

REPORT
BY
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL
NOMENCLATURE
TO

THE THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ZOOLOGY

Introductory

We, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, assembled in Paris in July, 1948, have the honour to submit to the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology the following Report in which we deal both with the developments which have occurred in the work of the Commission since our last meeting held at Lisbon in 1935 during the Twelfth International Congress and with the decisions of outstanding importance which have been reached during the present Congress by the Commission and the Section on Nomenclature.

2. The present Report is divided into three parts. In the first of these parts we deal with changes which have occurred in the composition of the Commission since 1935 and we ask for the covering approval of the Congress for the measures taken on our behalf by the Executive Committee during and since the war to secure the continued existence of the Commission as a body. In the same section we submit important proposals which we have agreed upon during the present Congress for the introduction of certain changes in the composition of the Commission and the method to be followed in electing zoologists to be members of the Commission, together with consequential changes which we are agreed it is necessary should be introduced into our procedure. The combined effect of these changes will, we are confident, secure to the Commission an unassailably representative and international character which will greatly heighten its moral authority as the body which has been entrusted by the Congress with final authority for all matters relating to the regulation of international law in the field of zoological nomenclature.

3. In Part 2 of our Report we indicate very briefly the administrative and financial developments which have marked the period since the close of the Lisbon Congress 13 years ago. It is not possible within the compass of the present Report adequately to deal with the many important innovations introduced during this period. We have therefore thought it valuable to submit with the present Report a detailed Report which has been prepared by our Secretary, Commissioner Francis Hemming.

4. In Part 3 of the present Report we turn to the position of the *Règles Internationales* and indicate in broad outline the far-reaching reforms which we now recommend should be introduced. These proposals are based upon extensive consultations with representative zoological institutions and with leading specialists in many groups, both in the Old World and the New. The plan now submitted constitutes by far the most extensive and significant contribution to the advancement of zoological nomenclature since the adoption of the *Règles* at the meeting of the Congress held in Berlin in 1901. The successful issue of our discussions at the present Congress is due very largely to the great interest displayed in matters of nomenclature by many members of the present Congress and to the scientific and objective spirit which they have brought to the discussion of the many complex problems involved. To a considerable extent also this happy result is due to the decision of the Commission to throw its meetings open to all members of the Congress, thereby enlisting at every stage the accumulated knowledge and experience of a wide range of specialists in many fields. The Commission desire to thank all those who participated in their meetings for the valuable assistance and advice which they brought to the elaboration of the present plan.

5. The changes now proposed will enormously simplify the task of zoologists in applying the *Règles* in the course of their special studies and as such will be warmly welcomed by them. Everything in the *Règles* which experience has shown to be wisely conceived and of permanent value has been most carefully conserved. On the other hand, everything which is time-worn or obscure has been placed on one side and replaced by provisions which are clear, definite and explicit. The provisions agreed upon by the Commission which are now submitted for the approval of the Congress are designed to meet the expressed views of leading zoologists in all parts of the world and to further the attainment of that stability in nomenclature which it is the aim of every zoologist to secure.

6. In addition, during the last four of the 14 meetings which we have held during the present Congress, we have reached decisions on a large number of applications received from specialists on individual problems of zoological nomenclature. The decisions so reached will be embodied in *Opinions* as rapidly as circumstances permit.

PART 1

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD 1935-1948, AND PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO SECURE FOR THE COMMISSION THE MOST TRULY REPRESENTATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND TO ENDOW THAT BODY WITH THE HIGHEST MEASURE OF MORAL AUTHORITY.

(a) Changes in the composition of the Commission since 1935.

7. *Losses through death and resignation.*—Deaths and resignations through ill-health have, as was to be expected, led to heavy losses in the membership of the Commission since its meeting held at Lisbon 13 years ago.

8. We have lost through death no less than seven of our colleagues, Commissioners Fantham, Stone, Stiles, Stejneger, Chapman, Arndt and Pellegrin. Every one of the colleagues whom we have lost made a valuable contribution to the work of the Commission during his period of office, and we deeply regret—as we do not doubt the Congress will also regret—that they should have passed from among us. We feel bound to express a particular sense of loss arising from the death of our Vice-President, Commissioner Charles Wardell Stiles (U.S.A.), who at the time of his death had served continuously as a member of the Commission for 45 years, during 38 of which he had held the office of Secretary, and of Commissioner Leonhard Stejneger (U.S.A.) who served as a member of the Commission for 44 years, and by his wide experience and judicial temperament had made a most notable contribution to the work of the Commission.

