the mistaken belief that taxonomic aggregates, such as populations, are substantial objects-in-nature.

Every ecologist, for example, who sets it down in chapter one that *population and community* are levels-of-integration (and hence "systems") comparable in status to, though midway in complexity of organization between, individual organisms and individual ecosystems is a victim of taxonomy. The levels-of-integration that are demonstrable in nature and those that exist in the minds of systematists are rarely if ever discriminated. Some of the resulting problems were adumbrated in Ehrlich and Holm's article "Patterns and populations" (2) where the authors wrote (unfortunately at the end rather than at the beginning): "The basic units of population biology (*sic*) are not communities, species or even populations, but individual organisms," and in a footnote that should be pondered: "... if historically we had begun to think about biology in ecological rather than taxonomic terms we would now deal with biological 'facts' very differently."

J. S. ROWE

Department of Plant Ecology,
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, Canada

References

1. E. Mayr, *Science* 159, 595 (1968).
2. P. R. Ehrlich and R. W. Holm, *ibid.* 137, 652 (1962).

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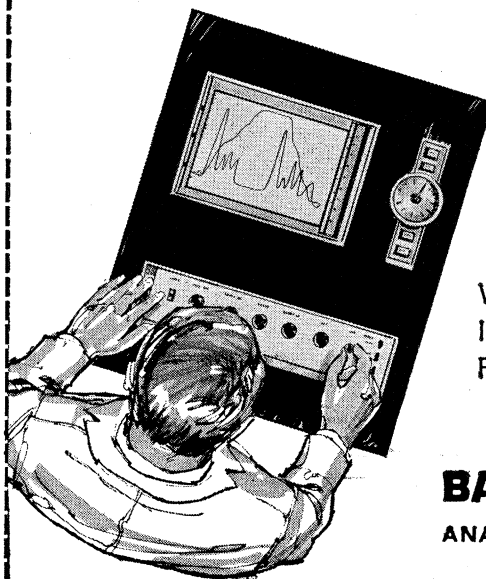
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