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WORLD FEDERATION FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS

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Number 25

December 1996

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An Interdisciplinary Commission of the International Union of Biological Sciences  
and the International Union of Microbiological Societies.

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The members of the Committees will be presented in the next Newsletter

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WFCC Reports

**EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS-ICCC8**

**Veldhoven, the Netherlands, 25-29 August 1996**



ICCC8 was a very lively meeting and - as judged from the reactions - a successful one. In the confinement of a former monastery at Veldhoven 280 participants from 43 different countries participated in the lectures, workshops and discussions from early morning till late at night.

The rather challenging main theme of the congress was:

**'Culture Collections to improve the quality of life.'**

It positions the culture collections at the centre of the endeavour to obtain insight in the biodiversity of microorganisms and their functions for sustaining life on earth. In four plenary and twelve specialized symposia complemented with eight workshops and over 90 posters, a number of sub-themes were highlighted, centered around culture collections themselves (general management, quality control, networking and database-management), research topics for which collections are instrumental (taxonomy, phylogeny, evolution biology, ecology and the general theme of biodiversity), and the major services from culture collections towards fundamental and applied research (bioremediation, major functions towards industry, agriculture and health care, breeding of edible mushrooms and their role in patenting of

microorganisms, rapid identification and general services).

The consequences of the Convention on Biodiversity for culture collections were highlighted in several lectures, and were discussed in-depth during a workshop directly after the congress. Satellite meetings were organized by the European Culture Collections Organization (ECCO), the Microbial Information Network Europe (MINE); the board of WFCC had several meetings with as one of the outcomes the appointment of Vanderlei Canhos as the new president of WFCC.

A welcome break was the banquet with a choice of high quality food and wine. Digestion was stimulated by the - sometimes rather overwhelming - Mamma Mia band, which lured the audience to the dancing floor and by Erko Stackebrandt who, in his banquet speech, put himself in the position of a micrococcus which resulted in a humorous and quite unexpected view on taxonomy and collections.

Barbara Kirsop and Dieter Claus were awarded the honorary membership of WFCC (they received a certificate and a Ginkgo tree, the symbol of WFCC) and the Bergey's award was bestowed upon Karel Kersters (he also received a cheque which he promised to use for paying outstanding dues to WFCC).

A congress like this needs the enthusiasm of participants and lecturers to become more than a bunch of symposia. They performed marvelously.

The support of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Dutch Government, Gist Brocades and a number of other industries was also indispensable. A significant contribution of WFCC was obtained to allow a number of participants from developing countries to attend the congress.

The proceedings were available at the onset of the congress which was highly appreciated. It really contributed to achieve maximum impact from the lectures and discussions.

At CBS we are relieved that the burden of organizing ICC8 is lifted from our shoulders. It is now in the hands of our past president, Lindsay Sly, to organize the next congress in Brisbane, Australia, in the year 2000. We wish him strength and inspiration!

Dirk van der Mei

R.A. Samson, J.A. Stalpers, D. van der Mei, A.H. Stouthamer (eds.)

Culture Collections to Improve the Quality of Life

Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress for Culture Collections, Veldhoven, 25-29 August 1996

*published by*

Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn, The Netherlands

and the

World Federation for Culture Collections

1996, 497 pages, Hfl 100,-. (US\$ 60), handling fee excluded, ISBN 90 70351 33 1

Orders should be sent to:

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## WORLD FEDERATION FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS' RESOLUTIONS

On the occasion of the International Congress for Culture Collections (ICCC 8), August 24-29 1996, Veldhoven, The Netherlands, on the role of microbial resource centres for improving the quality of life, attended by 280 scientists from 43 countries, delegates agreed the following:

[1]

Microorganisms conserved in the world's culture collections constitute the natural resources for research and social and economic development in the following key areas:

Human and animal health  
Agriculture and food  
Energy and chemistry  
Environment.