9. We feel bound also to express our particular regret at the death of Commissioner Walther Arndt (Germany) who lost his life during the war in circumstances which constitute an ineffaceable outrage against the whole body of men of science. Denounced to the Gestapo apparently for no other reason than his intellectual integrity and his attachment to the conception of co-operation between scientific men, irrespective of nationality, Commissioner Arndt, the most gentle and inoffensive of men, was hurriedly arrested in January, 1944, and shortly afterwards suffered death by the headsman's axe. We deeply deplore the loss which we have sustained as the result of this abominable crime and we ask the Congress to join with us in emphatically condemning this disgraceful murder.

10. In addition we have lost four other Commissioners through other causes. Three Commissioners (Apstein, Silvestri, Bolivar) have resigned on account of advancing years and ill-health or for other reasons, while Commissioner Jacjewski (Poland) has been unable to continue to discharge his duties as a Commissioner as the result of circumstances arising out of the late war, and his place has accordingly been treated as having been vacated.

11. *Election of Commissioner Francis Hemming to be Secretary to the Commission.*—At the close of the Lisbon Congress in 1935 the post of Secretary to the Commission was vacant, Commissioner C. W. Stiles having resigned that office but no election of a successor having been made. A year later, in October, 1936, Commissioner Francis Hemming (United Kingdom) was unanimously elected to be Secretary to the Commission and the headquarters of the Commission were accordingly transferred from Washington to London.

12. *Steps taken to fill vacancies.*—In accordance with the powers conferred on them by the Congress at their meeting held at Monaco in 1913, the Commission have taken the following steps to fill the vacancies which have arisen in their body and they ask for the approval of the Congress for the action so taken :—

(1) *Elections in 1937.*

Senhor A. do Amaral (Brazil) *vice* Dr. A. Handlirsch (Austria). Professor Bela Hankó (Hungary) *vice* Dr. Geza Horváth (Hungary). Dr. Walther Arndt (Germany) *vice* Professor Karl Apstein (Germany).

(2) *Elections in 1939.*

Professor Lodovico di Caporiacco (Italy) *vice* Professor F. Silvestri (Italy). Professor J. R. Dymond (Canada) *vice* Dr. H. B. Fantham (Canada). Dr. T. Jacjewski (Poland) *vice* Dr. C. Bolivar y Pieltain.

(3) *Elections during the war.*

Professor J. Chester Bradley (U.S.A.) *vice* Dr. Witmer Stone (U.S.A.). Professor Harold E. Vokes (U.S.A.) *vice* Dr. Leonhard Stejneger (U.S.A.). Dr. Norman R. Stoll (U.S.A.) *vice* Dr. C. W. Stiles (U.S.A.). Dr. Joseph Pearson (Australia) *vice* Dr. Frederick Chapman (Australia).

(4) *Elections since the end of the war.*

Professor H. Boschma (Netherlands) *vice* Dr. W. Arndt (Germany). Dr. Th. Mortensen (Denmark) *vice* Professor Jacques Pellegrin (France). Dr. Paul Rode (France) *vice* Dr. T. Jacjewski (Poland).

13. We ask the Congress to approve and confirm the elections set forth above.

14. At the same time we have to report that, in accordance with the powers delegated to us by the Congress, we took steps, as each of the Classes of which the body of the Commission is composed completed its term of service, to replace it with a new Class and to elect to that Class the retiring members of the time-expired Class. The Classes so constituted were: Class 1946 *vice* Class 1937: Class 1949 *vice* Class 1940: Class 1952 *vice* Class 1943: Class 1955 *vice* Class 1946. We ask the Congress to approve and confirm the action so taken.

15. *German and Japanese representation on the Commission.*—At our present meeting we have reviewed the action taken in this matter as respects two Commissioners, namely Professor Teiso Esaki (Japan) and Professor Rudolf Richter (Germany). We have a high regard for the professional eminence of both of these colleagues and value the important services which they have rendered to the Commission during their term of office. We feel, however, that, in the circumstances arising out of the late war, we should be correctly reflecting the general sentiment of zoologists as a whole in recommending that the zoologists of Japan and Germany respectively should now be given an opportunity of deciding for themselves whether their present representation should remain unchanged or whether it would be their wish to nominate other zoologists to represent them. We accordingly recommend to the Congress that they should release Professor Esaki and Professor Richter from service as members of the Commission and should declare their places to be rendered vacant.

16. *Re-election of the Officers of the Commission during the war.*—We have also to report that on the expiry of the term of service of the Class 1940, the offices of President and Secretary fell vacant owing to the completion of their terms of service of Commissioners Karl Jordan and Francis Hemming, while three years later the office of Vice-President similarly fell vacant consequent upon the completion of the term of service of Class 1943 of which Commissioner James Lee Peters was a member. In each case we invited the retiring officer to

resume his functions for a further period, being convinced that this would be in accordance with the wishes of the Congress. We ask that our action in this matter be approved and confirmed.

