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Proposals (1, 2). Add the Rank Superorder Denoted by -anae  
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Secretary of the General Committee on Botanical Nomenclature, whose "Advice on proposals to amend the Code" (Taxon 26: 309–310. 1977), forms the basis of this outline.

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Proposals (1, 2). Add the rank superorder denoted by *-anae*.

### Summary

Superorder, a rank between subclass and order, is proposed to be added to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. The prefix "super-" and the termination, "-anae" are proposed with *-anae* considered to be the proper ending over the presently competing termination "-iflorae."

In recent publications reviewing the classification of flowering plants, the rank superorder has been used although such a rank is not currently specified in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Staffeu et al., 1978). Dahlgren et al. (1981), Rouleau (1981), Takhtajan (1980), Thorne (1981) and David A. Young (unpublished) all use the rank; only Cronquist (1981) does not use the rank. Rouleau and Takhtajan use the termination *-anae*, while Dahlgren, Thorne and Young use the termination *-iflorae*. This competition for support of one ending over the other is clouding the value of the rank, and has the potential for adding to the already confusing nature of botanical nomenclature for users outside the field of botany. To resolve this we propose to amend the International Code to include "super-" taxa, and to provide a specific solution to the competing terminations.

Proposal (1). Amend Art. 4.1 as follows:

After "... the prefix sub (*sub-*)" add "or the prefix super (*super-*)," and after "Subclassis" add "Superordo."

Proposal (2). Amend Art. 17 as follows:

In Art. 17.1 add a new first sentence: "If the name of a superorder is based on the stem of a name of a family based on a generic name, it must have the termination *-anae*."

In Art. 17.3 amend the first sentence by adding the word "super-order" as follows: "When the name of a superorder, order or suborder . . ."

### Rationale for the Proposals:

The growing use of the rank superorder, as seen in the recent revisions of the higher taxa of the flowering plants, is an indication that it shall remain an established rank. The proposed amendment to Art. 4.1 merely reflects what is already established practice. It also provides for the prefix *super-* to be used at taxonomic ranks other than superorder as proposed here. We do not wish to propose amending the Code to provide for terminations for ranks other than this one rank; however, future workers may eventually find such ranks useful, and could then propose specific modifications.

The purposes of amending Art. 17 are twofold. First we wish to provide for establishment of the rank superorder in the same way other ordinal and subordinal names are established. Second we wish to establish a specific ending for the taxon, *-anae*. Although more workers (three versus two) currently use *-iflorae*, such a termination is not appropriate in groups of plants other than the flowering plants. The expressed purpose of botanical nomenclature is to provide reasonable provisions for all groups of plants, from the algae to the flowering plants. The termination *-iflorae* would be singularly inappropriate in the algae, fungi, ferns and gymnosperms. It may be argued that the current exceptions for ranks at the subclass and above as noted in Recommendation 16A could be extended to include superorder. We reject this suggestion as there are no exceptions at the ordinal rank, and the potential for confusion of this point between superorder and order is too great. It is useful to differentiate between the algae, fungi and cormophytes, as currently done in the Code, at ranks above the subclass. However, for the rank of superorder to be useful, one would need to subdivide the cormophytes further so as to restrict the termination *-iflorae* for the Magnoliophyta, and then provide one or more suitable terminations not only for the remaining members of the cormophytes, but the remaining groups of plants as well. There could be a never-ending array of terminations at a single rank, and such confusion is simply not needed.

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