Microorganisms are the invisible guardians of the earth on which the maintenance of the biosphere ultimately depends. It follows that microbial resource centres are necessary partners in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Therefore the WFCC urges a long-term commitment by governments to support the conservation of all microbial biodiversity for scientific progress and the future of mankind, and the inclusion of microbiological expertise in the development of environmental policies. Delegates of ICC8 resolve that these matters be urgently addressed in order that the major objectives of the CBD can be implemented.

[2]

Taxonomy is the foundation on which the bricks of biological science are laid. The present dearth of taxonomic expertise is greatly hindering the understanding and monitoring of environmental change, the health care and feeding of the world's populations, and the discovery of untapped resources for exploitation. Accordingly, delegates urge the reversal of the current trend and the reinstatement of microbial taxonomy as a major discipline, widely taught and practised throughout the world.

[3]

While recognising the fundamental importance of health and safety issues with regard to the trans-boundary movement of microorganisms, the delegates urge that consideration be paid by regulatory authorities to the essential need for the exchange of microorganisms for scientific and development purposes. To facilitate this process the harmonisation of transport regulations, hazard classification and nomenclature, is of paramount importance.

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## President's Report

The period since ICC 7 in Beijing has been productive in many ways. The international scientific scene changes and the WFCC has needed to address a number of issues during this period. Most activities have been handled by the very competent committees which will report separately. During the period 1992-1996 the most pressing issue as far as international affairs are concerned has been the impact of the convention on Biological Diversity on the activities of biology in general but with specific implications for culture collections which act as the custodians of the world's cultured microbial diversity and cell lines. The WFCC has been proactive in many ways which will be outlined below.

### BIODIVERSITY

Following on from the Biodiversity theme of ICC 7 a very successful Symposium supported by UNEP was held in Prague at the IUMS Congress in 1994. The Proceedings entitled "The Biodiversity of Microorganisms and the Role of Microbial Resources Centres" was published and distributed. Also, in Prague the first meeting of the IUMS/IUBS International Committee on Microbial Diversity was held and a follow up meeting was held in Paris in September 1994 at the IUBS Meeting. I was asked to prepare a briefing document on microbial diversity in relation to the articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This paper "Microorganisms: an essential component of biological diversity" was distributed at the first meeting of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nassau in December 1994 by the Vice-President, Dr. Canhos. Several meetings have been attended by myself, Dr. Canhos, Mrs. Kirsop, Dr. Brian Kirsop, and Dr. Fritze in relation to the implementation of the Convention and safety matters. Details are attached.

The latest initiative of the Biodiversity Committee has been to organise the forthcoming Satellite Workshop at ICC 8 on "Access to ex-situ microbial genetic resources within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity" which promises to be an excellent meeting and of utmost importance to the working procedures of collections in the future. In many ways the discussions being held are as important as the effect of the Budapest Treaty on collections except that input is happening at a far earlier stage.

### ICCC 8

The major event of the four year period is the International Congress on Culture Collections, and ICC 8 is set to be a major success. The organising committee led by Dr Dirk van der Mei and Dr Robert Samson have done an outstanding job in putting together a first class scientific program and social events. ICC 8 with the theme "Culture Collections to improve the quality of life" will cover a very interesting and topical range of fields and has attracted many leading international speakers. We sincerely thank the organising committee for their hard work which I am sure will be rewarded this week.

### ICCC 9

Submissions have been called for offers to host the next international congress and these will be discussed by the Executive Board.

### WORLD DATA CENTRE FOR MICROORGANISMS

The WDCM continued to be a major international resource for data on microbial diversity and culture collections. Under the able leadership of Dr Hideaki Sugawara the WDCM at RIKEN has developed an on-line Directory with the support of UNEP funding and a Web site including a WFCC Home Page with the collaboration of the Membership Committee. Dr Sugawara has announced that he has taken up a Professorship at the National Institute of Genetics and it is proposed to move the WDCM to this location with financial support from the Centre for Information Biology. The WFCC Executive Board will decide on this proposal at this meeting.