17. *Attendance of Commissioners at present meeting.*—Five members of the Commission have attended the present Session of meetings: namely Commissioners Hemming, di Caporiacco, Bradley, Boschma and Rode. The remaining members, including our President and Vice-President, were unavoidably prevented from being present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, our meetings during the present session have been presided over by our Secretary, Commissioner Francis Hemming.

18. *Election of Alternate Members of the Commission for the duration of the Congress.*—In accordance with the power conferred upon the Commission by the Congress at its meeting held at Budapest in 1927, we invited the under-mentioned members of the Congress to serve as Alternate Members of the Commission during our present Paris Session:—

Senor Beltrán (Mexico) *vice* Señor A. Cabrera (Argentina)

Dr. Edward Hindle (United Kingdom) *vice* Dr. Karl Jordan (United Kingdom)

Professor Arturo Ricardo Jorge (Portugal) *vice* Senhor A. do Amaral (Brazil)

Dr. Henning Lemche (Denmark) *vice* Professor J. R. Dymond (Canada)

Professor Harold Kirby (U.S.A.) *vice* Dr. Norman R. Stoll (U.S.A.)

Professor Kamel Mansour (Egypt) *vice* Professor Bela Hankó (Hungary)

Professor Z. P. Metcalf (U.S.A.) *vice* Dr. James L. Peters (U.S.A.)

Mr. Norman D. Riley (United Kingdom) *vice* Dr. W. T. Calman (United Kingdom)

Professor R. Spärck (Denmark) *vice* Dr. Th. Mortensen (Denmark)

Professor V. von Straelen (Belgium) *vice* Professor Rudolf Richter (Germany)

Professor Robert L. Usinger (U.S.A.) *vice* Professor Harold E. Vokes (U.S.A.)

19. We desire to express our sense of indebtedness to the foregoing zoologists for consenting to assist us by serving as Alternate Members of the Commission and for the long hours which many of them have devoted to our proceedings, often at considerable personal inconvenience and always at the cost of not participating in other activities of the Congress.

20. *Proposed abandonment of the system of Classes in the Membership of the Commission and the adoption of an alternative arrangement to secure that members of the Commission shall periodically submit themselves to re-election.*—The system by which the membership of the Commission is divided into three nine-year Classes was adopted by the Congress at its Sixth Meeting held at Berne in 1904 with the object of securing that members of the Commission should submit themselves periodically to re-election. We are in full agreement with the object of the Congress in this matter, but we are of the opinion that the system of nine-year Classes has outlived its usefulness, for, owing to the fact that the Congress no longer meets regularly at three-yearly intervals, this system fails to secure that one of the three Classes shall automatically complete its term of service in each year in which the Congress is held. We accordingly recommend that the system of Classes in the membership of the Commission should now be abandoned and that in its place there should be adopted a system under which the names of the members of the Commission shall be arranged in the order in which the Commissioners concerned were elected or, in the case of

Commissioners who have served more than one term of service, were last re-elected and that at each meeting of the Congress one-third of the total membership of the Commission shall be deemed to have completed its term of service, the Commissioners so to vacate their positions being those having served the longest since their election or, as the case may be, their last re-election to be members of the Commission. We propose that the existing rule under which a retiring Commissioner is eligible for immediate re-election shall be maintained.

21. *Completion of the term of service of five members of the Commission, the proposed re-election of four of the retiring Commissioners and the nomination of a member of the Congress to fill the fifth of the vacancies so created.*—Under the system hitherto in force, the Class 1949 would have been deemed to have completed its term of service at the close of the present Congress, the members of that Class would have vacated their positions as Commissioners and a new Class, the Class 1958, would have been constituted in the place of the Class 1949. For the reasons explained in the preceding paragraph, we do not recommend that a Class 1958 should now be constituted. In order, however, to maintain the practice by which a part of the membership of the Commission completes its term of service at the end of each meeting of the Congress, we propose that those Commissioners who at present belong to the Class 1949 should be deemed to have completed their term of service on the close of the present Congress and that the vacancies so created shall be filled under the system recommended in paragraph 20 above. The members of the Commission whose service as such will terminate under the present proposal are Commissioners Cabrera, Hemming, Jordan, Mortensen, Pearson. Of the retiring Commissioners, we recommend that Señor Cabrera, Mr. Hemming, Dr. Jordan, and Dr. Pearson should be immediately re-elected to be members of the Commission. We should certainly have recommended the re-election also of our old friend and colleague Dr. Th. Mortensen if it had not been for the fact that he has asked to be released from service as a Commissioner on account of ill-health. We have felt bound to respect Dr. Mortensen's wishes in this matter, and, after consultation with the Danish zoologists present at the Congress, we recommend that the place vacated by Dr. Mortensen should be assigned to Dr. Henning Lemche (Denmark), who has acted as an Alternate Member of the Commission during our present Session and has played an active and valuable part in our discussions.

