

**International Organization
of Plant Biosystematists**

Newsletter

No. 14

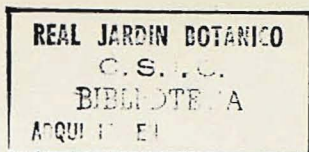
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International Organization of Plant Biosystematists

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Dear IOPB Members,

Here comes the No. 14 of our Newsletter. Best thanks for all contributions; I hope you will find the present issue informative and useful.

The Lead Article (p. 3) deals with an important project of Panarctic Flora. Not only the subject itself, but also the outlined cooperation between the Western countries and the USSR make this project exceedingly interesting. The perestroika comes to the botany, too, wonderful. Your Editor, for one, hopes for more cooperation between various scientists involved in the studies of the Arctic and - perhaps - for an opportunity to do some field work in the Siberian Far East. Cordial thanks to Dave Murray and Boris Yurtsev for this tremendously interesting paper.

The Panarctic Flora project coincides with the Nordic Flora activities. For this reason, our Council Member and the Main Editor of the NF, Dr. Bengt Jonsell, wrote up a brief commentary (p. 8). Thank you Bengt, our Members certainly will follow the development with much interest.

A very important item in this issue is the IOPB Directory (p. 10-17). I do hope you responded to our appeal and verified your addresses. Should, after all, be there any incorrect data, please send the information to our Secretary, Hans den Nijs, who did this difficult job splendidly. If you have a Fax facility, please give the number, too.

No "IOPB Chromosome Data" this time: the contributions have been submitted too late to be included. They will appear in the next issue.

Please read carefully the note from our Treasurer (p. 19). If you wish to receive the Newsletter regularly, please do pay your fees, otherwise we will be obliged to stop the publication. Thank you.

In the last Newsletter The Editor asked you to be selective about your publication list. Somehow it did not quite work, and the publication lists I'm receiving are sometimes very extensive. Since I cannot obviously publish very many data of a single contributor, please select three publications you consider the most important and add the remainder as e.g. "seven further papers".

Data for Newsletter No. 15 should arrive here before November 30, 1990.

All the best wishes for the (not too rainy summer) 1990

The Editor

NOTE: Please write in **capital** letters or use **typewriter** while preparing your 'Research News' sheet for the Newsletter. You don't want to have some words misspelled in print, do you?

Please only use the new form.

Should you have any more voluminous contribution to the Newsletter, please try to process the text and mail us the disk together with the printout. A disk 3 1/2" compatible with Macintosh is preferable. Thank you.

2. Lead Article

By David F. Murray, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775, USA, and Boris A. Yurtsev, Komarov Botanical Institute, Leningrad, USSR

Panarctic floras

Introduction

Unified, panarctic accounts for both vascular and non-vascular plants are needed. The panarctic floras, proposed by us to fill that need, are a set of independent yet parallel treatments for vascular plants, bryophytes, and lichens, north of latitudinal treeline. There are already many accounts of the arctic floras, but, with one outdated exception, all are regional. Moreover, different taxonomic traditions, concepts and criteria, and different weightings of criteria used to discriminate species lead to different taxonomical treatments. Consequently the same plant can, for various historical (and linguistic) reasons, have different names in different countries. The opposite situation appears when different plants are subsumed by the same name.

The principal intellectual challenge of this project is the resolution of conflicts between treatments and the clarification of unifying principles. The technical challenge will be one of international communication and the formation of computerized databases as the core of each flora. The panarctic floras of this proposal will be fully documented and illustrated compendia (practical manuals), in English and Russian, by which to identify plants in each of the major plant groups. By standardizing taxonomic concepts and nomenclature, the treatments should appeal to a wide variety of users.

Why now?

Now is a particularly good time for this work. In addition to the excellent standard works for the vascular plants of Alaska, northern Canada, Greenland, Fennoscandia, and the Soviet Union, the Arctic Flora of the USSR has been completed, new multi-volume Floras for the Soviet Far East and for Siberia are now appearing (three volumes each thus far), and the first volumes for the Flora of North America and Flora Nordica are scheduled to appear soon. We can benefit from these treatments and the new information they will yield, but at the same time the floras will not be merely a recasting of information. The very act of synthesis will raise questions and stimulate research.

