

NOMENCLATURE COMMITTEE FOR FUNGI

CF Letter 4—Commentary 2, March ballot alert, Article 30, Note 2, *Ascomycota* Cavalier-Smith, page 1
22 February, 2007

Dear Fellow CF members,

Our second post-Vienna Commentary contains summaries of your special votes on Props. 1078 and 1486 and lists fourteen published conservation proposals that require your input.

Comments and discussion strongly encouraged: As of today, only two members and one guest have commented on any of the new proposals, even though some were published over a year ago. All CF members are urged to Email comments on published proposals without waiting for an officially updated Commentary to arrive from the Secretary. An absence of comments generally suggests that proposals will easily pass a ballot vote. Obviously, if you have opinions to share, it is better to present these *before* a vote so that other members (who may lack your expertise) may consider important points or additional data that were possibly missed by the proposing authors.

First 2007 ballot to be sent in March: An updated Commentary containing additional comments will accompany our first regular ballot (to be Emailed in approximately one month). With the November resignation of Gary Samuels bringing the current CF membership to 16, only ten votes comprise the 60% majority needed to recommend an action to the General Committee.

Article 30 (published Vienna Code): I neglected in November to direct your attention to changes regarding publication of theses in the new 'red' Code. The Editorial Committee expanded text approved by the 2005 Nomenclature Section so that Art. 30, Note 2, now reads:

The presence of an International Standard Book Number (ISBN) or a statement of the name of the **printer, publisher, or distributor** in the original printed version is regarded as internal evidence that the work was intended to be effectively published,

The changes in boldface altered Ex. 8 so that *Roridomyces* Rexer (1994) is now regarded as validly published, making the later synonym, *Roridella* E. Horak (2005), illegitimate.

***Ascomycota* and its diagnosis:** I encourage you to read closely the attachment labeled Letter4ascomycota.pdf. This file provides the background for a recent controversy surrounding the validity of *Ascomycota* as proposed by Cavalier-Smith (1998). The phylum name is serving to test Art. 32.4, and our Committee is asked to evaluate where we would 'draw the line' in determining whether a diagnosis is — or is not — adequate.

Member Scott Redhead formally raised the issue to the General Committee on January 25. Four days later, General Committee Secretary Fred Barrie sent a formal request to the CF while Scott noted that the group of authors had decided to use *Ascomycota* Cavalier Smith, rendering the decision less urgent. Ove Eriksson sent an excellent summary of the discussion the following week. The letter addendum contains the text of the four messages and I have also attached the 1998 Cavalier Smith PDF supplied by Secretary Barrie.

Members should Email their thoughts to me, with copies to Scott and Ove. A separate file containing your responses will accompany the ballot and updated Commentary in March.

I have decided at this time to present your *Ascomycota* comments and Comment separately so as not to distract from the published proposals to be considered on the ballot. However, please indicate whether such discussions should be incorporated in the formal Commentary or kept separate in the future. As you may have noticed, the Article 59 discussions are kept separate until such time as a formal proposal is published. I personally feel that comments not relating to

formal, published proposals should be presented (in their entirety) as independent documents, but I am willing to merge everything if the Committee wishes.

Committee nomenclature: During January, there was a flurry of messages regarding the proper appellation for the permanent nomenclature committees in official and unofficial communications. Below is General Rapporteur John McNeil's February 9 summary:

Dear all:

Thank you all for your comments on the best way to describe the various permanent nomenclature committees. Most had no strong views but from what was expressed, I conclude that there is:

- 1) a desire to make clearer the fact that these are nomenclature committees
- 2) a wish to have consistency in Committee titles in published material (e.g. Committee Reports in Taxon)
- 3) a preference by several to keep as closely as possible to the current wording of the Code

For this reason, I propose to use "Report of the Nomenclature Committee for [the groups]" and probably "Report of the General Committee for Botanical Nomenclature" in Taxon.

Paul Silva will be disappointed that I have not followed his strictures against the use of "Nomenclature" as an adjective, but, as always, he made a very thoughtful contribution that seems to me to point the way rather well as to how Appendix III might be reworded in Melbourne.

In our earlier correspondence, Dick Brummitt referred to his raising the matter in the Nomenclature Section meetings in Vienna and my saying that the Committees could call themselves what they liked. Finding from Fred [Secretary Barrie] that this discussion was on the Friday (not the Saturday as I had assumed), I have now checked the record and it seems that I was not quite so cavalier in my response. Apparently what I said was: " Well, I think the point that has been made is very good advice to the Nomenclature Editor of Taxon to make sure that he puts in the word "Nomenclature" in future, and perhaps the Secretaries might do the same." And so this is what I will do.

Thanks again. John

Therefore, although I retain the unnecessary (but informative) 'IAPT Permanent' in my secretarial E-mail signature file, our official title is the *Nomenclature Committee for Fungi* for formal reports to be published in Taxon. Feel free to continue to use 'CF' for internal communications. (Yes, I found the entire exchange delightfully ironic.)

I wish all of you a Happy Chinese New Year and Mardi Gras – just a few hours late!

Warm regards,

Lorelei Norvell

Secretary, Nomenclature Committee for Fungi