

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. B.C. Tan at the **National University of Singapore (SINU)** is looking for good and enthusiastic graduate students, especially from ASEAN countries, to study bryophyte systematics for either a MSc or a PhD degree. SINU has good laboratory and library facilities for both classical and modern systematic methods of systematic studies. The University offers also scholarships to accepted graduate students. In addition, the student will have access to the bryophyte collections at the herbarium of Singapore Botanic Gardens (SING). Interested applicants must have a BSc degree with high academic performance and satisfactory scores of recent GRE and English Proficiency examinations. Applications should be submitted six months ahead of the time of expected start of graduate work, preferably before January and July of the academic year, and mailed to Dr. B.C. Tan, School of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore 119260; e-mail: sbsbct@nus.edu.sg, attention: Dr. B.C. Tan.

We have been asked to include the following communication. It does not mean that the Editors of the *Flora Malesiana Bulletin* endorse this proposal.

Announcing a test and trial phase for the registration of new plant names (1998–1999)

Subject to ratification by the XVI International Botanical Congress (St Louis, 1999) of a rule already included in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Art. 32.1–2 of the Tokyo Code), new names of plants and fungi will have to be registered in order to be validly published after the 1st of January 2000. To demonstrate feasibility of a registration system, the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) undertakes a trial of registration, on a non-mandatory basis, for a two-years period starting 1 January 1998. The coordinating centre will be the secretariat of IAPT, currently at the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Germany. Co-ordination with present indexing centres for major groups of plants is being sought, in view of their possible active involvement at the implementation stage. The International Mycological Institute in Egham, U. K., has already accepted to act as associate registration centre for the whole of fungi, including fossil fungi.

Registration procedure

The coordinating registration centre (IAPT Secretariat), and any associated centre operating under its auspices, will register and make available all names of new taxa, all substitute names, new combinations or rank transfers that are brought to their attention in one of the following ways:

- by being published in an accredited journal or serial;
- by being submitted for registration (normally by the author or one of the authors), either directly or through a national registration office;
- or (for the non-mandatory trial phase only) as a result of scanning of other published information by the registration centres' own staff.

Registration by way of publication in accredited journals or serials

For a journal or serial to be accredited, its publishers must commit themselves, by a signed agreement with the IAPT,

- to point out any nomenclatural novelties in each individual issue of their journal or serial, either by including a separate index of novelties or in another suitable, previously agreed way;
- each individual issue, as soon as published and by the most rapid way, to a pre-defined registration office or centre.

Accredited journals and serials will be entitled, and even encouraged, to mention that accreditation on their cover, title page or in their impressum.

A permanently updated list of accredited journals and serials is being placed on the World Wide Web. This list will be published annually in the journal *Taxon*.

Registration by way of submission to registration offices

Authors of botanical nomenclatural novelties that do not appear in an accredited journal or serial (but, e.g., in a monograph, pamphlet, or non-accredited periodical publication) are strongly encouraged to submit their names for registration – and will be required to do so once registration becomes mandatory – in the following way:

- all names to be registered are to be listed on an appropriate registration form, using a separate form for each separate publication;
- the form (in triplicate) must be submitted together with two copies of the publication itself, either to a national registration office (see below) or, optionally, directly to the appropriate registration centre. Reprints of articles from books or non-accredited periodicals are acceptable, provided their source is stated accurately and in full;
- one dated copy of each form will be sent back to the submitting author in acknowledgement of effected registration.

Registration forms can be obtained free of charge (a) by sending a request to any registration office or centre, by letter, fax or e-mail, or (b), preferably, by printing and copying the form as available on the World Wide Web.

Registration offices are presently being established in as many different countries as possible. They will serve (a) as mailboxes and forwarding agencies for registration submissions and (b) as national repositories for printed matter published locally in which new names appear.

A permanently updated address list of all functioning national registration offices is being placed on the World Wide Web. This list will be published annually in the journal *Taxon*.

Registration date

The date of registration, as here defined, will be the date of receipt of the registration submission at any national registration office or appropriate registration centre. For accredited journals or serials (and, for the duration of the trial phase, for publications scanned at the registration centres), it will be the date of receipt of the publication at the location of the registration centre (or national office, if so agreed).

For the duration of the trial phase, i.e. as long as registration is non-mandatory, the date of a name will, just as before, be the date of effective publication of the printed matter in which it is validated, irrespective of the date of registration. Nevertheless, the registration date will be recorded, for the following reasons:

- to make clear that the name was published on or before that date, in cases when the date of effective publication is not specified in the printed matter;
- to assess the time difference between the (effective or stated) date of the printed matter and that of registration, since it is envisaged that the date of registration be accepted as the date of names published on or after 1 January 2000.

It is therefore in the interest of every author to submit nomenclatural novelties for registration without any delay, and by the most rapid means available.

Access to registration data

Information on registered names will be made publicly available as soon as feasible, (a) by placing it on the World Wide Web without delay in a searchable database, (b) by publishing non-cumulative lists biannually, and (c), hopefully, by issuing cumulative updates on a CD-ROM-type, fully searchable data medium at similar intervals.

A call to everyone: help testing the system so as to make it work

To make the test effective and significant, it is important that everyone publishing nomenclatural novelties on or after 1 January 1998 should participate by registering all new names and combinations on a voluntary basis. Please help (a) by doing so yourself and (b) by spreading the message to others!

Do not be put off if shortcomings or errors occur in the initial months. Remember, this is a test phase. Let us know of any bug or crinkle in the system, and we will iron it out. What matters is that everything operates smoothly by the end of 1999, and that by the next Congress all have satisfied themselves that it will.

We believe that registration of new names, once implemented in a functional way, will be a great benefit for all concerned with but little inconvenience for cost – and so did the Nomenclature Section at Yokohama in 1993 feel. Nomenclature must be fit for a good start into the next millennium. Let us work together to make it happen! — L. Borgen, W. Greuter, D.L. Hawksworth, D.H. Nicolson & B. Zimmer.

This text can also be found at the following site, where it will be regularly up-dated:
<http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/iapt/registration/>