For bryophytes and lichens the literature is more diffuse and a search is required to produce a more complete preliminary list of taxa. There is a good base, however, from various sources: Handbook of the Lichens of the USSR (in progress), American Arctic Lichens I, Lichens of the Alaskan Arctic Slope, Handbook of the Mosses of the Arctic USSR, Handbook of Mosses of the USSR, Mosses of Eastern North America, Mosses of Arctic Alaska, Illustrated Moss Flora of Arctic North America and Greenland (in progress), Illustrated Moss Flora of Fennoscandia (includes Hepatics), The *Hepaticae* of the Northern USSR,

Hepaticae of West Greenland, *Hepaticae* of South Greenland, *Hepaticae* of Arctic Alaska, *Hepaticae* and *Hepaticae* of North America, and checklists for North America generally and for Alaska, Canada, and Greenland specifically.

Organization

Our initial proposal is for bi-national leadership of the panarctic floras project from two centres: the Komarov Botanical Institute in Leningrad, USSR and the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks, USA. The work will be carried out in two parallel but essentially independent efforts for vascular plants and non-vascular plants. The floras will actually be written by multi-national teams of contributors, and close coordination with colleagues in Canada and the Nordic countries will be established. To offer advice and guidance, a steering committee will be selected from among senior specialists in the arctic flora.

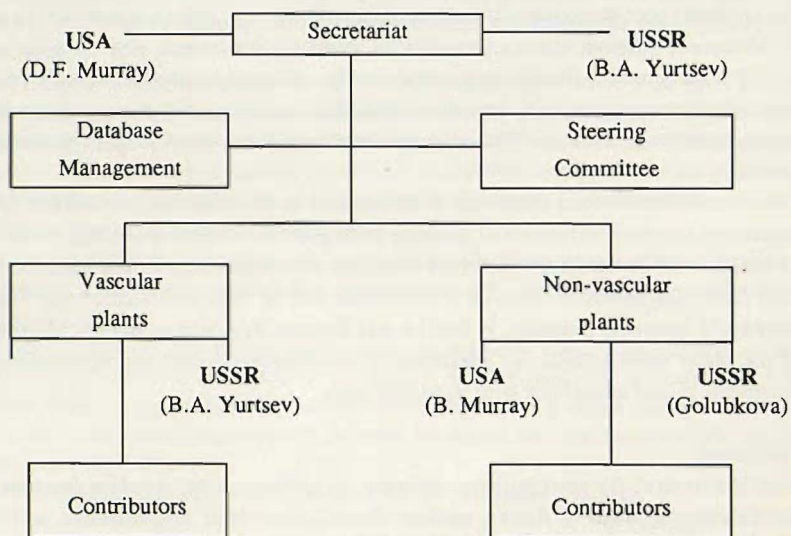


Fig. 1. The proposed organization scheme for the Panarctic Floras Project.

The computer environment

It is difficult, if not impossible, to separate the creation and uses of floras from the compilation and applications of electronic databases. Computers will be used to form a set of interactive databases of various types:

1. taxon-based files for nomenclatural data (the accepted names of plants and their synonyms), bibliographic data, and chromosome numbers;
2. specimen-based files derived mainly from specimen labels, but also from literature records in which specimens are cited, all of which provide the means to have computer-

generated maps for each species, lists of collecting localities, collectors, etc. drawn from 20 to 25 fully searchable fields;

3. files for writing diagnoses or descriptions and identification keys.

Finally, the process of publication itself is now advanced through the use of automated typesetting by computers.

It is our intention that the panarctic databases will be formed with pcTROPICOS, developed and supported by the Missouri Botanical Garden, so we can easily contribute to their even large database effort, but we are also very impressed with and currently using at ALA software available on the Macintosh system as a supplement to the mainframe computer.

Creating databases is labor-intensive, but the benefits begin early, increase dramatically as the projects mature, and persist beyond our ability to predict. What distinguishes the electronic format of the floras is the capacity to correct entries found to be in error or to update them as new information is available, all without large additional costs. We anticipate that revisions to the panarctic floras can be economically made.

