IXth INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS
MONTREAL 1959

RESOLUTIONS ACCEPTED BY THE PLENARY SESSION *

1. The IXth International Botanical Congress accepts the decisions with regard to, and the amendments of, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature as passed by the Section on Nomenclature in its sessions held August 16-19, 1959, and affirms the appointment of the various Nomenclature Committees.

2. Whereas the Nomenclature Session of the IXth International Botanical Congress is aware of the inconvenience to a large number of users of plant names caused by changes in the nomenclature of a number of species which are important economic plants, plants often used as test-book examples, and plants that have been the subject of important scientific work; and whereas this Section is therefore willing to co-operate with all those interested in bringing about the stabilization of these plant names; and whereas, in order that the Section may ascertain the number and identity of the species involved, all organizations and all persons are invited to send to the General Committee lists of plant names for which stabilization seems important, whether or not these names are now threatened, each name appearing on these lists being accompanied by a statement of the general importance of the species; and whereas the Committee will set up an organization to study these lists and will report to the next International Botanical Congress, the IXth International Botanical Congress expresses the hope that all those concerned will give scientific and financial support for this important and difficult task.

3. The IXth International Botanical Congress recommends to the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) that measures be taken to support type culture collections of algae.

4. The IXth International Botanical Congress endorses and urges the initiation of a Flora Neotropica, a monographic flora of the New World Tropics, along the lines proposed to and approved by the UNESCO Advisory Committee on Research in The Humid Topics at their meeting in Manaus, July 1957, to co-ordinate and encourage the scattered monographic taxonomic work now being done on the plants of this area, and to encourage those now working on groups for a more limited area to enlarge their areas to include the entire New World Tropics.

* The report of the Resolution Committee, accepted by the plenary session of the Congress, contained nine resolutions and a vote of thanks of which the first six resolutions are here reproduced, being most closely related to the subject matter of this journal.
5. Considering that the rapid expansion of urban sites, highways, and agricultural utilization has resulted in a serious reduction in natural habitats left undisturbed, and that while some countries have duly recognized the value of nature reserves other countries have made little provision for such measures, and because the Congress feels it should raise a strong voice against any indiscriminate destruction of natural habitats, the IXth International Botanical Congress thus entreats all governments to set aside or to extend nature reserves in which the unmolested nature conditions and processes in flora and fauna may be observed and studied.

6. While fully recognizing the necessity of strict control of the transfer of living plant specimens between countries, and while supporting such measures and their improvement, and the Congress being aware of the necessity of free, rapid and unhindered transmission of plant specimens required for the work of recognized botanical gardens and other institutions working in biological science, the IXth International Botanical Congress recommends to all governments that suitable provisions be made to avoid unnecessary delay and damage to such specimens.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FUTURE CONGRESSES

This committee of the IXth International Botanical Congress, noting that the continually increasing size and complexity of successive International Congresses reflect the growth and diversification of botanical science, consider that at future congresses steps must be made to avoid unnecessary delay and damage to such specimens. We believe that the most fruitful expenditure of time at such a congress is in the presentation of interdisciplinary topics and in discussion. We believe also that it is the task of a general Botanical Congress, in contrast to more specialized meetings, to develop common interests between those concerned with the different branches of pure and applied botany.

We therefore submit the following recommendation in respect of the Xth Congress:

1. That the Xth International Botanical Congress be held in 1964 in Europe, and, unless circumstances prevent it, in Brussels, in acceptance of the invitation from the Belgian Ministry of Agriculture, transmitted by Dr. W. Robyns.*

2. That a standing Committee be appointed to advise on the organization of the subject matter of the Congress.

3. That this committee send out a questionnaire in which those who intend to take part in the Congress will be asked to give particulars of papers of 30-45 minutes’ duration which they wish to present, in order of their preference. The Committee should then select those which it considers most suitable but may in addition extend invitations to others who have not submitted titles.

4. That abstracts of the selected papers be published before the Congress and sent to those who have indicated their intention to participate. At the Congress each of the papers should be followed by an open discussion in which any of those present may take part.

5. That short communications may be submitted but will not be read at the Congress. Instead they should be published in abstract form before the Congress. Time for discussion of these short papers, probably in groups, should be provided during the Congress. In addition, facilities should be made available for those who offer short papers to present their material in the form of demonstrations, illustrated by specimens, preparations, photographs or diagrams.

* This recommendation was slightly amended by the Plenary Session.