



IAPT CONTENT PLANT SYSTEMATICS WORLD

■ LIVESTREAMING THE NOMENCLATURE SECTION AT THE XX INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS IN MADRID, 15–19 JULY 2024

At the Nomenclature Section of the XIX International Botanical Congress (IBC), held in 2017 in Shenzhen, China, a Special-purpose Committee was established to investigate and recommend on ways to broaden community participation in nomenclature through virtual attendance at future Nomenclature Sections (Wilson, 2019), specifically “to investigate the possibility of and mechanisms for virtual participation and voting in the Nomenclature Section of an International Botanical Congress via the internet”. The Special-purpose Committee produced a report (Landrum & al., 2021a) summarising the discussions of the group, suggesting that a trial be run at the XX IBC to test feasibility but without suggesting any particular platforms or methods. Proposals to add provisions to Division III of the *Code* (Turland & al., 2018) to enable various levels of participation were made (Landrum & al., 2021b), leaving the implementation of any such participation up to the Organising Committee of the XX IBC and the Bureau of Nomenclature (see Landrum & al., 2021b).

After scoping several different platforms and consulting with vendors and users in the virtual participation space, the Organising Committee and the Bureau have concluded that implementation of full online voting at the XX IBC Nomenclature Section is not feasible at this time. The way in which votes are held – not as single ballots set in advance, but multiple constantly and rapidly changing votes on amendments and other small changes – means current off-the-shelf virtual platforms would not provide both guaranteed constant connectivity for those participating online and satisfy the need for an efficient Section in the five days allocated. Systems such as those used in national parliaments could perhaps accommodate such voting, but these are bespoke and likely to be prohibitively expensive for something that would only be employed once every six years.

We, however, do feel that broadening the attendance at the Section is much to be desired and will greatly assist in bringing a wider community into nomenclature. With this in mind, we intend to livestream the Nomenclature Section in Madrid so anyone who wishes can attend virtually and observe the proceedings in real time. Taking into consideration one of the important discussion points from the Committee’s report (Landrum & al., 2021a: 1401) about recognition for participation in this activity, we propose that those wishing to

observe the livestream register each day, and that the Bureau in conjunction with the Organising Committee of the Congress will consider a mechanism for acknowledging virtual attendance for those that wish it with certificates similar to those given to those attending conferences in person.

Each day of the Nomenclature Section will be broadcast via a channel to be advertised on the webpage of the IBC; mechanisms for registration will be formulated and posted on the IBC website as they firm up. The schedule of discussions at the Section is quite fluid (see previous proceedings such as Lindon & al., 2020) but in general proceeds through the *Code* from the Preamble to the Glossary, based on the “Synopsis of Proposals on Nomenclature – Madrid 2024” published in this issue of *Taxon* (Turland & Wiersema, 2024). Those interested in nomenclature will of course want to observe all the discussions. There will be no charge for observing this livestream.

This trial run of livestreaming will be a test of the appetite for virtual participation in the five-day meeting, and we hope it will provide a platform for those interested in nomenclature to see how they can become more involved.

Please watch the Nomenclature Section tab of the IBC website (<https://ibcmadrid2024.com/index.php>) for details of how to register and what to expect. We hope this test of a livestreamed Nomenclature Section will be a success.

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