

■ SHENZHEN NOMENCLATURE SECTION

The Nomenclature Section of the XIX International Botanical Congress (IBC) was held successfully at University Town, Shenzhen, China, from 17 to 21 July 2017, during the week prior to the main International Botanical Congress. The Section was attended by 155 participants from 30 countries. The event celebrated the 150th anniversary of the first rules for naming, i.e., Alphonse de Candolle's *Lois de la nomenclature botanique*.

Before the deliberations began on the morning of 17 July, Prof. De-Yuan Hong, one of the two Honorary Presidents of the Organizing Committee of the XIX IBC, welcomed the participants on behalf of the IBC. He emphasized that nomenclature is a cornerstone of taxonomy, as well as all of the botanical sciences. He was pleased to see not only experienced taxonomists but also many of the younger generation gathered together in Shenzhen to debate and vote on the rules for naming algae, fungi, and plants. The deliberations during the rest of the week were chaired by Dr. Sandra



The Bureau of Nomenclature ran the meeting of the Nomenclature Section the week before the IBC. Members of the Bureau of Nomenclature. Left to right: Nicholas J. Turland (Rapporteur-général), Li Zhang (Recorder), **Anna M. Monro** (Recorders' assistant), Sandra Knapp (President), **John H. Wiersema** (Vice-rapporteur), Yun-Fei Deng (Recorder). [photo by V.A. Funk]

Knapp, President of the Nomenclature Section, while expertise on the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* itself was provided by Nicholas Turland, Rapporteur-général, and Dr. John Wiersema, Vice-rapporteur. Dr. Anna Monro and Dr. Yun-Fei Deng kept track of the debate and recorded all of the decisions of the Section.

In total, 397 proposals to amend the *Code* were submitted for consideration, plus 16 from the floor. This is the largest number presented to any Botanical Congress since the Stockholm Congress of 1950. Some of the major decisions accepted were as follows:

1. The meeting agreed on a framework for the registration of new names and nomenclatural acts of plants and algae. A new, permanent Registration Committee will recommend on the official recognition of nomenclatural repositories. Registration for algae and plants will be voluntary, at least for the next six years; it cannot become a requirement for valid publication before the next IBC in 2023.

2. There is now an expanded Division III on governance of the *Code*, i.e., how the rules for naming algae, fungi, and plants can be changed. Since the rules were first written, methods for managing and changing the rules have partly depended on memory and records kept in hard-to-find publications. Anyone new to nomenclature could find it very difficult to understand the correct procedures, but now everything will be clearly spelled out in the *Code*.

3. Mycologists use the same rules for naming fungi as do botanists and phycologists for naming plants and algae, but there are some special rules for fungi. The Nomenclature Section in Shenzhen voted to put all the rules that apply solely to the naming of fungi into a dedicated chapter of the *Code*, and that chapter will in future be changed and improved by the Nomenclature Session of an International Mycological Congress, which takes place every four years. The next one will be in 2018 in Puerto Rico. The decisions taken at the Fungal Nomenclature Session of an International Mycological Congress relating solely to names of organisms treated as fungi, once accepted by a subsequent plenary session of the same Congress, are binding on the Nomenclature Section convened at the subsequent International Botanical Congress. Such decisions will, however, be open for any editorial adjustments deemed necessary by the Editorial Committee.

The five days of intense debate and discussion were conducted in an open and friendly spirit, even when people disagreed. Prof.



Attendees of the Nomenclature Section vote on whether to amend the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* [photo by V.A. Funk]

De-Yuan Hong's opening remarks were held in everyone's mind throughout, and all participants learned a lot from one another. We will have a new *Shenzhen Code* next year, which will facilitate the science of algae, fungi, and plants and be easier to use as a result of the harmonious way the Nomenclature Section conducted its business.

The official "Report of Congress action on nomenclature proposals" can be found in this issue of *Taxon* (Turland & al. in *Taxon* 66: 1234–1245. 2017).

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John McNeill comments on one of the proposals to amend the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants*. [photo by M.F. Watson]