

(182) Nomenclatural suffrage for all registered herbaria

Joseph H. Kirkbride, Jr.

USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Systematic Botany and Mycology Laboratory, Rm. 304, BARC-West, Beltsville, Maryland 20705, U.S.A. joe@nt.ars-grin.gov

The large European and North American institutions have dominated botanical nomenclature. This situation occurred naturally because those institutions have invested resources in the subject. The disparate influence of these institutions is demonstrated by the institutional votes at the last three botanical congresses: (1) at Berlin 1987, of 384 institutions, 74 percent were European or North American (Englera 9: 223–228. 1989); (2) at Yokohama 1993, of 477 institutions, 60 percent were European or North American (Englera 14: 259–265. 1994); and (3) at Saint Louis 1999, of 498 institutions, 58 percent were European and North American (Englera 20: 247–253. 2000). The process of modifying the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* must be broadened to include more of those who use it.

Article Div.III.4.b.2 governs the awarding of institutional votes that can be cast in the final votes during the Nomenclature Section. Currently only those institutions selected by the Bureau of Nomenclature and approved by the General Committee are entitled to cast votes in the Nomenclature Section. By informing all herbaria registered in *Index Herbariorum* of their right to vote at the Nomenclature Section, additional botanists will be attracted to the process, and the voting will be more representative of the entire systematic botany community. A further requirement that each institution with one or more registered herbaria express their interest in casting votes during the Nomenclature Section will ensure that only those truly interested in nomenclature will participate.

(182) Remove both clauses of the first sentence of Div.III.4.b.2 and replace them with the following three sentences:

“One year prior to each International Botanical Congress, the General Committee will notify each institution with one or more herbaria listed in *Index herbariorum* that they may request to vote at the Nomenclature Section. To receive its vote(s), each institution must reply expressing its desire to vote at the Nomenclature Section. Such institutions are entitled to 1–7 votes, as specified on a list drawn up by the Bureau of Nomenclature of the International Botanical Congress and submitted to the General Committee for final approval”.