INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS AND BACTERIOLOGY AT STOCKHOLM, JULY 12-20

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THE SEVENTH International Botanical Congress convened in Stockholm, July 12-20. It is of interest to note that this Congress provided the first opportunity for botanists from all over the world to get together since the Sixth International Botanical Congress held in Amsterdam in 1935. About 1 500 delegates and their families were present from over fifty countries.

The Congress headquarters and all sectional meetings were held in the spacious quarters of the University of Stockholm. More than six hundred papers were presented in formal sessions. The plenary sessions convened in the beautifully fashioned Concert House near the downtown area. Housing conditions for the various delegates were of the highest quality. Smorgasbord luncheons were served each day in the Students' Dining Hall of the University.

The memorable success of this Congress was due to the splendid organization of the Congress under its president, Dr. Carl Skottsberg, and to the unlimited hospitality of the Swedish hosts. Dr. Skottsberg opened the first plenary session on July 12 and introduced H. R. H. the Crown Prince, who welcomed the international group to Sweden. In the afternoon the delegates were the guests of the Crown Prince at the Royal Palace of Drottningholm. Numerous excursions were provided the delegates to enable them to see the beauties of Stockholm, its environs and the country

side of nearby areas. Among the most notable were those to the Stockholm Archipelago, the Natural History Museum, the Forest Research Institute, and to the Bergius Botanic Garden. Of particular interest to all delegates was an all day trip to Uppsala, where considerable interest was shown in the University Linnaeus botanical garden, and Linnaeus' estate at Hammarby. This excursion was terminated by a banquet and dance in the famous old castle in Uppsala.

Delegates from France, Canada, and the United States presented formal invitations for the next Congress. It was decided to hold the Eighth International Congress in Paris probably in 1954. Further, it was resolved that in the future the Congress meetings will be alternated between European and non-European countries and that, if at all possible, the intercongress period will be shortened to three or four years.

Nomenclature

The Section on Nomenclature was under the joint presidency of Dr. E. D. Merrill (U. S. A.) and Dr. T. A. Sprague (Great Britain). The members of this section were confronted with a 255 page "Synopsis of Proposals" which had been expertly drawn together by Professor J. Lanjouw, the *rapporteur général*. Consideration of the 542 proposals contained in this synopsis began July 7 and continued until July 20, a total of about eleven half day meetings. During this period items of particular nature

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were frequently referred to specific committees for consideration.

Voting on each proposal was done in the majority of cases by a show of voting cards unless there was a questionable decision. In comparatively few instances were secret ballots necessary. No proposal was discussed which had failed to receive at least one third of the votes in preliminary balloting unless the proposer, or his representative, wished to explain the proposal. Speakers were limited to two minutes and permitted to speak only once on each proposal; however, this rule was frequently forgotten in controversial issues. Each of these meetings was attended by about one hundred delegates.

The success of these sessions is attributed by the writer firstly to the fine style in which these proposals were prepared by Dr. Lanjouw, secondly to the expert handling of the sessions by Drs. Merrill and Sprague, and thirdly to the scholarly interpreting of the rules and discussions into various languages by the linguistic experts. Lastly, particular mention should be made of the international goodwill and spirit of camaraderie contributed by all present toward reconciling the many divergent points of view.

No formal meetings were held by the Special Committee on Bacterial Nomenclature of this Congress. Attention is called here only to certain actions taken by the botanical taxonomists which relate in some way to bacteriological nomenclature.

a. Article 8 was amended in accordance with the proposal that the word *taxon* (*taxa*, plural) is to be used as a substitute for the term "taxonomic group" and is to be applied to any rank

b. Article 18 dealing with the application of names of taxonomic groups as determined by "nomenclatural types" brought forth lengthy discussion and recommendations as to definition and need for various types (holotype, lectotype, neotype, paratype, etc). A special committee was appointed to draft a new article

c. Article 28 *bis* in its original was replaced by a new article which requires the repetition of the specific epithet for a taxon of lower rank than a species which includes the type of the species. This epithet is not governed by the principle of priority, and its use is to be without citation of the author's name.

d. The principles of *nomina specifica conservanda* and *nomina specifica excludenda* (*regiōtenda*) were rejected by votes of 320 to 40 and 242 to 116, respectively. Article 63 and Recommendation XXXVII concerning *nomina ambigua* were deleted.

e. Recommendation XLIII dealing with capitalization of specific epithets provoked a long discussion. This recommendation was modified to read as follows: "All specific and trivial names or epithets should be written with a small initial letter although writers desiring to use capital initial letters for particular names or epithets may do so when these are directly derived from names of persons (or deities), or are vernacular (or barbaric) names, or are previously published (including pre-Linnean and invalid) unmodified generic names. As is obvious here, all specific names may be written with a small letter, yet capitalization may be employed in certain cases.

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f. Considerable interest was shown in Article 36 dealing with the question of priority of publication of new scientific names. The rewording of this article was referred to the editorial committee, however, it was resolved in principle that the description of species contained in manuscripts deposited in libraries or other institutions with microfilm or similar reproduction permitted does not constitute publication.

g. The Committee on Mycological Nomenclature, under the leadership of Dr. Donald P. Rogers, supported the deletion of "*forma specialis*" in parasitic species of the fungi and recommended the deletion of "*forma biologica*." It was recommended that Article 11, which deals with the subdivisions of species, should be modified to obtain the following descending rank in this taxon: subspecies, variety, sub variety, and form.

h. A new article was passed which now makes it obligatory that ordinal names end in *ales* and subordinal names in *inales*.

The International Society for Plant Taxonomy

As many readers will recall, a plan was submitted by Dr. Lanjouw at the 1948 Symposium held at Utrecht under the auspices of the International Union of Biological Sciences for the establishment of an International Society for Plant Taxonomy. A Committee consisting of F. R. Fosberg (U. S. A.), J. Lanjouw (The Netherlands), J. Ramsbottom (Great Britain), and C. G. G. J. van Steenis (Java) was appointed to work out further plans.

The following notes contained in the circulated announcement by Dr. Lanjouw outline in gen-

eral terms the basic pattern of this International Society which was established at the Stockholm Congress:

a. The Society will work in close association with the International Union of Biological Sciences, probably in a special status under the Botanical Section (of the I. U. B. S.). It will absorb the present Bureau of Nomenclature of the Congress.

b. Membership status is not yet decided. Three categories were proposed: (a) Institutes Societies, etc., (b) Individual members with voting status, and (c) Associate members.

c. The Society will be governed by a managing board of which the members will be chosen by members of the Society. Election may take place at an international botanical congress or by ballot among the members. Every year a report of the Society and the financial situation will be sent to all members.

The members will be invited to establish regional groups whose function will be to submit to the central managing board their special wishes. These regional groups will have the privilege of holding regional congresses.

d. The aims of the Society are two-fold: (a) the execution of subjects which can be done only on an international basis, and (b) to promote continuity and efficiency of nomenclatural matters during the intercongress period.

More explicit details regarding the organization of this Society will be announced at a later date by its officers.