Objectives for early phases of work

Workshop. A workshop in late 1990 or early 1991 will convene the organizers from the two primary institutions for a week of "nuts and bolts" discussions. A specialist for geographic information systems (GIS) will attend. GIS provides the means to integrate, through a hierarchy of geographic data, botanical databases with ones from other fields of biology. Database structure and associated data dictionaries will be studied, striving to meet the "industry standard", so that full compatibility with other systems will be assured. Priorities, procedures, and work schedules will be determined. These decisions will become the basis for grant proposals to our respective funding agencies so that work can begin.

Database development. Microcomputers will be installed at the Komarov Botanical Institute where there are both the specialists and abundant specimens, many of which are for taxa otherwise very poorly represented in other herbaria.

Herbarium exchanges and field expeditions. In spite of all the recent accomplishments, a great deal of original work remains to be accomplished on the taxonomy of arctic plants. After the technical hurdles have been crossed, there are still intellectual challenges to confront as we attempt to wrest (or do we mean wrestle?) a single, synthetic treatment from the different traditions and approaches there are in the Soviet Union, in Europe, and North America. The resolution of these differences requires that contributors from these schools of thought examine the same materials together. Exchanges of specimens and of people between the key herbaria will be vital to this process.

For the very difficult, so-called "critical", taxa, it will also be necessary to have teams of scientists, including monographers, working together in the field. Our own field work in other countries and together has opened our eyes to the enormous opportunities collabora-

tive work provides. It is difficult to overstate the value of seeing with one's own eyes similar but geographically distant landscapes and floras. There is also the likelihood of useful perspectives from bringing new eyes to examine old, even previously intractable, problems. It is our intention, too, that senior scientists will be joined by young botanists, whom we must encourage to choose the Arctic as their area of specialization. Priorities for field work must be established as soon as possible to have these studies launched early in the project and the results available as the treatments are written.

Early electronic and hard copy products. We will first compile working checklists of accepted names and synonyms for each of the two major sectors (Asiatic USSR to western Hudson Bay and eastern Hudson Bay to European USSR) which will be continuously refined as the project progresses. Similarly, the bibliographic files will be printed at intervals and circulated for review within and outside of this project. The chromosome number survey will be created following Flora Nordica standards.

Usefulness of the panarctic floras/databases

Today the Arctic is receiving a great deal of attention as 1) an important source of gas and oil, 2) the region likely to experience early and profoundly the effects of global climate change, and 3) a "last frontier" of pristine or only slightly modified natural ecosystems where indigenous people still hold traditional values. Exploitation and conservation are competitive activities; some would argue they are mutually exclusive. Hence, before exploitation of natural resources is contemplated, a careful weighing of costs and benefits is the only rational course. Little progress toward such an assessment is possible without a detailed knowledge of our natural resources. Floras and their associated databases, in a very direct and highly organized way provide information that can ultimately guide many management decisions, especially when rare plants, restricted habitats, and the protection (or restoration) of vegetation are prime considerations.

Inventory and documentation. Monographic floras are carefully documented inventories of the kinds of plants in a given area, thus their contribution to a knowledge of biodiversity is self-evident. Given that plant names are the key words by which to store information in databases and to conduct searches of them, provisions for standard names and the means to make correct identifications must have a high priority. As HAWKSWORTH and BISBY (1988) have stated so well, "The provision of names ... provides the only practical method by which pure and applied biologists of all disciplines can communicate, locate, and retrieve data on organisms from the whole body of biological knowledge."

Conservation and global change. Although there is a strong circumpolar element in the flora, many species are not uniformly distributed throughout the Arctic. Indeed, some are very restricted in range, and the study of endemics and rare taxa is an important line of re-

search. Furthermore, when these plants are so restricted as to be threatened with extirpation by modifications of their habitats, such cases must be made part of the cost-benefit equation when development is under consideration.

