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pected, research activities were generally spotty, uncoordinated, and executed on a short-term basis. It is not surprising that in the years before 1948, contributions made by the scientific community in China as a whole fell short of creating a significant impact on the world of science, however admirable some individual efforts may have been.

TIEN-HSI CHENG

Department of Zoology and
Entomology, Pennsylvania State
University, University Park

Multiple Authorship

Multiple authorship has several inherent problems. Bibliographers must list entries under several author names, abstracting services must add extra index entries, and, when the description of new species is involved, it becomes even more objectionable.

In taxonomic papers it is recommended that the authority of each species follow the species name the first time it appears in a paper; for example, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Chanock, Dienes, Eaton, Edward, Freundt, Hayflick, Hers, Jensen, Liu, Marmion, Morton, Mufson, Smith, Somerson, and Taylor-Robinson, 1963 [*Science* 140, 662 (10 May 1963)]. Obviously the recommended procedure will not be followed in citations of this species, and the authority will become Chanock *et al.* Henceforth only Chanock will get credit for naming the species. Had Chanock *et al.* followed the recommended practice in their citation of species, they might have realized that the list of authorities for *M. pneumoniae* would cause inconvenience for other authors in the future.

In taxonomic papers, especially, the number of authors should be limited, and editors should demand justification for the inclusion of more than three or four authors' names. In the paper cited, six column-inches out of 22 were devoted to the list of authors and their institutions. The fact that each man contributed to the research (as acknowledged in the references) does not necessarily mean that all should be authors. The naming of new species has always been highly competitive, and the man who first recognizes a species as unique should be entitled to describe it.

JAMES E. McCAULEY

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Starts on Page 39**

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