22. *Resignation of President Karl Jordan.*—It is with the deepest regret and with a profound sense of loss that we have received a letter from our President, Dr. Karl Jordan (United Kingdom), expressing the hope that, having regard to his age and to the fact that he is now totally deaf, he may be released from the duties of President of the Commission. Dr. Jordan has been a Member of the Commission continuously for a period of 35 years during 19 of which he held the office of President, having been elected thereto in 1929, consequent upon the death of the eminent Italian zoologist, the late Professor F. S. Monticelli. Throughout his long term of office, Dr. Jordan has brought to the service of the Commission a wealth of knowledge, a wisdom of counsel, and a high sense of judicial impartiality which has been of the greatest value to the Commission. In particular, the Commission owe to Dr. Jordan a special debt of gratitude for the devotion which he has brought to his duties as our

President and to the judgment with which he has guided our labours during many difficult periods. We sincerely regret that Dr. Jordan has found it necessary to take the present decision and we thank him most warmly for the eminent services which, while President of the Commission, he has rendered to zoological nomenclature. Our regret would be all the keener were it not for the fact that Dr. Jordan has felt able to accede to our request that, although no longer our President, he should continue to serve as a member of our body. We feel that it will be the unanimous wish of the Congress, as it is of the Commission, that a special tribute should be paid to our old friend and colleague and we have therefore great pleasure in recommending the Congress, as an exceptional measure, to establish the post of Honorary Life President of the Commission and to offer this post to our retiring President.

23. *Proposed election of Vice-President James Lee Peters to be President.*—We unanimously recommend that our Vice-President, Dr. James Lee Peters (U.S.A.), be elected President of the Commission in succession to Dr. Karl Jordan. Dr. Peters is well known not only to us but also to a wide body of zoologists and we feel confident that in his hands the impartiality and dignity of the Presidency of the Commission will be upheld and maintained.

24. *Proposed election of Commissioner A. do Amaral to be Vice-President of the Commission.*—We have pleasure in recommending that the vacancy caused by the election of Dr. Peters to be President should be filled by the election of Dr. A. do Amaral (Brazil) to be Vice-President of the Commission.

25. *Proposed re-election of Commissioner Francis Hemming to be Secretary to the Commission.*—The term of office of Commissioner Francis Hemming as Secretary to the Commission expires on the last day of the present Congress consequent on the expiry of the period of service of the Class 1949. We recommend that Commissioner Hemming should be re-elected to this office for a further period.

26. *Office of Assistant Secretary.*—We recommend that this office should be allowed to lapse as an office to be held by a member of the Commission and should be made available for the chief Assistant to the Secretary in the Bureau of the Commission.

(b) Proposed enlargement of the Commission and introduction of changes in the manner of nominating members of the Commission.

27. We recommend that, in order to provide an opportunity for any country in which any considerable amount of zoological work is being done to be represented or for the election of any zoologist of outstanding qualities who would be pre-eminently suitable to be a member of the Commission, the membership of the Commission should be enlarged, there being in future no upper limit to the number of members, the present number of 18 being retained as a minimum. We propose also that certain safeguards should be introduced to secure that there shall at all times be an appropriate balance in the membership of the Commission as between different parts of the world and as between different types of knowledge and experience both in the field of systematic zoology (including palæozoology) and in those of the applied sciences which are concerned with organisms belonging to the Animal Kingdom.

28. We recommend also that certain changes should be made in the manner by which zoologists may be proposed for election as members of the Commission. We think it necessary that the Commission should retain the right and the duty of itself inviting individual zoologists in certain cases to serve as members of the Commission, but we consider also that, parallel with this method of selection, there should be introduced a system by which the views of zoologists in any particular country should be sought, through appropriate channels, in regard to the selection of a zoologist of their country to be their national representative on the Commission.

29. We have discussed both these proposals at a meeting held jointly with the Section on Nomenclature which is in full agreement with the line of development which we advocate. We do not consider it necessary, therefore, to set out here the detailed machinery by which we propose that the new scheme should be operated, for we feel that it will be the wish of the Congress that matters of this kind should be settled in the Section on Nomenclature and that only the broad outlines of the scheme should be brought to the attention of the Congress in plenary Session. Full particulars of both schemes will, however, be recorded in the minutes both of the Commission and of the Section for purposes of record.

30. We ask for the approval of the Congress for the proposed enlargement of the Commission and for the changes in the method to be followed in the election of members of the Commission outlined above.

(c) The procedure of the Commission.

