

Sprucean Heresies - A Reply

BY GEA ZIJLSTRA

GEISSLER'S ARTICLE on pages 1 & 3 of this issue, explains quite well the problems in Lejeuneaceae nomenclature: it concerns a conflict between the printed letter of the law (to be applied retroactively) and the original author's intentions. It cannot be said, however, that this is a conflict between the printed letter and the spirit of the Code! If it really were that kind of conflict, it would be necessary to amend the Code, to remove the inconsistency.

Preamble 9

Geissler refers to Preamble 9. Let us consider this provision in detail: (a) "In the absence of a relevant rule ..": I suppose Geissler would say that this part is not relevant in our situation; (b) "... or where the consequences of rules are doubtful ...": I suppose Geissler considers this phrase to be applicable. In my opinion, however, it is not a matter of doubt about how to apply the rules, but of the unacceptability of the results. (c) "... established custom is followed.": The procedure, advocated by Geissler, is indeed established custom among hepaticologists: i.e. to estimate an author's intentions, and to read what an author wished to say, but did not in fact write down.

Established custom is illustrated, e.g. in the ninth volume of the *Index hepaticarum* (1978) in which binomials under *Lejeunea* are reported as if, for example, Schiffner (1890) had written "*L. rostrata* nov. spec." instead of "*Acro-L. rostrata* nov. spec."

Art. 42

I must admit that originally I also wished to give priority to the author's intentions. I also refused to apply Art. 42 in the cases referred to by Geissler. This can still be perceived in *Index nominum genericorum (plantarum)* (1979), in which those "genera" of Stephani 1888-1892 are missing. (After Bonner's death, these Lejeuneaceae names were left-over problems for ING, and relegated to me. They do not concern just 7 generic names (the number mentioned by Geissler), but at least 16, or even 18, under Note 1 of Art. 42).

Later on I became convinced that by giving way to the author's intentions, you stand on a slippery slope, and sooner or later you will slide down to

a position where you no longer need a Code.

Art. 33.1

With regard to Spruce's book, I can imagine that Art. 33.1 could be considered to be correctly applied by Geissler. However, I have always interpreted this article differently, guided mainly by the examples, in particular the last two lines of Ex. 1 and the second sentence of Ex. 2.

Here another problem arises. Art. 33.1 states that a combination is validly published only if an author definitely indicates that the epithet(s) are to be used in that particular combination. Many taxonomists always took the position that this meant that a combination is not validly published unless the author actually uses the epithet(s) concerned in that particular combination. In the Committee for Valid Publication, we agreed that this is current practice, and thus we concluded we should propose to the Berlin Congress that Art. 33.1 be amended.

Although I realise that it could be felt that Geissler's interpretation of Art. 33.1 might be justified in the case of Spruce's book, I strongly reject the idea that either Schiffner (1890) or Stephani (1888-1893) could be considered to have published combinations in *Lejeunea* in cases in which these authors only used a subgeneric epithet in the place of a generic name. If you accept that idea, you are already halfway down the slippery slope!

Is a radical solution possible?

Despite my rejection of these free interpretations of Arts. 42 and 33.1, I am glad that Geissler has challenged us. On one major point we agree: strict application of the Code will leave us with the continuation, or even an increase, of the present chaos. Conservation of generic names only provides a partial solution, but not for the large number of binomials under consideration. The reason for 'established custom' among hepaticologists is not out of contempt for the Code, but because of the extreme difficulty of how to apply the Code in an acceptable way.

That is why G.A.M. Scott and I recently wrote a proposal to be published in the November issue of *Taxon* (35 (4), 1986), to add a new paragraph to Art. 14 to cover names published by Spruce (1884), as well as names published by other authors, until Schiffner's treatment of the Lejeuneaceae in Engler & Prantl, Sept. 1893. We suggest that (i) Spruce's subgeneric names should be treated also as generic names, dating from that

1884 work; and (ii) species combinations in these names, published by Spruce (1884), or by other authors in the 1884-1893 period, should be treated as combinations in those generic names, and in *Lejeunea*. This is the essence of the Scott & Zijlstra proposal. It would go beyond the scope of this reply to Geissler to give the full proposal here, much less to give its full argument. The text of the proposal is complicated by the fact that Scott and I have different interpretations of Art. 33.1, and even of Prop. A to Art. 33 of the Committee for Valid Publication.

Interpretation of Art. 33.1

In the light of all this, I would appreciate hearing from readers their interpretation of the present Art. 33.1 and of the proposals to amend it, as well as their opinion of the radical solution proposed by Scott and myself.

Because the Committee for Valid Publication could not agree on the question as to whether species combinations and other combinations should be treated in the same way, its report (to be published in the November issue of *Taxon*) includes several proposals:

A. Amend Art. 33.1 to read: "A combination (autonyms excepted) is not validly published unless the author actually associates the (final) epithet with the name (or its abbreviation) of the next higher taxon."

(B. and C.: the present Ex. 1 and 2 rewritten; E: the new example of a section.)

D. Amend Art. 33.1 to read: "The name of a species is validly published only if the author actually associates the epithet with the generic name (or its abbreviation). A combination in the rank of a subdivision of a genus or in infra-specific rank is validly published if the author clearly indicates that the epithet(s) is (are) to be used in that particular combination." (Followed by two new examples: a species and a section.)

Questionnaire

Those who are familiar with nomenclatural questions are kindly requested to let me have their opinions. It can be done relatively easily by completing questions I-IV of the questionnaire accompanying this article and sending it to me. I would like to inform the Rapporteurs, (W. Greuter and J. McNeill) of interpretations of Art. 33.1 and its proposed modifications, and of possible support for the Scott & Zijlstra proposal. To have the opportunity to do this in time,

[continued on page 7.]

