

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF DIPTEROLOGY

Minutes of Meeting held at 2 p.m. on June 28, 1992 in the Lu Shan Room of the Grand Continental Hotel in Beijing and continued at 2 p.m. on July 4, 1992

Present: Graham Griffiths (Chairman), Chao Chien-ming, David Henshaw, Hiromu Kurahashi, Laszlo Papp, Hans Ulrich and Vadim Zaitzev

In the absence of the Secretary, notes were taken by David Henshaw and these minutes finalized by the Chairman

Since the number of members present was one short of a quorum, all formal decisions need to be confirmed by a postal ballot; however, since all decisions were unanimous, only a single postal vote is needed to validate them; in this circumstance it is obvious that all decisions will be confirmed, and follow-up action need not be delayed.

1. Review of Progress of Guelph Congress

Two new documents were distributed immediately prior to the meeting, a letter from Dr. D. Monty Wood as Congress Treasurer and a progress report signed by Dr. Terry A. Wheeler as Secretary of the Organizing Committee.

The Chairman reported that a majority of advance postal votes received by him in case an accreditation vote was called were in favour of cancellation. However, there was also a consensus that such a divisive vote should not be called unless unavoidable.

Following extensive discussion of the new documents and earlier correspondence, the Chairman withdrew his earlier request (in a letter dated April 27) for a vote on accreditation. The two main factors which convinced him that the progress of Congress organization could now be considered satisfactory were: (1) a generous line of University credit had now been secured, and (2) assurances had now been given regarding the international content of the program.

The Chairman requested that the liaison arrangement with the Congress organization be changed. Because of his distant location he had not been able to meet with local organizers, with the result that liaison had consisted solely of his exchanging letters with Dr. Stephen Marshall (Chairman of the Organizing Committee). This had not worked well and his relations with Marshall were now strained. Following discussion it was resolved:

That this Council invites Dr. D.M. Wood to act as Liaison Officer for the 1994 Congress Organization, and to correspond with Council members in this capacity.

The Council further resolved:

That Chairman Griffiths will apply for an interest-free conference loan from the IUBS, if this is the wish of Congress Organizers.

With respect to the program content outlined in the First Announcement, the Council did not pass any formal resolution, but offered the following points for consideration by the Organizing Committee in further development of the program:

(1) The distinction between sections and workshops made in the programs for the first two congresses had some organizational significance (keynote speakers were invited only for the sections, chairmen were asked to actively recruit speakers only in the case of workshops). The distinction between subject-based and taxon-based sections in the First Announcement did not seem to correspond well with such organizational distinctions. Also there was some overlap (e.g. Advances in the Systematics of Brachycera under subject-based sections, and Lower Brachycera as a taxon-based section).

(2) A section on Functional Morphology was proposed, but none on Comparative Morphology. Maybe the title should simply be Morphology of Diptera, so that papers of both types can be included.

(3) Proposals for additional workshops are likely to be submitted by overseas

dipterists, and the most efficient way of setting up such workshops is normally to recognize the proposer as the organizer and chairman and ask him to recruit other speakers. The listing of only North American dipterists as organizers in the First Announcement gave an unfortunate impression that the Congress would be regional in nature. While it is a frequent practice in major Congresses to appoint organizers (or one of the joint organizers) of the Congress sections from the same geographical region (so that they can meet as members of a Program Committee), it is not normal to extend such a regional restriction to the choice of workshop organizers. See, for instance, the program of the current Beijing International Congress of Entomology.

2. 1998 Congress (Fourth International Congress of Dipterology)

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Dr. Ipe (dated May 23) regarding the possibility of hosting a Congress in Agra, India. Dr. Ipe stated that he had commitments for grants of Rs 40,000 from the Ministry of Science and Technology and other sources and could host a Congress in 1994 if necessary. While cancellation of Guelph's accreditation to organize the 1994 Congress now seemed unlikely, it might assist Dr. Ipe in holding on to these funding commitments if the decision on the 1998 Congress were taken forthwith. Therefore it was resolved:

That Dr. Ipe M. Ipe of St. John's College, Agra, India, be authorized to organize the Fourth International Congress of Dipterology in Agra in 1998.

