



PLANT SYSTEMATICS WORLD

Edited by Vicki Funk

■ PREPARING THE NEW SHENZHEN CODE

The Nomenclature Section (hereafter “Section”) of the XIX International Botanical Congress met from 17 to 21 July 2017 in Shenzhen, China, to decide on proposals to amend the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants*. Of the 397 published proposals to amend the *Melbourne Code* (McNeill & al. in *Regnum Veg.* 154. 2012), 113 were accepted, 103 were referred to the Editorial Committee, and 7 new proposals were accepted from the floor of the Section. A detailed report of the Section’s work was published on 14 August 2017, 16 days after the closing ceremony of the Congress (Turland & al. in *Taxon* 66: 1234–1245. 2017). The full, day-to-day proceedings of the Section will form a separate publication, planned to appear in late 2018 or 2019. The audio recordings of the Section have already been transcribed by Pacific Transcription (Indooroopilly, Australia), co-ordinated by Editorial Committee member Anna M. Monro and financially supported by the IAPT. The transcription will be edited into the usual indirect speech format of previous Section reports (see, e.g., Flann & al. in *PhytoKeys* 45: 1–341. 2015; and 41: 1–289. 2014).

The decisions made in Shenzhen will result in the new *Shenzhen Code*, which is planned for publication in mid-2018. The amended provisions of the new *Code* became effective on 29 July 2017, upon acceptance of a resolution at the closing plenary session of the Shenzhen Congress that the decisions and appointments of the Section be approved. This is not as alarming as it may sound! There are three new rules that will impact valid publication of algal and fungal names, legitimacy of fungal names, and effectiveness of typifications of fungal names, but these will not take effect until 1 January 2019 (see Turland & al. in *Taxon* 66: 1238. 2017).

The Section not only voted on proposals but also appointed a new Editorial Committee charged with preparing the *Shenzhen Code*. The members are persons who were present at the Section, including the Rapporteur-général and Vice-Rapporteur as the Chair and Secretary, respectively. The size of the Committee was increased from the previous 14 members to 16 members to ensure representation from each continent, to ensure expertise in the main groups of organisms (vascular plants, bryophytes, fungi, algae) as well as in fossils, and to improve, if not actually achieve, gender balance (there are now three women on the Committee, compared with one previously). The 16 members are as follows: Fred R. Barrie, Werner Greuter, David L. Hawksworth, Patrick S. Herendeen, Sandra Knapp, Wolf-Henning Kusber, De-Zhu Li, Karol Marhold, Tom W. May, John McNeill, Anna M. Monro, Jefferson Prado, Michelle J. Price, Gideon F. Smith, Nicholas J. Turland (Chair), and John H. Wiersema (Secretary).

The Editorial Committee has a mandate to deal with matters specifically referred to it, to incorporate into the new *Code* the changes agreed by the Section, to clarify any ambiguous wording so long as the meaning is not changed, to ensure consistency and optimal placement of provisions while retaining the present numbering insofar as possible, and to add (or remove) Examples to best illustrate the provisions.

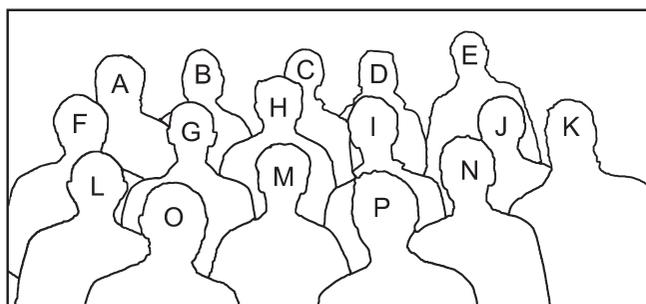
The Committee convened on 11–15 December 2017 at the Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin, Germany, for five days of hard work. We worked on the basis of a draft of the text of the main body of the *Code*, prepared between August and October 2017 by eight members of the Committee, who carefully incorporated the changes decided in Shenzhen. This draft was distributed to the Committee by e-mail in advance of the meeting, in mid-October, and had already been updated according to comments received from members.

The first day of the meeting, Monday, was not without its frustrations, as many of us were still jet-lagged, and we became severely mired in “wordsmithing” the amended rules on replacement names in Article 6. Fortunately, the jet-lag evaporated overnight and on Tuesday we were able to overcome the hurdle of Art. 6 and move on. Over the following four days we stayed on-schedule and were able to complete our very full agenda by the end of business on Friday afternoon. We scrutinized the whole *Code*, reviewing existing wording as well as the changes made in Shenzhen and the Examples referred to us, and finding new Examples where necessary.

One of our more intricate tasks was deciding how exactly to implement the new Chapter that brings together the provisions of the *Code* that deal solely with names of organisms treated as fungi.



The Editorial Committee at work.



Editorial Committee: **A**, Fred R. Barrie; **B**, Anna M. Monro; **C**, Sandra Knapp; **D**, Michelle J. Price; **E**, Werner Greuter; **F**, John McNeill; **G**, Gideon F. Smith; **H**, David L. Hawksworth; **I**, Patrick S. Herendeen; **J**, Karol Marhold; **K**, Tom W. May; **L**, Jefferson Prado; **M**, Wolf-Henning Kusber; **N**, De-Zhu Li; **O**, John H. Wiersema (Secretary); **P**, Nicholas J. Turland (Chair).

This is now Chapter F, where the “F”, of course, stands for fungi. It follows Art. 62 and precedes Chapter H, the former Appendix I on hybrid names. There then follows the new and expanded Division III, on governance of the *Code*, and finally the Glossary. In response to a proposal referred to the Editorial Committee, we also restructured Art. 60 on orthography, arranging the Articles more logically and converting the two “back-door rules” (Articles that make Recommendations mandatory) into normal rules.

Moving the fungal provisions of the *Code* to Chapter F means that Articles 15 and 59 are now empty. Rather than re-number the entire *Code* from Art. 16 onwards, we retained the empty Articles with cross-references to Chapter F. Moving App. I to Chapter H requires re-numbering the other Appendices. We minimized this by moving App. VI, on suppressed works, to become App. I and re-numbering App. VII and VIII, on binding decisions, as App. VI and VII, respectively.

It was an intense but highly productive week, pleasantly satisfying to achieve so much, and this was no doubt helped by our being sequestered from our usual, hectic working environments.

Following the meeting, a revised draft of the *Code* was sent to the Committee members on 13 January for checking and further

editing. A further month of scrutiny followed, with members sending copious comments to the Rapporteur, who updated the draft and distributed a nearly final version to the Committee on 20 February. After proofreading, by 31 March, this version will be sent to Franz Stadler, the Production Editor of *Regnum Vegetabile*, who will do the final formatting and page layout. The *Shenzhen Code* is expected to appear in late June or early July 2018, with more or less simultaneous print publication by Koeltz Botanical Books and online publication on the IAPT website.

On behalf of the Editorial Committee, I would like to thank the council and officers of IAPT, including its successive Presidents, Vicki Funk and Patrick Herendeen, Secretary-General Karol Marhold, and Managing Secretary Eva Senková for maintaining IAPT’s traditional commitment to nomenclature by funding the Editorial Committee meeting in Berlin. We also thank Thomas Borsch, Director of the Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, for generously hosting the meeting.

Keywords *Code; International Code for Nomenclature of algae, fungi, and plants; ICN; Shenzhen; Editorial Committee*

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