Publications of the late Prof. W.X. Xu

IN THE ARTICLE ENTITLED "Out and About in the People's Republic of China", the sad news of the death of Professor W. X. Xu, of the Department of Biology of Yunnan University, was announced (Bryol. Times, 38: 3, 1986).

The following is a list of Professor Xu's publications:

- Xu, W. X. 1962. The preliminary observation on the vertical distribution and its communities of Mt. Yulong, Lijian, Yunnan. J. Yun. Univ. Issue for 1962: 1-34; In Chinese.
- Xu, W.X. 1963. The preliminary survey of Polytrichaceae. J. Yun. Univ. Issue for 1962: 1-6; In Chinese.
- Xu, W.X. 1964. Newly discovered *Cyathodium* in China. J. Yun. Univ. Issue for 1962; In Chinese.
- Xu, W.X. & R.L. Xiong. 1982. Taxa nova generis *Pogonatum*. Acta Bot. Yun., 4(1): 51-53.
- Xu, W.X. & R.L. Xiong. 1984. Taxa nova *Polytrichacearum Sinensium*. Acta Bot. Yun., 6(2): 173-184.
- Xu, W.X. & R.L. Xiong. 1985. Encalyptaceae, Funariaceae, Polytrichaceae, Blepharostomaceae and Radulaceae. In: Bryoflora of Xizang. Beijing, Science Press.

P.C. Wu, Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, 141 Hsi Chih Men Wai Ta Chie, Peking, China.

Membership of IAB

THE FOLLOWING LISTS for the period 16 March-30 June, 1986 update those already published. The last list appeared in Bryol. Times, 37:5.

New Members

Arts, Theo*; Beckmann, Karen G.*; Hofman, Annelies*; Menzl, Maria*; Pike, D. Christine*; Suda, Ryuichi*; Toyota, Misa*.

Addresses

Arts, Theo, Kerklei 87, B-2128 Brecht, Belgie.

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SPRUCEAN HERESIES - A REPLY :

[contd. from page 6.]

I would like to receive answers as soon as possible and in any case not later than 4 weeks after receipt of this issue of the Bryological Times.

Q.I. Interpretation of Art.33.1, Prop. A and Prop. D with respect to (a) names published by Spruce (1884), e.g. "*Microlejeunea sub-rufula*" (p. 289); (b) names published by Schiffner (1890), e.g. "*Acrolejeunea rostrata*" (p.26); (c) names published by Stephani (1888), e.g. "*Microlejeunea africana*" (Hedwigia, 27:61). Please write yes or no, depending upon whether you consider the author to have published a combination in *Lejeunea* in each of these examples.

Q. II. Would you be in favour (yes/no) of a radical solution for the "Sprucean" names, and for binomials published in them, in the 1884-1893 period, i.e. that the proposal summarized above appears to be "watertight"? (This question only asks if, in principle you might be in favour of such a solution.)

Q. III. If you wish to read the full text of Scott & Zijlstra (in press in Taxon) before you can answer Q. II, please ask for a copy. (Wanted/not wanted).

Q. IV. To help evaluate the replies, please supply the following information: (a) whether you work with hepatics and/or mosses Hep./Moss; (b) Are you (more or less) familiar with the problems in *Lejeuneaceae* nomenclature? (Yes/No); (c) Are you very familiar with these problems? (Yes/No); (d) Are you a specialist in nomenclature of the *Lejeuneaceae*? (Yes/No); (e) Name, address and date.

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Vogelpoel, D.A.J. Carolinenburg 29, 8925 CA Leeuwarden, Holland.

News from Helsinki

Dr. SINIKKA PIIPPO is acting as junior curator in the cryptogamic herbarium at least until 31st December, 1986.

Mrs. LIN PANG-JUAN (South China Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, Kwangchow (China), shall stay in the Department of Botany and Botanical Museum from ca. 1 September, 1986 for 5 months studying the bryophytes of Giangfengling Mts., Hainan Island, and the family Mniaceae of Guangdong Province in co-operation with Prof. T. Koponen. Her work will be supported by a scholarship from the Finnish Ministry of Education.

Dr. BRONISLAW WOJTUŃ (Agricultural Academy, Department of Botany and Plant Physiology, Wrocław, Poland) has been in Helsinki from the beginning of April, 1986. He is studying nitrogen metabolism and laboratory cultivation of *Sphagnum* with Prof. Liisa Simola and ecology of *Sphagnum* with Dr. Pekka Pakarinen. He has a scholarship for 5 months from the Finnish Ministry of Education.

T. Koponen, Department of Botany, University of Helsinki, Unioninkatu 44, SF-00170, Finland.

Deaths

JOHN KENNETH BARTLETT of Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand, died suddenly on 1st May, 1986. A secondary school science teacher by profession, John was also a tireless collector of New Zealand cryptogams and flowering plants. He was known to many bryological colleagues from his visits to North American and European botanical institutions and as the author of numerous papers on floristics and taxonomy of New Zealand mosses.

His abilities as a collector of mosses are commemorated in the names *Bryobartlettia costata*, *Hypnobartlettia fontana*, and *Bryobeckettia bartlettii*, Hepatic, *Colura pulcherrima* var. *bartlettii*, lichen *Megalospora bartlettii*, and flowering plant *Metrosideros bartlettii* epithets also bear witness to his collecting abilities. John Bartlett's collection of bryophytes and lichens has been deposited at the Auckland Institute and Museum (AK).

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