### ENDANGERED COLLECTIONS

A sum of \$10,000 was provided by UNEP in 1994/95 to support endangered collections. An amount of \$4,000 each was supplied to Dr Dang Thi Cam Ha in Hanoi, Vietnam and to Dr D. Tsetseg in Ulanbalaan, Mongolia. An amount of \$2,000 was provided to Prof. Joffe of Israel to assist with the rescue and transfer of his valuable *Fusarium* collection to the ATCC. Together with the previous support for the Russian collections by IUMS, ASM, ATCC, and various commercial organisations this represents a significant contribution to endangered collections but much more could be done if funds were available.

## NEWSLETTER

During the current term difficulty was experienced with the publication of the Newsletter and communication with the Editor which is still not resolved. In 1995 a difficult decision was made to make alternative arrangements and we are grateful to Dr Dieter Claus with the support of the Secretary Dr Dagmar Fritze for taking over this important task with the usual high standard.

## POSTAL, QUARANTINE, SAFETY

This committee has been very active compiling the latest regulations and this information will be available as a new publication for distribution at ICC 8.

## FUNDING

The ability to undertake significant projects depends on the availability of funding. The funds available from membership fees are only sufficient to run the organisation and produce the Newsletter. To undertake the other tasks outlined above money is sought from various bodies. Recently, UNEP has been a major financial source and we are grateful for this support. In 1994/95 UNEP provided \$ 10,000 support for the publication of the Prague Symposium and its distribution, Support was also provided to the WDCM to assist with the development of an on-line directory, and to support the endangered collections. Unfortunately, due to its own problems UNEP has been unable to provide financial support for ICC 8, the Access Workshop, or the WDCM in 1996/97. This highlights the vulnerability faced when hosting important events and it will be in the WFCC's interest to look closely at its future financial strategies to become more financially independent. It will be necessary to expand the membership and to look to Affiliate collections for more support.

Some difficulty was experienced with the funding relationships between WFCC, MSDN, and UNEP. Although WFCC was the signatory body MSDN administered the funds for historical reasons. This led to difficulties with communication and reporting and in 1995 UNEP agreed for the two organisations to make separate applications.

## WFCC STATUTES

It has become clear that the Statutes relating to the elections of the Officers and the Executive Board require revision. The wording appears to be contrary to the original spirit and Nominations Committees experience difficulties in interpretation. It is recommended that the new Executive Board establish a Statutes Revision Committee to advise on this matter in adequate time for the next election.

It has been my pleasure to serve as WFCC President and to be so ably supported by the Executive Board, Officers, and committees. There is always much more that one would like to achieve given the time and resources, but it is clear that the WFCC continues to be a vibrant organisation well respected for its contribution to progress in the field of culture collections and related disciplines. I wish the incoming Executive every success.

Lindsay Sly  
President WFCC

## Secretary's Report



The major part of the WFCC secretary's work is to answer queries from members and requests for information on WFCC from scientists and organizations all over the world. Of special interest are the publications of WFCC for which a number of requests were received and settled. Especially the publication of the Biodiversity Committee 'The Biodiversity of Microorganisms and the Role of Microbial Resource Centres' received great attention. A number of organizations asked for copies of the 'Guidelines for the Establishment of Culture Collections'. A short portrait of WFCC and WDCM was written and provided for the update of the information Brochure of the European Culture Collections' Organization. A compilation of all published Minutes of WFCC and the WFCC Statutes together with their Amendments was prepared and provided to all EB members for further discussion.