31. In consequence of the recommendations for the enlargement of the Commission submitted in the preceding paragraph, changes are needed in the procedure of the Commission. Further, even if no change had been proposed in the size of the Commission, we should have felt bound to ask the Congress to withdraw the rule by which in certain types of case absolute unanimity is required at present, for experience has shown that the *Liberum Veto* is a definite hindrance to the work of the Commission and is open to strong objection, quite apart from the objections generally entertained towards this outworn rule of voting. The Commission consider, however, that as regards cases involving either the suspension of the *Règles* or a proposed amendment to the *Règles* a more rigorous rule of voting should be required than should be necessary to secure the approval of the Commission on other matters. In their present proposals, therefore, the Commission have made provision for a distinction of this kind, the more rigorous of the two standards requiring (1) that as a minimum one-quarter of the membership of the Commission shall record their votes, and (2) that two out of every three votes cast shall be in favour of the action proposed.

32. We have discussed our proposals in detail with the Section on Nomenclature by whom they are approved and supported. Full particulars will be given in the minutes of the meetings both of the Commission and of the Section. We believe that in view of the heavy calls upon its time the Congress will regard the foregoing summary as adequate for their purposes and we accordingly invite the Congress to give their approval to the plan for the reform of the Commission's procedure proposed by the Commission and unanimously approved by the Section on Nomenclature.

33. We should add that we have decided also upon various administrative reforms which will, we believe, greatly reduce the period required to obtain an *Opinion* from the Commission on any given question of nomenclature and thus materially enhance the value to zoologists of the work of the Commission.

PART 2

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1936-1948.

34. The detailed Report prepared by our Secr tary, Commissioner Francis Hemming, which, as already explained (paragraph 3 above), we propose to lay before the Congress, gives a full account of the administrative and financial developments which have occurred in the work of the Commission during the period from October, 1936 (when Commissioner Hemming was elected to be Secretary to the Commission), up to the opening of the present Congress. It will be sufficient, therefore, if here we confine ourselves to the briefest outline of these developments. We think it necessary, however, to include this short summary, partly because the Congress is entitled to be informed of the work of the Commission during the long interval which has elapsed since its last meeting and partly because we wish to take the opportunity of expressing our concurrence in the various developments in question and of securing the approval of the Congress for the action taken.

35. The principal developments which we have to report are as follows :—

- (1) A critical situation arose immediately upon the transfer of the Secretariat of the Commission to London, since at that time the Commission possessed no funds at all and was naturally unable to look for the assistance which, while located in Washington, it had received from the Smithsonian Institution. At the outset, therefore, it was necessary to raise a small fund from leading scientific institutions in the United Kingdom and the United States.
- (2) By June, 1939, the Secretariat had been firmly established at its new headquarters and the publication of *Opinions* directly by the Commission itself began in August of that year.
- (3) The outbreak of war in September, 1939, put a temporary stop to the work of the Commission, as, owing to the threat of air raids on London, it was thought best to evacuate the records of the Commission to a place of safety in the country. In the summer of 1942 these were brought back to London and the work of the Secretariat was resumed.
- (4) No new nomenclatorial decisions could be taken during the war owing to the interruption of all communications between the Secretariat in London and those members of the Commission who were nationals of Germany and the countries associated with her and also with those members of the Commission who were nationals of countries then in

German occupation. There was, however, at that time a large number of applications on which decisions had already been taken and also a certain number on which every Commissioner had had an opportunity of voting but on which the voting had not been completed. It was accordingly decided first to prepare and publish *Opinions* on all the cases falling in the first of these classes and second to secure enough additional votes from the available Commissioners to complete the cases that were still incomplete.

- (5) The publication of *Opinions* was re-started in October, 1942, and continued steadily until all the decisions taken at Lisbon had been formally rendered by the issue of 48 *Opinions* and three *Declarations*. In addition, during the same period 13 *Opinions* were completed and published and *Declarations* 1 to 9 and *Opinions* 1 to 16 were republished, the earlier edition having become out of print. The titles of all these publications are given in Commissioner Hemming's detailed Report. In all, three *Declarations* and 61 *Opinions* have been rendered and published since the outbreak of war, the total number rendered to date amounting to 12 *Declarations* and 194 *Opinions*.
- (6) In 1943 the Commission established a journal, the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, as a medium for the publication of the texts of applications submitted for decision, thereby providing an opportunity for zoologists all over the world to ascertain what proposals are before the Commission at any given time and to comment thereon before any decision is taken by the Commission.
- (7) An appeal for a fund of £1,800 was issued in 1943 and a number of generous donations were received in response.
- (8) Nevertheless the financial position of the Commission remained extremely precarious, even though all the work of the Secretariat was done for the Commission by an unpaid spare-time Secretary and the Secretariat itself was housed in the Secretary's house.
- (9) In 1947 UNESCO came forward with a generous offer of a conditional grant of \$10,600 and a similar grant (also conditional) has been made for the current year.
- (10) In 1947, also, a Corporation was formed under United Kingdom law under the title "International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature," which took over from the Commission the responsibility for the conduct of its financial affairs. This was essential, for only by this means could the Commission's financial affairs be placed upon an assured basis.