Although change is an inescapable fact of earth history, anthropogenic factors are now thought to be initiating and accelerating changes in global climate with implications of critical significance. There is, therefore, an immediate need to assess more precisely the nature of change and to predict the effects. Our ability to achieve these objectives presumes: 1. a detailed knowledge of the biota as the baseline against which change can be measured, and 2. that this knowledge is available in a form easily understood by non-taxonomists.

The Arctic is not immune from pollutants, in fact the study of the arctic haze is pointing to the need for monitoring that will most likely be based on the systematic assay of certain lichens and mosses.

Vegetation and geographic information systems. One of the problems we are addressing is how to synthesize and generalize the information on plant cover that is already at hand. How are the results of a myriad detailed studies to be organized? Can local, site-specific studies be extrapolated to larger areas, as in our case to the entire Arctic? To create accurate regional generalizations we must know well the geographic limits to which any set of data are valid. Without careful consideration of these questions, we will not be able to assess what new work is most needed, where it should be conducted, nor the geographic extent to which the conclusions can be correctly applied. A floristic signature for vegetation provides the continuous thread by which to trace plot studies to generalizations of vegetation at ever expanding scales, as from plot to watershed to geobotanical province to biogeographic zone.

To have a carefully considered, authoritative list of accepted names and, most importantly, to know their synonyms, is to have the keys to unlock numerous sources of information. Several names might then be used as key words to extend reviews of literature, thus the search for comparative data can be widened.

Conclusions

The panarctic floras project provides exciting challenges for international cooperation. By sharing we each contribute the strengths of our intellectual traditions and technology to achieve a full and balanced view of arctic plants. The panarctic databases will be established and maintained for the long term as a significant regional contribution to the study of biodiversity. Written in the simplest language possible, these floras can be important contributions to our theoretical understanding of systematics and as also have very practical applications as standard references to arctic plants.

References

- HAWKSWORTH, D.L. and BISBY F. A., 1988: Systematics: the keystone of biology. In: HAWKSWORTH D. L. (ed.), *Prospects in Systematics*. Systematics Assoc. Special Vol. No. 36, 4-30.

3. Comment on the Lead Article

by B.E. Jonsell, Bergianus Botanic Garden, P.O.Box 50017, S-10405 Stockholm, Sweden

Flora Nordica and the Panarctic Floras project

Flora Nordica (see IOPB Newsletters No. 9 and 11) is a project obviously both interfering with and mutually benefitting from a Panarctic Flora for vascular plants. No less than half of northern Holarctic or 5 out of its 10 latitudinal phytogeographic zones would fall within the probable range of a Panarctic Flora. The zonal division proposed for Flora Nordica runs from the Polar Desert Zone to the Hemi-arctic (or Boreo-arctic, as we will prefer to call it). The latter will include only a narrow strip of northernmost Norway, otherwise the Arctic areas included in Flora Nordica are islands viz. Spitsbergen, Bear Island, and Jan Mayen.

Within that half number of zones only about 10% or about 250 of the species are present. They are largely panarctic, and not seldom variously treated from the taxonomic point of view in different parts of that area. Another problem is that quite a few taxa form disjunct and often small alpine populations in Scandinavia, from which they were first known and described. In many cases this led to a tradition of narrow taxonomic concepts that are still adhered to, even after the variation in arctic regions has become known, albeit seldom properly analysed.

My hope is that Flora Nordica and Panarctic Flora will develop side by side, which for the Western European Arctic would mean an excellent integration of data along both north-south and east-west gradients.

4. Research News

ALBERS F., Prof. Dr., Institut für Botanik, Westfälische Wilhelm-Universität Münster, Schlossgarten 3, D-4400, Münster, West Germany.

Recent publication:

1988: Strategies in chromosome evolution in *Pelargonium* (Geraniaceae). Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard. 25, 499-502.

BAYER R.J., University of Alberta, Department of Botany, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9, Canada

Recent publications:

1989: A systematic and phytogeographic study of *Antennaria aromatica* and *A. densifolia* (Asteraceae: Inuleae) in the western North American Cordillera. Madrono 36(4), 248-259.

1989: Nomenclatural rearrangements in *Antennaria neodioica* and *A. howellii* (Asteraceae: Inuleae: Gnaphaliinae). *Brittonia* 41(4), 396-398.