An information stand was organized at the IUMS meeting, July 1994 in Prague. WFCC, being listed as one of the COMCOFs of IUMS, was asked by the IUMS organizers to present their activities. Updated WFCC leaflets and lists of publication and events were produced. Copies of the various WFCC publications and the WFCC video BACK-UP were displayed and a number of these bought by members and non-members. The new edition of the WDCM-Directory prepared by Dr. Hideaki Sugawara at Riken, Japan, was highlighted and acknowledged with great interest. An exhibition stand displaying WFCC material was also organized at ICCV-VIII at Veldhoven.

On behalf of WFCC a number of meetings have been attended by the secretary and WFCC material displayed. Thanks are extended to DSMZ who covered generously costs arising from these attendances.

Two WFCC Newsletters have been produced by Dr. Dieter Claus who acted as an 'emergency editor'. The NLs were sent to the membership with the help of the secretary. Again the DSMZ is thanked for generously covering postage costs.

Ballot papers for the election of the next Executive Board have been produced on behalf of the Nominations Committee and mailed to all members entitled to vote.

Since the Beijing meeting in 1992 a number of members left WFCC for various reasons and many new ordinary members as well as affiliate members (culture collections) joined WFCC, so an overall increase of members is counted. According to category the numbers are as follows (presently 406 members as of September 1996): Ordinary: 276; Affiliate: 113; Sustaining: 7; Honorary: 4; Adherent: 6.

Dagmar Fritze  
Secretary WFCC

#### Financial Report of the Treasurer

Every four years, coinciding with the International Congress for Culture Collections an audit is presented about the finances of WFCC. In 1996 the audit was performed by Fenger Administration and Consultancy, the Netherlands. On the basis of this audit the treasurer was discharged by the board of WFCC, meaning that his activities related to administration, income and expenses of WFCC were considered rightful and accurate.

The resulting balance, drawn up after some adjustments related to the fact that UNEP has approved to shift a subsidy for publication of the Beijing proceedings to the funds for endangered collections, and a correction (indicated under the creditors for an amount of US\$ 7.950; one of the transfers in the media fund was prepaid by CBS and not yet invoiced to WFCC) is presented below.

BALANCE PER 30 SEPTEMBER 1996 (in US dollars)

-----  
Debit                    30.09.96 31.12.95    Credit                    30.09.96                    31.12.95

ABN AMRO \$- account	28.312	38.651	Capital	39.465	33.081
ABN AMRO Dfl.- account	4.572	-71	Endangered Collections	3.495	11.445
			ICCC7	-2.443	-2.443
			ICCC8	-15.905	-2.827
			Workshop WFCC	1.000	0
			Prague Biodiversity	-677	-677
			Creditors	7.950	
	32.884	38.580		32.884	38.580
	=====	=====		=====	=====

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT OVER THE PERIOD 01.01.1996 - 30.09.1996 (in US dollars)

Received fees	6.708
Sales Video, Books & Royalties	379
	-----
	7.087
Bank-interest & costs	1
Newsletter	1.073
Sundries	-371
	-----
	703
	-----
Mutation in capital	6.383
	=====

As ICC8 may show a positive financial result, part of the subsidy of WFCC to ICC8 can possibly be repaid.

Dues structure

For some time discussions have been going on in the WFCC board to improve the dues structure. The following decisions have been made:

- Ordinary membership

Revision of dues structure for ordinary membership (essentially a simplification of the 0.05% rule) as follows:

Gross annual income up to US\$ 20.000: US\$ 10 Gross annual income up to US\$ 80.000: US\$ 40

Gross annual income up to US\$ 40.000: US\$ 20 Gross annual income over US\$ 80.000: US\$ 80

- Affiliate members

Revision of dues structure for affiliate members (the collections as institutions)

Minimum fee US\$ 50 (was US\$ 10) Maximum fee US\$ 500 (was US\$ 100)

Small collections that cannot afford to pay the requested amount can get dispensation from the treasurer (upon request).