36. The immediate difficulties have been relieved by the grant made by UNESCO but the central problem facing the Commission and the Congress remains unsolved. For the volume of work passing through the Secretariat of the Commission has grown so greatly that a whole-time permanent Secretary is required, it being beyond the capacity of any honorary Secretary who (like the present one) can devote only his spare time to the work of the Commission, his day time being necessarily taken up with earning a livelihood. Such an appointment cannot be made until the Commission has an assured income of \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year, or some two-and-a-half times as great as the grant received

from UNESCO during the past year. In the meantime the Commission must do the best it can with the help of a spare-time Secretary who by providing his services free heavily subsidises the Commission and gives it an air of financial soundness which it does not possess.

37. It is the intention of the Commission to seek additional means of financial support, for it realises how easy it would be for a situation to arise in which with its present income it would be impossible for it to continue its work. The situation is extremely difficult and is a source of constant anxiety. It will not be remedied until the leading zoological institutions of the world, realising (as they already do) that the Commission is an institution, the continued existence of which is essential for their work, take steps to provide the Commission with an assured income sufficient to enable it at least to provide the service in regard to nomenclature which is essential to all zoologists and which it alone is in a position to offer.

Part 3.

THE PROPOSED CODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT OF THE "RÈGLES"

38. At the present time the state of international law in respect to zoological nomenclature is extremely unsatisfactory, zoologists having to rely on the one hand upon the *Règles* adopted nearly 50 years ago and now in serious need of re-examination and on the other hand upon an ill-digested mass of case law built up over more than 40 years in *Opinions* rendered by the Commission.

39. Inspired by a desire to make an advance towards substituting order for the present chaos, the Commission drew up plans prior to the opening of the present Congress for the incorporation into the *Règles* of the interpretative decisions already given by the Commission in *Opinions*, for the settlement of a number of important individual nomenclatorial problems which were either not dealt with in the *Règles* or were there dealt with in a piece-meal, incoherent and obscure fashion and for the incorporation in the *Règles* of a number of long overdue minor corrections, clarifications and additions. On assembling in Paris, we quickly found that the general temper of zoologists attending the Congress was strongly in favour of a more thorough-going reform than had previously seemed practicable. Encouraged by these favourable conditions, the Commission have devoted every effort to securing the maximum benefit from the present Congress and now, after holding 14 meetings during a period of five working days, have drawn up a far-reaching but carefully balanced scheme of reform.

40. *Codification of the "Opinions" relating to the "Règles."*—We have drawn up, and the Section on Nomenclature has approved, a plan for the immediate incorporation into the *Règles* (subject to certain exceptions and modifications) of all the interpretations of various of its Articles which have been given by the Commission at different times. We recommend also the incorporation into the *Règles* of the important resolutions of a more general character, which are embodied in certain of the Commission's *Declarations*. It is part of our purpose that on their incorporation into the *Règles* the *Opinions* and *Declarations* on which the newly-incorporated provisions are based should be repealed and cancelled for all except historical purposes.

41. *The problem of the meaning of the expression "nomenclature binaire."*—This problem, which gave rise to such serious difficulties at Padua in 1930, was (as the Congress will recall) referred back to the Commission in 1935 by the President of the Section on Nomenclature, to whom the matter had been submitted by the *Comité Permanent*. During the present meeting we have unanimously adopted a Report in which (1) we find that the foregoing expression as at present used in the *Règles* has a meaning exactly equivalent to that of the expression "nomenclature binominale" and (2) we recommend that, subject to certain safeguards for generic names published by non-binominal authors, the expression "nomenclature binominale" should now be incorporated in the *Règles* in place of the expression "nomenclature binaire." We submitted this Report to the President of the Section on Nomenclature by whom it was laid before the Section. It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that the Section gave their unanimous approval to our Report, which is accordingly submitted to the Congress for final approval.

42. *Three major problems of zoological nomenclature.*—We have submitted detailed reports to the Section on Nomenclature on three major problems of zoological nomenclature, of which the first is at present dealt with in the *Règles* in a manner contrary to the general wishes of zoologists, the second is dealt with so obscurely and incompletely that the present state of the law is open to the greatest doubt, while the third deals with a question on which the *Règles* are absolutely silent. These questions are :—

- (1) the meaning of the expression "indication" as used in proviso (a) to Article 25 ;
- (2) the rules relating to homonymy in specific and subspecific trivial names ;
- (3) the problem of names for forms of less than subspecific rank.

43. On our proposals for dealing with each of these important questions the Section on Nomenclature has expressed its unanimous and enthusiastic support.

44. *Miscellaneous amendments in, additions to, and clarifications of, the "Règles."*—We have submitted a large number of proposals for amending the *Règles*, for making additions thereto and for inserting clarifications in regard to passages which were either obscure or badly drafted. These proposals also have been warmly acclaimed by the Section on Nomenclature.