1990: Investigations into the evolutionary history of the *Antennaria rosea* (Asteraceae: Inuleae) polyploid complex. *Pl.Syst.Evol.* 169, 97-110.

CARTIER D., Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, case postale 60, CH-1292 Chambésy.

Recent publication:

Contribution à l'étude biosystématique du *Plantago atrata* Hoppe. *Candollea* 44, 249-256.

LI Lin-Chu, Department of Biology, Fudan University, Shanghai

Recent publications:

1990: Study on the pollen morphology of *Calycanthus* L. *Bull.Bot.Res.* (Harbin, China) 10(1), 93-97.

1990: The study on the systematic position of *Metasequoia*. *Wuhan Bot.Res.* 8(3) (in press).

And seven further papers.

PICHI SERMOLLI R.E.G., Professor, via Cantagrilhi 1, I-50020 Montagnana V.P. (FI), Italy

Recent publications:

BENNERT H.W., PICHI SERMOLLI R.E.G., RASBACH H., RASBACH K. and REICHSTEIN T., 1989: *Asplenium x helii* Lusina, the valid name for the hybrids between *A. petrarchae* (Guérin) DC and *A. trichomanes* L. (Aspleniaceae, Pteridophyta). I. Nomenclatural notes. *Bauhinia* 9(1), 103-106.

BENNERT H.W., PICHI SERMOLLI R.E.G., RASBACH H., RASBACH K. and REICHSTEIN T., 1989: *Asplenium x helii* Lusina, the valid name for the hybrids between *A. petrarchae* (Guérin) DC and *A. trichomanes* L. (Aspleniaceae, Pteridophyta). II. Detailed description and illustrations. *Webbia* 43, 311-337.

PICHI SERMOLLI R.E.G., 1989: Again on the typification of the generic name *Notholaena* R.Brown. *Webbia* 43, 301-310.

Current projects: Study of a fern collection from Queensland.

Projects completed: Account on the taxonomy of some species of *Triplophyllum* (Dryopteridaceae) from tropical Africa.

Projects started: Italian collectors and collections in the extra-european countries.

URBANSKA K.M., Professor, Geobotanisches Institut ETH, Stiftung Rübel, Zürichbergstrasse 38, CH-8044 Zürich

Recent publication:

URBANSKA K.M. and LANDOLT E., 1990: Biological values of plant species. (In German). *Ber.Geobot.Inst.ETH,Stiftung Rübel, Zürich*, 56, 61-77.

QUINN J.A., Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1059, USA

Recent publications:

QUINN J.A., 1989: Within- and among-tree variation in flower and fruit production in two species of *Carya* (Juglandaceae). *Amer.J.Bot.* 76(7), 1015-1023.

QUINN J.A., 1989: Sex linkage of growth and forage attributes in buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*). *Proc. XVI Internat. Grassland Congress, Nice, France* 1, 415-416.

MCCARTY B.C. and QUINN J.A., 1990: Reproductive ecology of *Carya* (Juglandaceae): Phenology, pollination, and breeding system of two sympatric tree species. *Amer.J.Bot.* 77(2), 261-273.

5. IOPB Directory

by Hans C.M. den Nuis, Hugo de Vrieslaboratory, University of Amsterdam, Kruislaan 318, NL-1098 SM Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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8. Meetings, Past and Future

IOPB Symposium 1992

The IOPB Symposium is tentatively scheduled for June 1992. Further details will follow in the next issues, but if you need any additional information soon, please contact our Vice President Dr. Peter H. Raven, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 229, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-0299, USA, Phone: 314-577-5100.

The 3rd International Legume Conference will be held at Kew, England in July, 1992. Topics of discussion will include: phylogeny, molecular biology, structural botany, reproductive biology, biogeography, plant-animal interactions, *rhizobia* and *mycorrhizae*, phytochemistry, and genetic characteristics of phenological responses. Further information can be obtained from Dr. R.M. Pohill, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB, Great Britain. FAX 01 948 1197.

