

BACTERIOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE
AND TAXONOMY

NOMENCLATRURAL AND TAXONOMIC REVIEWS

SINCLAIR, G. Winston. Diacritical Marks in Zoological Names. *Systematic Zoology* 1:84-86. 1952. One of the noteworthy differences between the rules of nomenclature in botany and bacteriology on the one hand and in zoology on the other is to be found in the spelling prescribed for use when a scientific name or epithet is derived from the name of a person and is written in a language using letters or diacritic signs that are not those of Latin. The recommendation 27 c (4) in the bacteriological code reads

"When a new name for a genus or subgenus is taken from the name of a person, it should be formed in the following manner: The syllables which are not modified by--- endings retain their original spelling, even with the consonants k or w or with the groupings of vowels which were not used in the classical Latin. Letters foreign to botanical Latin should be transcribed and diacritic signs suppressed. The Germanic ä, ö, ü, become ae, oe, ue; the French é, è, and ê become generally e."

Article 20 in the Zoological Code reads

"In forming names derived from languages in which the Latin alphabet is used, the exact original spelling, including diacritic marks, is to be retained."

Sinclair notes that in many languages letters with diacritic marks frequently are different letters occupying an independent place in the alphabet. He finds that in Czech there are nine such letters, in Turkish eight, in Polish eight, in Latvian eight. He states that there is a movement to do away with such diacritic marks when names are latinized. He emphasizes that diacritic marks are of two kinds: (a) those to which the name properly applies, the German Umlaut the French accents and cedilla, and the Portuguese til, and so on, where the mark indicates that the sound of the letter is in some way different from that proper to it; and (b) "by a loose extension of the term, those marks which, in combination with a letter, make a completely new character,

e. g. , the Spanish ñ, the Czech ě, ž, š, etc. It is possible that these two groups should be treated differently."

The author concludes that it is often difficult for one unfamiliar with the language in question to draw a distinction between the two groups. He believes that the least difficulty will be encountered by strict adherence to the zoological rule that all diacritic signs should be included in derived names.

DANDY, J. E., J. S. L. Gilmour, T. A. Sprague, and E. M. Wakefield. Committee to Deal with Urgent Nomenclatural Needs. Memorandum by British Members. *Taxon* 1 (5): 78:80. 1952. Both botanical and bacteriological codes of nomenclature emphasize the desirability for stability of names of higher plants and of the bacteria. It is particularly necessary that the names for organisms of economic significance and names that have come into wide use should be fixed. To further such stability there has been established for botany a "Committee to Deal with Urgent Nomenclatural Needs". This Committee apparently functions much as does the Judicial Commission in bacteriology in the formulation of recommendations concerning code emendation and interpretation. The British members of this Committee have published a suggested revision of those articles in the Botanical Code that have to do with conservation and rejection of specific names of plants. They have recommended to the Committee favorable action upon a proposed new article to follow old Article 68 and to replace old Articles 62-68. The problems with which the proposed article is concerned confront the bacteriologist as well as the botanist. The new article relates to the development of approved lists of conserved species names and lists of rejected species names.

The proposers of the new article agree that nomenclatural stability as well as continued "friendly cooperation between taxonomists and other users of the scientific names of plants" require some modification of existing rules whereby changes in widely used specific names of economic plants, at present rendered necessary by the application of the Rules,