

INTERNATIONAL LICHENOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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An Introduction

The response to a questionnaire concerning a newsletter of lichenology was favorable. Of the 142 lichenologists (see list) polled, 76 were in favor and 4 against a newsletter. Sixty-two individuals did not return the questionnaire. It is assumed that many who failed to respond did not because of neglect rather than disinterest in the proposal. The initial list of names was compiled largely from the editor's reprint mailing list.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a common communication link between lichenologists for the exchange of ideas and information, to circulate requests from and news of lichenologists, and to stimulate research in lichenology. The newsletter is not intended to serve as a journal nor as a vehicle for the establishment of priority. Those who submit information to the newsletter should do so with the realization that such information may be used freely by others, either for the development of new research along the lines suggested by the information or for modification of existing research work. Lichenologists are encouraged to submit to this newsletter information on what they consider to be promising lines of research as well as news of their lichenological activities. The success of this newsletter obviously depends on the cooperation of every lichenologist.

Editorial

"For an International Association
of Lichenology"

At the 1964 Botanical Congress in Edinburgh, a group of lichenologists met and approved a motion to initiate an International Association of Lichenologists. A newsletter of the association was to be circulated at periodic intervals. A committee, composed of Rolf Santesson, Peter James and Vernon Ahmadjian, was appointed to prepare the newsletter. The first two individuals also were elected officers of the association. Although considerable enthusiasm for the association and newsletter existed at the Congress, the committee, for unexplained reasons, failed to make progress on the newsletter. Inquiries from Congress participants to committee members regarding the newsletter went unanswered. Because of this inaction I decided to initiate the letter myself

after determining that it would be favorably received by lichenologists. Irwin Brodo kindly agreed to assist me. If this newsletter is successful, our hope is to obtain representatives in different countries to facilitate the gathering of news and expand the coverage. We will attempt to convene at the XI International Botanical Congress in Seattle, Washington (USA) in 1969 a formal meeting of the provisional International Association of Lichenologists (IAL) in order to discuss the newsletter and to establish a constitution, by-laws, and a new executive committee.

Coincidentally, at the XI Pacific Science Congress in Tokyo in 1966, a group of lichenologists and bryologists decided to establish an International Association of Bryologists and Lichenologists. William C. Steere was elected as chairman. The purpose of this Association was to promote the study of bryology and lichenology, partly by means of a news bulletin. However, after learning of the establishment of a separate lichen association and receiving the objections of several lichenologists to a joint society, Steere decided to promote a separate bryological society.

I strongly favor separate bryological and lichenological societies. The two groups share little in common with respect to the organisms they study. The cooperation which has existed between bryologists and lichenologists has resulted largely from convenience, a banding together of two weak groups. It was not a natural alliance. I favor also separate mycological and lichenological societies. Although an alliance with mycologists would be a natural and probably an eventual one, this is not the time for such a union. Certainly, the lichenologists are now sufficiently numerous and diverse in research activities to strike out on their own. It is a time for lichenologists to join together in a meaningful association whose primary goal will be the strengthening and advancement of lichenology.

V. Ahmadjian

IAL Newsletter Questionnaire

(Return to Editor)

Use extra sheet if necessary

Name:

Current Research Projects:

Research Suggestions or
Preliminary Research Results:

Excursions or Trips (Either completed or planned):

Requests for Cultures and Specimens:

Appointments and Transfers:

Promotions and Awards:

Other News: (The Editors would appreciate suggestions for additional categories of news; also whether the language of the newsletter should correspond to the editor's tongue or be bi- or trilingual throughout.)