- Sustaining members

The minimum fee will remain at US\$ 100

Sustaining members will be given incentives to pay larger amounts, e.g. when for US\$ 500 or more, they will be mentioned in the Newsletter; when paying more than US\$ 1000, they will be given room for ads in the Newsletter and obtain facilities for presentations at WFCC congresses. More attention will be given to present a clear picture of WFCC activities and to acquisition of new sustaining members.

- Adherent members

No change (this category is not directly connected to collections, but WFCC has a direct interest in their participation in the organization).

- Invoices

WFCC considers the possibility to send invoices to invite members to pay their dues. As this requires a lot of extra administrative effort, this approach will be implemented at first only for the affiliate and sustaining members.

D. van der Mei  
Treasurer WFCC

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### IMPORTANT NOTE: PAYMENT OF DUES

Up until now members were invited to pay either by cheque or money order, or by UNESCO coupon. The first method has become very expensive (rising banking costs!); the latter is not in use any more.

- Please do not use cheques for amounts under US\$ 50.
- If possible, pay your dues for more than one year, preferable for four years.
- Preferable ways to pay your dues to WFCC:

1.

By direct bank transfer to:

ABN-AMRO Bank, Account no: 40.29.91.125, WFCC  
P.O.Box 30, 3740 AA BAARN.  
Swiftcode: ABNANL 2A

2.

By Eurocheque (for Europe only) .

Please note that amounts should not be paid in US\$ or local currency, but in Dutch guilders!

3.

By Visa Card or Eurocard/Mastercard. Please indicate:

- o What card
- o Card number
- o Expire date
- o Amount to be paid, kind of membership (ordinary, affiliate, sustaining), number of years to be paid for
- o Name and address of the official cardholder and signature

Address to: Dr D. van der Mei, Treasurer WFCC, P.O.Box 273, 3740 AG BAARN, The Netherlands

4.

At ICCC conferences

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## WFCC Committees: Reports for the period 1992-1996; further aims and scopes

### Committee on Postal, Quarantine, and Safety Regulations

The World Federation for Culture Collections expanded its Committee on Postal, Quarantine, and Safety Regulations at the Seventh International Congress for Culture Collections (ICCC-7) to attempt to follow changes in regulations in more regions of the world. The Committee members undertook to monitor changes in regulations and guidelines, not only in their own country but also in their region of the world.

The object was not to duplicate information published by other organisations but to draw together information to be presented to members of the WFCC to keep them informed of changes and developments. The full report, published by the Committee, is produced with that aim in mind.

The published report summarises changes in legislation in quarantine, transport and packaging regulations and safety in the handling of biological agents. It provides information on some new and useful sources of information and lists some relevant publications that can also provide useful data. The report begins with a series of issues that, in the opinion of this committee, require further consideration and development.

Four publications, in particular, cover most of the ground that falls within the remit of this committee. The restrictions imposed on the transport of biological materials, their import, export and movement within the USA is covered by the *Packaging and shipping of biological materials at ATCC*. Rockville, Maryland: American Type Culture Collection. The booklet provided by the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ, Braunschweig, Germany, *Shipping of infectious, non-infectious and genetically modified biological materials. International Regulations* covers shipping regulations world-wide and is particularly informative on procedures for Europe. A useful feature of the latter is that it lists the countries that do and do not allow the transport of infectious and non-infectious biological materials. Two further publications cover the movement of quarantine organisms for Europe. *Quarantine Pests for Europe* edited by Smith, McNamara, Scott & Harris (1992) and the *Phytosanitary Regulations of EPPO Member Countries* (1990) produced by the European Plant Protection Organisation.

In the report the contributions of the committee members are compiled and therefore coverage may not be exhaustive, if any reader has further information or would like to comment on omissions please do not hesitate to contact the chair of this committee. The information provided is intended to ensure those who import or

export biological agents are aware of legislation and can comply with it.

There have been major developments in legislation on health and safety issues that concern the handling of microorganisms. The major development in Europe being the EU Directives on the classification of biological agents, their safe handling and containment. The information given and the references listed in the published report will enable the reader to obtain information to enable the safe handling of biological agents and help prevent exposure to the hazards associated with biological agents.

