COMMITTEE ON TERMINOLOGY IN
BIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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Workers in microbiology find that the pure culture techniques originally developed in bacteriology are increasingly useful in study of many microorganisms other than bacteria. In the microbiological laboratory these techniques are employed in the study of bacteria, viruses, algae (usually unicellular or filamentous), fungi (usually yeasts and hyphomycetes), and protozoa. The microbiologist is concerned with three disciplines, botany, zoology, and bacteriology (including virology). He uses the nomenclatures of the three. Each discipline has its own international nomenclatural code, each code differing in some respects from the other two. He finds differences in terminology in the several codes which make difficult his microbiological nomenclature. Increasingly each of the three disciplines is concerned with the nomenclature of the others.

The XIII General Assembly of the International Union of Biological Sciences, at its London meeting in July, 1959, considered this problem. It received and approved the following proposal:

1. That this Union authorize the formation of an ad hoc Committee on Terminology in Biological Nomenclature.
2. That the Committee be constituted by asking each of the three international commissions to appoint (or nominate) two members.
3. That the Committee be asked to consider and report on possibilities of reconciliation of differing terminologies in the several International Codes of Biological Nomenclature.

The minutes state:

"(1) that after a discussion in which various members of the Assembly participated the Assembly decided to set up an ad hoc committee on terminology and Biological Nomenclature. The Committee will be

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composed by two members of the three International Commissions on Nomenclature, namely: Botanical, Zoological and Microbiological. The six persons so appointed may coopt a seventh member. The Committee will report at the next General Assembly"

The members of the Committee appointed are:

Representing Botany

Professor J. Lanjouw, University of Utrecht, 106 Lange Nieuwstraat, Utrecht, Netherlands. Chairman.
Dr. A.C. Smith, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Representing Zoology

Professor J.R. Dymond, Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Toronto 7, Ontario, Canada.
Professor E. Mayr, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Representing Microbiology

Dr. J. Ramsbottom, 34 Ennerdale Road, Richmond, Surrey, England.
Professor R. E. Buchanan, Room 316 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A.

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A meeting of the I.U.B.S. Committee on Terminology in Biological Nomenclature was held during the sessions of the IX Botanical Congress on Saturday, August 22nd, 1959, in Montreal.

All members were present or represented except Dr. Ramsbottom who was unable to attend. Dr. Lanjouw presided at the meeting. There was substantial agreement that a study of terminological differences among the three codes of biological nomenclature would be rewarding. Some of the differences perhaps may be eliminated, at least they can be accurately defined. Certainly this is true in use of different words for the same concept and in definition of terms and the use of the same term with one

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meaning in one code and a quite different meaning in another code. There are also some differences in philosophy which possibly cannot be reconciled, but at least can be defined. It was pointed out that a microbiologist may, by use of the special techniques developed in bacteriology, be involved in problems of nomenclature involving bacteria, viruses, lower fungi, yeasts, algae and protozoa. He must use each of the three codes if he is to be nomenclaturally literate. But he finds that the word valid when used in the Zoological Code has quite a different connotation than when used in the Botanical or Bacteriological Codes. A "legitimate" name in bacteriology is an "available" name in zoology.

Agreement was reached as to procedure in the immediate future.

1. Dr. Mayr will study the Zoological Code and list terms and definitions that are there used and of general biological interest. These will be annotated and sent to the chairman.
2. Professor Buchanan in consultation with Dr. Ramsbottom will gather the pertinent material from the Bacteriological Code and transmit it to Dr. Lanjouw.
3. Dr. Lanjouw will assume the responsibility of gathering the significant material from the Botanical Code. He will receive and edit the material submitted from all three codes.
4. A comparison of differences in definitions and terminologies may lead to proposals for use of some of the same terms in the several codes.
5. A proposal that was favorably discussed was to prepare a glossary which would include a complete list of the significant terms used in all of the codes, with equivalences and special uses clearly developed.
6. In the glossary there might well be some discussion of the differences in basic nomenclatural philosophy.