45. *Incorporation in the "Règles" of decisions at present embodied in "Opinions" and the consequential repeal of the "Opinions" in question.*—We propose that all decisions in regard to individual names should be incorporated in Schedules to be attached to the *Règles* and that, when this has been done, the *Opinions* in question should be repealed and cancelled except for historical purposes. In the case of the "Official List of Generic Names in Zoology," we propose that the Schedule concerned should be issued separately as a companion volume to the actual *Règles*. The reform constituted by this plan will afford an immense relief to zoologists and naturally therefore won for itself warm support in the Section on Nomenclature.

46. "*Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.*"—In view of the very widespread wish expressed both inside and outside the Section on Nomenclature that the "Official List" should be used as a means of promoting stability in nomenclature, we agreed to recommend that the status of names on the "Official List" should be enhanced by providing that, even if a name is found to have been placed on the "List" in error, it should remain the correct name for the genus in question unless and until the Commission shall otherwise direct. In view of the enhanced status now to be given to all names on the "Official List," the Commission hope that specialists will be stimulated to co-operate actively in securing the addition to the "Official List" of all the more important generic names in the groups with which they are concerned, thereby achieving a far-reaching measure of stability in the nomenclature of the groups in question.

47. *Proposed establishment of an "Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology."*—In furtherance of our general aim to promote stability in zoological nomenclature, we submitted to the Section on Nomenclature a proposal that there should be established an "Official List" for the specific trivial names of species similar to the existing "Official List" for the names of genera. The "Pleins pouvoirs" Resolution adopted by the Congress at its meeting held at Monaco in 1913 expressly authorised the Commission to use those powers to stabilise the nomenclature of species as well as that of genera and it must, we think, have been due to an oversight that, when the Congress then established an "Official List" for generic names, they did not also establish an "Official List" for specific trivial names, for in each case the establishment of such a "List" is an essential corollary to the grant of the "pleins pouvoirs." We recommend that the selection of specific trivial names to be placed on the new "Official List" should be guided by principles similar to those adopted in the selection of generic names for addition to the existing "Official List." We accordingly propose first that every specific trivial name, the use of which is stabilised by the Commission under their "pleins pouvoirs," should be placed on this "List," second that every effort should be made to place on this "List" the trivial names of species of importance in systematic or applied zoology. We propose also that there should be placed on this "List" the trivial names of species which are the type species of genera, the names of which have been stabilised by being placed on the "Official List" for generic names, save in those cases where the name of the nominal species concerned is invalid or not the oldest name for the species concerned, in which case we should propose to place on the "List" the oldest available trivial name for the species in question. We have considered carefully the question of the title to be given to the new "Official List" and are of the opinion that the most appropriate title would be "*Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology.*" We make this recommendation because we consider it important to stress the fact that the name so to be stabilised is the trivial name of the species in question and that, although it will be necessary in each case to cite the generic name in combination with which the trivial name in question was originally published, the fact that the binominal combination is specified in the entry to be made in this "Official List" is not intended to confer—and will not, in fact, confer—any status upon that binominal combination or to imply any view on the taxonomic question

of the genus to which the species in question should be referred. Where, as in certain of the cases which we have dealt with during our present Session, there is any doubt as to the identity of the species to which a given specific trivial name is applicable, it is our intention, by referring to a figure or otherwise, to indicate precisely the species to which the name in question is to be applied. Finally, we recommend that specific trivial names placed on the new "Official List" should be accorded a status similar to that which we recommend should now be accorded to the names of genera placed on the existing "Official List," that is to say that a specific trivial name stabilised in this way is not to be rejected in favour of some other name without the prior approval of the International Commission, even where it may later be shown that the trivial name in question was placed on the "Official List" in error. We attach great importance to the "Official List" now proposed to be established and we trust that the status proposed to be given to names placed on this "List" will stimulate zoologists to co-operate actively to secure the addition to this "List" of the trivial names of all the more important species in the groups with which they are concerned, thereby achieving at the species level a far-reaching degree of stability in the nomenclature of the groups in question. The Section on Nomenclature, realising the importance of the issues involved, warmly support our proposals in this matter.

48. *The "pleins pouvoirs" to suspend the "Règles" granted to the Commission by the Congress in 1913.*—We propose that the "pleins pouvoirs" Resolution of 1913 shall be amended in various respects to meet the requirements of the changes in procedure recommended in the earlier part of the present Report (paragraph 32). We propose also that words should be added to make it clear that these powers are intended for use, especially, *inter alia* (1) to preserve names of importance in medicine, agriculture, veterinary science and horticulture and in the teaching of zoology at universities and elsewhere, (2) to prevent existing nomenclatorial practice from being thrown into synonymy by the unearthing of forgotten works or of forgotten names in well-known works, and (3) to stabilise the application of well-known names where, in the absence of such intervention by the Commission, it is likely that it would always be a matter of dispute to which of two or more species a given name is properly applicable under the *Règles*. Of these proposals, the first two were suggested to us by the Section on Nomenclature, while the third which we put forward ourselves secured immediately the enthusiastic support of the Section. Finally, we recommend that this Resolution, as amended above, should now be incorporated in the *Règles*, in order to make it clear to every zoologist that the provisions embodied therein are of force and vigour equal to that of any of the provisions of the *Règles*. In this matter also we have the full-hearted support of the Section on Nomenclature.

