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Proposal 2*

The following is a proposal for a decisive action one way or the other on the small but troublesome question of whether or not any epithets of specific or lower rank are to be begun with initial capitals. Although the preference of the proposer is for the second alternative, it seems more important that one or the other should be adopted than that one should be adopted rather than the other.

Alternative proposal a. The epithets of species or of taxa of lower rank are begun with a small initial letter.

* Prop. 1 in Taxon 1: 79. 1952.

Alternative proposal b. The epithets of species or of taxa of lower rank are begun with a capital letter if they are taken directly from personal names or the names of deities, or if they are generic names or aboriginal names used without alteration; otherwise, they are begun with a small letter.

It is recommended strongly that one or the other of the above proposals be adopted as an article, not as a recommendation, in order that there may be a clear and definite settlement of the question involved.

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News from the Herbaria

MISS ELSIE M. WAKEFIELD,
O.B.E., M.A., F.L.S.

On July 3rd, 1951, Miss Elsie Maud Wakefield was placed on the retired list, after 41 years service as mycologist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Miss Wakefield was educated at the Swansea High School for Girls and Somerville College, Oxford. She had an interest in the larger fungi from school days, and used her artistic talent to make coloured drawings. While at Oxford she attended a course in Forest Pathology given by Professor W. Somerville, and after completing the degree course in Botany was awarded a Gilchrist Scholarship, with which she proceeded to Munich to work at the Forstliche Versuchsanstalt under Professor von Tubeuf. There she undertook an investigation into the conditions determining the production of fruit-bodies in cultures of Hymenomycetes, and her first paper appeared in the Naherwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift für Forst-und Landwirtschaft, Vol. 7, 1910. After her return to England, she was appointed an Assistant in the Herbarium at Kew, to work under Mr. G. Massee, and she took up her duties there in January 1910.

After Massee's retirement in 1915, the mycological work at Kew, which up to then had included advisory work in pathology for both Britain and overseas, was reorganised, and the home pathological work was delegated to the newly established Pathological Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture. Later (1921) the Imperial Mycological In-