(16-17) Two proposals to restrict publication in non-scientific publications

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(16) In Art. 29.1, eliminate the words “the general public or at least to botanical institutions with,” so that it reads:

“29.1. Publication is effected under this Code only by the distribution of printed matter (through sale, exchange, or gift) to libraries accessible to botanists generally.”

(17) At the end of Art. 30.3, add two sentences as follows:

“Publication on or after 1 January 2001 is effected only through publication in a book or periodical devoted entirely or primarily to the publication of the results of scientific research or botanical/mycological exploration. A serial is defined as matter printed and distributed on a recurring basis, whether on a regular or irregular schedule.”

According to the current wording of Art. 29.1, “distribution ... to the general public” seems preferred over deposition in botanical libraries. Such distribution could, however, take many forms unacceptable to most scientists, e.g. mass mailings to the residents of a particular city, dispersal of fliers at a public gathering, or even dropping of pamphlets from an aeroplane. The proposed deletion of this phrase from Art. 29.1 would ensure that if a book or periodical is not deposited in at least one library accessible to botanists, it is not effectively published. The definition of “serial” is worded so as to include such publications as Phytologia and Systematic botany monographs, published non-periodically, i.e. on an irregular basis, rather than on a regular monthly, quarterly, or other schedule.

The advantage of the proposal is that is would reduce the possibility of publication in obscure places. The disadvantage is that it would exclude many serials in which new names are currently published. There are today many periodicals devoted primarily to distribution of horticultural information to gardening enthusiasts. Many are focused mainly on a single family or genus. Some do occasionally include descriptions of new taxa, even though such publication is not the primary goal of the periodical. The above proposal would render such descriptions not effectively published unless the serial dealt primarily or exclusively with publication of the results of scientific research.

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