49. *The preparation of the substantive French text of the "Règles" as now proposed to be amended.*—The task of preparing the substantive French text of the *Règles* will involve highly technical problems, the solution of which will call for the employment of experts. The Commission have accordingly proposed to the Section on Nomenclature, and the Section has agreed, on the following course of procedure. The record of the decisions of the Congress in so far as

these relate to changes in the *Règles*, together with the supporting memoranda on which these decisions were based, should be referred to jurists with instructions to prepare the draft of the new substantive French text together with a literal English translation, and that these two drafts should then be circulated by the Secretary to each member of the Commission to provide him with an opportunity for examining the texts to ensure that they faithfully embody the decisions of the Congress, and neither add anything to, nor omit anything from, these decisions. At the end of three calendar months from the date of the drafts being so circulated, any points falling within the above field which may have been elicited by the foregoing consultations should, we recommend, be referred for determination to a special Editorial Committee consisting of the following three Members and Alternate Members of the Commission who had been present throughout the Paris discussions: Mr. Francis Hemming, *Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*, Professor V. van Straelen (Belgium) and Professor Robert L. Usinger (U.S.A.). Immediately a decision had been reached on any such points the *Règles*, as amended by the present Congress, should be promulgated with the least possible delay.

50. The revised *Règles* should, we propose, enter into force as from the date on which they are published. We anticipate, however, that it will be possible at a considerably earlier date to publish in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* the minutes of the meetings of the Commission at its Paris Session and we propose that the Congress should recommend all zoologists thereafter to take as their guide the record of the Paris decisions as contained in these minutes during the, as we hope, short period which will elapse between the publication of the Paris minutes and the formal promulgation of the revised *Règles*.

Part 4. Conclusion.

51. The Paris meeting of the Commission marks a turning-point in the history of zoological nomenclature, for the Commission, with the active support of the Section on Nomenclature, has both carried through a complete codification of the law as it stood at the opening of the Congress and has also put forward new proposals of the greatest importance and value on questions which previously found no mention in the *Règles* or only provisions of the most inadequate character. At the same time, as part of the process of codification, nearly one-quarter of the body of *Opinions* has been deprived of all but a historical interest and this process will be virtually completed on the publication of the *Règles* as amended at the present meeting and of the volume containing the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. Finally, the status of that List has been materially enhanced and with it the prospect of securing stability in generic nomenclature. As for the trivial names of species, an important advance in the direction of stabilisation has been achieved by the decision to establish for such names an *Official List* parallel to that already in existence for generic names.

52. Much remains to be done, but with the help of the revised *Règles* adopted at the present Congress zoologists will be in an incomparably better position to judge in which directions further improvements are still required than if they had still to thread their way through the maze of independent decisions by which hitherto they have had to guide themselves in their daily work. The

Commission are determined that, so far as it lies in their power to prevent it, zoologists shall never again be required to struggle with an undigested mass of decisions built up over a long period. To this end, the Commission have decided, and they now give their assurance to the Congress, that at each subsequent meeting of the Congress they will submit recommendations for the incorporation in the *Règles* of any conclusions which they may have reached since the previous meeting of the Congress, so that by thus harvesting the results of their work they may be able at every such meeting to secure that every zoologist shall be able to find within the covers of a single volume a full, detailed and authoritative record of the entire body of international law on zoological nomenclature.

53. The Paris Congress of 1948 has been a meeting of outstanding achievement in the field of zoological nomenclature and it is fitting that this achievement should have been secured in the same city as that in which almost 60 years ago the first important steps were taken to establish an international code of nomenclature for living creatures.

54. In submitting our Report to the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, we desire to express in the warmest terms our sense of gratitude for the interest, help and support which we have throughout received at the hands both of our French hosts and of all other members of the Congress and to place on record our conviction that it is to this spirit of co-operation and the strength which it gives that must be attributed the outstanding results achieved.

55. The present Report was unanimously adopted by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at a meeting held at the Sorbonne to-day, 26th July, 1948.

*Signed on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature,*

FRANCIS HEMMING,
*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

Paris,
26th July, 1948.



Hemming, Francis. 1950. "Report by the international commission on zoological nomenclature to the thirteenth international congress of zoology." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 5, 135–151.

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