7. Publishing News

Dr. Shoichi Kawano, our President, finished editing work on the book including the contributions presented at the last IOPB Symposium in Kyoto. The completed manuscript was mailed to the Academic Press Office in London. Dr. Kawano hopes that the book will appear soon and uses this opportunity to thank all the contributors and his staff for the good work.

Editorial comment: When the book appears, please do not forget that you will enjoy a discount as the IOPB Member.

8. Requests for Material and Information

Work goes on currently on a global presentation of karyological data for ferns and flowering plants from Germany (Federal German Republic and Democratic German Republic). This presentation should include chromosome counts with an exact information concerning the origin of material, banding-pattern(s), as well as data on meiosis.

Should you have any such information, please send the data to Prof. Dr. ALBERS F., Institut für Botanik, Westfälische Wilhelm-Universität Münster, Schlossgarten 3, D-4400, Münster, West Germany.

9. Note from our Treasurer

Hans C.M. den Nijs, Hugo de Vrieslaboratory, University of Amsterdam, Kruislaan 318, NL-1098 SM Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Phone: (3120) 525 7660, Fax: (3120) 525 7715

Membership fees for 1990-1992

In the beginning of this year I sent invoices to all members for the membership fee for the current period, 1990-1992. You may have noticed that the international banking procedures are relatively expensive, especially concerning rather small amounts of money. Regrettably, this will cost our organization a substantial part of the income. So it is of great importance that members pay their fees as soon as possible. Till the beginning of June I received from only about 80 of the members their contribution. I would urge the other some 130 members to join them as soon as possible.

Special thanks are due to those members who took the banking charges for their own account by paying US\$ 10.- extra, such grants help to keep the IOPB finances from the red.

Recommended ways of payments, free of banking charges:

- Sending an **Eurocheque**, amounting **Dfl 55.-**, made payable to J.C.M. den Nijs, IOPB
- Sending an **International Postal Money Order**, amounting **US\$ 25.-** or **Dfl 55.-**

Or, but these are charged (with about US\$ 10.-):

- Crediting Den Nijs - IOPB bank account No. 47.58.49.477, at the AMRO Bank, B.O. Box 5, NL-2000 MB Haarlem, The Netherlands to the amount of **US\$ 25.-**
- Sending a cheque, amounting **US\$ 25.-** or **Dfl. 55.-**, and made payable to Den Nijs - IOPB.

The membership fee for **Institutional** members amounts **US\$ 30.-** or **Dfl. 60.-** for the three-year period.

Editor's comment: Please try to settle your fee as soon as possible, the regular publication of the Newsletter depends obviously upon your contribution.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

International Organization of Plant Biosystematists

The International Organization of Plant Biosystematists (IOPB) was founded in 1960 to promote international cooperation in the study of biosystematics. The IOPB acts on several levels, from coordinating and publishing information on biosystematics to organizing conferences. The IOPB is open to all persons working or interested in biosystematics which is interpreted in a broad sense (see symposium volume "Plant Biosystematics", edited by W.F. Grant, 1984).

An IOPB Newsletter is sent to all members. Such items as current research, requests for material and information, meeting reports, publications, etc. are reported. The Editor is Prof. Krystyna M. Urbanska, Geobotanisches Institut ETH, Zürichbergstrasse 38, CH-8044 Zürich, Switzerland.

At present, Membership is for the three year period between Symposia. The next Symposium will be held in Japan in 1989.

Membership fee 1990-1992: US\$ 25.00.

Make cheques or money orders payable to the International Organization of Plant Biosystematists (IOPB).

Send the form and payment to the Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Hans C.M. den Nijs, Hugo de Vrieslaboratory, University of Amsterdam, Kruislaan 318, NL-1098 SM Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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Research News
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Typewritten or in capital letters

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Address:

Personal news (Promotions etc.)

Publications during the year*:

Current projects:

Projects completed:

Projects started:

Requests for research material and information:

Articles and reports should be attached

To be sent to Krystyna M. Urbanska, Geobotanisches Institut ETH, Stiftung Rübel,
Zürichbergstrasse 38, CH-8044 Zürich, Switzerland

* Please select **three** titles and add the remainder as e.g. "seven further papers".