3. Constitution

The Chairman said that the need for constitutional emendments had been raised in a letter dated May 21 from Dr. Laszlo Papp. Dr. Papp was of the opinion that the recent dispute between the Chairman and Dr. Marshall indicated a need for writing the position of Liaison Officer formally into the Constitution and defining the function of the Organizing Committee. The Chairman distributed a draft containing additional possible emendments to Article VIII to the effect that:

(1) decisions of Council regarding the time and place of future Congresses should not be subject to a further vote of a Congress. This is the current practice at International Congresses of Entomology. The intention was to prevent the possibility that the Final Session of a Congress could be delayed by a rerun of a discussion which had already taken place at a Council meeting.

(2) the criteria for the sponsoring body should be relaxed to accord with actual practice. The present wording ("the appropriate national academy or other body representing dipterists of that country") is taken from the Constitution of the International Congresses of Entomology and is unnecessarily restrictive for congresses on a smaller scale.

(3) there should be a specific clause dealing with cancellation or resignation of accreditation in order to clarify the powers and duties of the Council in such an event.

Dr. Papp was asked to take the chairman's draft emendments and incorporate them with his own proposals; then to return the consolidated draft to the chairman for linguistic editing and distribution to all members prior to the next meeting.

4. Proposed Guidelines for Congress Organization Document

The Chairman distributed a draft of such a document, intended to assist Congress organizers by outlining Council's expectations of how a Congress should be organized under normal circumstances. Such a document should reduce the future risk of disputes arising between Congress organizers and the Council. It was decided to refer the draft for revision to the three members of Council involved in organizing the first two Congresses (Drs. Chvála, Papp and Rozkošný). Dr. Chvála

A progress report in the form of a letter (dated June 26) from Committee Chairman Dr. Neal L. Evenhuis was read. The Council thanked Neal for his report and suggested that a further report be presented at the Guelph Congress during the session on Diptera databases and Nomenclature.

Two reports of Secretary-Treasurer Dr. F. Christian Thompson were received and accepted, namely minutes of the meetings held during the Bratislava Congress and the financial report. The Chairman annotated the financial report with a statement that he owed the Council \$277.96 Canadian (as of June 19) as a result of selling Proceedings volumes in Edmonton. Since sales of Proceedings volumes by the Treasurer had now reduced indebtedness to the Treasurer to \$61.39 U.S., the Council now had a small credit balance for the first time since its foundation.

The Chairman reported that the Council had been admitted into this Union as a "Scientific Member Commission" at its 24th General Assembly in Amsterdam (September 1991). Following this admission he had written to the Executive Director asking in what ways the Council could participate in the Union's activities, particularly with respect to the inclusion of Diptera in studies for habitat conservation (in implementation of the resolution of the Bratislava Congress). So far no specific request for action by the Council has been received. The next General Assembly was scheduled for Paris in 1994, and it was expected that preservation of biodiversity would be a major concern. David Henshaw and Dr. Michael Vogel were suggested as possible delegates to this Assembly.

Hans Ulrich suggested Dr. Brian R. Stuckenberg (South Africa), and will prepare the "statement of the candidate's birthdate and qualifications" for distribution to Council members. Chao Chien-ming suggested Dr. Fan Zi-de (China), and will prepare the necessary statement. Laszlo Papp will approach Dr. Tibor Jermy (Hungary), chairman of the Budapest Congress, regarding a possible nomination.

The terms of 11 Council members, including the three officers, will expire at the end of the next Congress. Milan Chvála, presently Vice-Chairman, will be asked if he would accept nomination as the new chairman. David Henshaw was suggested as Vice-Chairman, or possibly Chairman if Milan declines (in which case Laszlo Papp could become Vice-Chairman). It was desirable to reelect Chris Thompson as a Council member in order to maintain liaison with the ICZN, and Ipe M. Ipe in order to provide liaison with the Agra Congress. How many of the remaining members should be re-elected was left open. Dr. Kurahashi suggested Dr. Park Soung-Ho as a possible Korean member of Council.

1 p.m. on Sunday, August 14, 1992, at Guelph, Canada (precise location to be determined by local organizers).

Geoff Johns