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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHEMOTAXONOMY

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AT A MEETING in Edinburgh, 6 August, 1964, representatives of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy and the International Organization of Biosystematists nominated a Committee to complement that formed under the auspices of IUPAC at Leiden in November 1963, to give a Joint Committee on Chemotaxonomy. The Joint Committee consists of 25 chemists and botanists (see below); Dr. Leo Marion is Chairman, Dr. Askell Löve is Vice-Chairman, and the two secretaries are Dr. T. Swain and Dr. R. E. Alston. The Joint Committee has been recognized officially by the I.A.P.T., and is expected to receive similar recognition by the Organic Chemistry Section of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry when it meets in Paris in 1965.

The primary objectives of the Joint Committee are to encourage and assist the co-operation and collaboration of biologists and chemists through the medium of comparative chemistry and biochemistry. The Joint Committee is not intended to be restrictive or exclusive in its interests. Comparative enzymology and macromolecular structure have inherent evolutionary implications, and the biologists, in particular, must be sensitive to advances in these fields, as well as to the accelerated progress of natural product chemistry.

Some of the needs of botanists and chemists which it is hoped can be met are the following: information on the sources of specific authenticated plant material, genetic stocks, standard compounds, collecting trips, institutions and individuals willing to collaborate, techniques, specific problems, locations of centers of interest in particular plant groups or chemical families, meetings and publications, personnel, and negative data.

In order to help in this the Committee have undertaken to publish a mimeographed circular (The Chemotaxonomy Newsletter) four times a year, which may be obtained without cost upon request by contacting either secretary. It is hoped that this Newsletter will evolve into a significant by-product of the Joint Committee, and indeed its success will in great measure reflect the need and utility of the Joint Committee itself. All contributions to the Newsletter will therefore be most welcome, whether they are suggestions or material for actual inclusion. The Newsletter will contain special features, from time to time, possibly invited opinion, and miscellaneous contributions. Some of the forthcoming numbers will contain descriptions of laboratories where there already exists collaboration between chemists, botanists and pharmacologists, in the hope that these examples will serve as models for encouraging more team or group programs which are broadly integrative in nature.

A major share of the credit or responsibility for the creation of the present Joint Committee should go to Dr. E. C. Bate-Smith, Professor H. Erdtman, Professor R. Hegnauer and Dr. T. Swain who comprised the original steering committee which organized a meeting on chemical plant taxonomy in 1962. This meeting, sponsored by NATO, was held 4–6 October, 1962, in

Paris. Subsequently, meetings in Leiden (November, 1963), Kyoto (April, 1964), and Edinburgh (August, 1964) were all derivatives of the Paris meeting. In addition to these organizational meetings, there have been a number of international symposia on the general topic of comparative chemistry and evolution and others are planned. At least four books on the same general subject have now been published.

The composition of the Joint Committee on Chemotaxonomy is as follows: Dr. L. Marion, *National Research Council, Ottawa 2, Canada* (Chariman); Dr. A. Löve, *Dept. of Botany, University of Colarado, Boulder, Col., U.S.A.* (Vice-Chairman); Dr. R. E. Alston, *Dept. of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, U.S.A.* (Joint Secretary); Dr. E. C. Bate-Smith, *Low Temperature Research Station, Cambridge, England;* Dr. T. W. Bocher, *Dept. of Botany, Kobenhavns Universitet, Copenhagen, Denmark;* Dr. H. Erdtman, *Dept. of Organic Chemistry, Kungl. Tekniska Hogskolan, Stockholm, 70, Sweden;* Dr. H. Fluck, *Pharmazeutische Institut, Eidg. Technische Hochschule, Zürich, Switzerland;* Dr. W. Gajewski, *Dept. of Biology, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland;* Dr. R. D. Gibbs, *Dept. of Botany, McGill University, Montreal, Canada;* Dr. W. F. Grant, *Dept. of Genetics, University of Montreal, Monireal 1, P.Q., Canada;* Dr. V. Heywood, *Dept. of Botany, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England;* Dr. T. Kariyone, *National Institute of Hygienic Sciences, Tamagawa-Yoga, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, Japan;* Dr. S. Kitamura, *Dept. of Botany, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan;* Dr. A. Kjaer, *Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College, 15, Bolowsvej, Copenhagen V, Denmark;* Dr. F. H. Lewis, *Dept. of Botany, U.C.L.A., Los Angeles 24, Calif., U.S.A.;* Dr. H. Merxmüller, *Dept. of Botany, Universität Munchen, Munich, Federal Republic of Germany;* Dr. G. Ourisson, *Institut de Chemie, University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France;* Dr. J. R. Price, *Division of Organic Chemistry, Chemical Research Laboratories, P.O. Box 4331, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia;* Dr. R. C. Rollins, *Dept. of Botany, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass. U.S.A.;* Dr. O. T. Solbrig, *Grey Herbarium, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass., U.S.A.;* Dr. T. Swain, *Low Temperature Research Station, Cambridge, England* (Joint Secretary); Dr. B. L. Turner, *Dept. of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, U.S.A.;* Dr. W. H. Wagner, *Dept. of Botany, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., U.S.A.;* and Dr. D. H. Valentine, *Dept. of Botany, University of Durham, Durham, England.*