

simple and objective means of measuring the relative activity in zoology of different countries, nor is such activity necessarily exactly proportional to the number of individuals qualified for membership of the Commission. The Committee therefore agreed that a formula based, for example, on number of publications over a given period would not be a safe guide for deciding whether national representation on the Commission was in balance at any particular time.

The Committee accordingly recommends adoption of the following principles:

- (1) The primary criterion of membership in the Commission should not be nationality but should be competence in the field of nomenclature, or, in special cases, competence in some field of general zoology with a demonstrated working knowledge and understanding of the rules and problems of nomenclature. In particular, a retiring commissioner ought not automatically to be succeeded by one of the same nationality.
- (2) Subject to (1), the citizens of a single nation or of a small group of nations should not constitute a majority of the Commission.
- (3) Subject to (1), the membership of the Commission should represent a reasonable proportion of the nations contributing to the zoological literature and especially to that of systematic zoology.
- (4) Subject to previous provisions a nation contributing heavily to the zoological literature, and especially to that of systematic zoology, should in general have more members of the Commission than one contributing less.

(signed) L. B. HOLTHUIS
HENNING LEMCHE
EUGENE MUNROE (*Chairman*)

Appendix 2

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PARATAXA

Dear Dr. China:

In response to your letter of inquiry sent to me under the date of 20 June 1963, I submit to you herewith the original and a carbon of a "Report on the Proposal of Parataxa." This is entirely agreed to by committee members, Walton, Yochelson, and Moore, and not specifically voted against by committee member Sylvester-Bradley who (on 31 October 1962) said that the draft of the report seemed to him illogical in suggesting the "dual classification in nomenclature is unnecessary because of the highly subjective nature of synonymization." He recommended that Professor F. H. T. Rhodes (Swansea) should be co-opted as a member of the committee; this was not done.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) RAYMOND C. MOORE

REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL OF PARATAXA

The concept of parataxa, a special taxonomic category restricted to fragments or life stages which in themselves are inadequate for identification of whole-animal taxa, was first proposed in Bulletin 15 of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature. A significant part of this volume was devoted to the opinions of various specialists on the proposal.

At the 1958 colloquium of nomenclature preceding the 15th International Zoological Congress, it was ruled by the chair that discussion of this proposal would be deferred, as discussion of the Bradley draft of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature must take priority. Later, it became clear that the colloquium would be hard pressed to complete the business in hand. Because the parataxa proposal had raised considerable comment, both for and against the concept, the chair appointed a committee consisting of R. C. Moore, P. Oman and J. Roger, to give a brief report on the proposal.

An informal test vote in the colloquium taken at the time this first committee was appointed was overwhelmingly opposed to the proposal. At the time of the committee report, a second vote was also opposed to parataxa but by a less wide margin. The committee report agreed that even though parataxa might not be an acceptable solution, the problem of nomenclature of fragments was a pressing one, particularly in the study of various discrete, highly incomplete skeletal remains, such as conodonts, preserved as fossils. The effort to find a satisfactory solution should be given further study.

The present committee was appointed by Professor Jean B. Baer in June 1962, to prepare a report which would serve to guide the forthcoming Nomenclature Section of the 16th International Zoological Congress in regard to the matter of parataxa.

At about the same time this committee was appointed, Volume W of *The Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* was released. Among other items, this volume contains a classification of conodonts and discussions by four authors on the problem of conodont nomenclature. In the opinion of a majority of the present committee Moore's statement on p. W92-W97 provides an adequate solution to the apparent problem of dual nomenclature of (1) discrete conodonts and conodont assemblages, (2) discrete cephalopod aptychi and aptychus-conch associations, (3) and similar fragmentary fossil remains. Moore pointed out that any supposed identity of discrete forms with those found associated together within an assemblage must, of necessity, be highly subjective, and in view of this great subjectivity in identification, application of Article 24(b)(i) [The Law of Priority applies when any part of an animal is named before the whole animal], is not warranted.

It is also the opinion of a majority of the committee that this logic may be applied to other groups of animals considered under the original proposal for parataxa.

Recommendation

Therefore, it is the opinion of a majority of the committee that dual classification and nomenclature applied to animals, including those represented by fragmented remains, are unnecessary. Accordingly, it is recommended that further consideration of the proposal for parataxa should be abandoned.

Respectfully submitted,

RAYMOND C. MOORE (*Chairman*)

PETER C. SYLVESTER-BRADLEY

ARTHUR C. WALTON

ELLIS L. YOCHELSON

(signed) RAYMOND C. MOORE

Appendix 3

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

1 RESOLUTION

At the urgent request of the Executive Committee, extended after the close of the London meeting in 1958, Commissioner Norman Denbigh Riley C.B.E., agreed to resume the post of Honorary Secretary so suddenly and lamentably vacated because of the ill-health of Commissioner Hemming. Due to personal commitments in other affairs Commissioner Riley was most reluctant to take on this added burden of responsibility. The Commission is therefore all the more grateful that he not only did accept the position, but continued to discharge its duties wisely and with competence until, having finally seen the new edition of the Code through the Press on behalf of the Editorial Committee, he was able to arrange for the continuation of his work by an able successor.

The Commission now expresses its deep gratitude to Mr. Riley for what he has accomplished. It signifies at the same time its regret that he eventually found it necessary to relinquish the position of Honorary Secretary.

2 RESOLUTION

When on the eve of the London Congress in 1958 Mr. Francis Hemming found it necessary to intimate that on the advice of his medical attendants he would not be able either to participate in the Colloquium which had been called to settle the terms of the revised text of the International Code or to continue to act as Secretary after the close of the Congress, a situation of the greatest difficulty arose. What was required was a specialist familiar with the problems of zoological nomenclature, well known in his own speciality and personally acquainted with the leading members of the meeting shortly to take place who would be able and willing to take charge of the organisation of the work of the Colloquium and its meetings and after the close of the meeting, both to assist in editing the text approved by the Congress, while at the same time maintaining,



Moore, Raymond C. 1964. "Report of the Committee to consider parataxa."
The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature 21, 176–178.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.28483>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44463>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.28483>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/28483>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.