The appendices at the end of the report list some of the organisms with restricted distribution. These lists are not intended to be exhaustive but reflect some recent changes and are offered as examples from different regions. The classification of biological agents in Europe is laid down in the European Council Directive 93/88/EEC and is based on the organisms ability to cause human infection and the degree of harm caused. Each European country must accept this classification system and the containment and procedures associated with it as their minimum standard but can implement tighter control and an example of the latter is given for the UK. Also listed in the appendices is the list of animal and human pathogens as classified in Japan and the recommended list of select infectious organisms which have the potential of causing severe harm.

### Areas of concern that may require further development

There are several areas that require further attention under the auspices of the WFCC Postal, Quarantine and Safety Committee. The list of issues that follows provides some points for discussion and items that may need further development.

1. An improved more efficient way of gathering and distributing quarantine, safety and shipping data world wide.
2. Increased vigilance on the shipping of dangerous biological agents that could be used in biological or chemical warfare and keeping abreast of new initiatives such as the USA rule on stricter control of the use and distribution of select infectious agents. Some developments in this area are covered in the full report (see Changes in guidelines and regulations under the subheadings Japan: Biological Weapons and USA: Regulatory alert. Also see the publications section under transport of biological materials: Conference paper, 1993). Appendix 5 lists select infectious agents identified for the USA.
3. The WFCC needs to take a more active role in the development stages of new relevant legislation.
4. A restatement of the remit for the WFCC Committee on Postal, Quarantine and Biosafety and procedures is required that will give most benefit to WFCC members.
5. The production of Safety Standards for Microbial Resource Collections would be a useful step to take. It would be in keeping with other guidelines produced by the WFCC and would help set acceptable standards to be attained by collections worldwide.
6. Compilation of information on microbial toxins, their production, containment, safe handling and hazard status.
7. It seems that the tendency for organisms to be listed in higher level hazard groups sometimes on the basis of uncritical determinations and sometimes with very little supporting data, should be a matter of concern for researchers. For instance, the blanket inclusion of plant pathogenic *Burkholderia* spp. and *Enterobacter* spp. in Hazard Group 2 lists is difficult to justify. Further, the uncritical application of *Bacillus cereus* as a label for some toxigenic and therefore hazardous strains is also questionable. This listing will stand in the way of the rationalization of the nomenclature of this taxon, which should include strains labelled as *B. thuringiensis*, the benign and positively beneficial component of this taxon. Concern is that the tendency is for such lists to form the basis of compilations by interested nations without critical scrutiny and to result in circular reinforcement. The WFCC Postal, Quarantine and Safety Committee could provide more accurate data for future revisions of hazard lists.

David Smith, Chair

## Committee on Endangered Culture Collections

Within the current period of office a number of enquiries were received concerning support for culture collections experiencing difficulties which justified action by the committee.

1. An enquiry from Dr. Engels, University of Hamburg was received, requesting support for the continued existence of the Desmid culture collection. As the result of a letter addressed to the head of the faculty of biology, the immediate problems which threatened the continued existence of the collection could be averted.
2. Prof. Joffe, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, requested financial support for the transfer of a collection of *Fusarium* strains to the ATCC in the U.S.A. Funding was provided to Prof. Joffe for the transfer of this collection of organisms involved in documented cases of food poisoning, and this collection is now held in the ATCC.
3. Two enquiries, addressed to Dr. Sly, were received from culture collections in Vietnam and Mongolia for support for their continued culture collection activities.

A number of small institute collections continue to need support, particularly in an era when many senior scientists are reaching retiring age. Many of these collections hold a wealth of novel organisms, many of which could not be adequately characterised or described in proper detail in the past. The use of modern methods has led to an interesting insight into the vast wealth of microbial diversity, and methods may now be employed which solve taxonomic problems which were considered to be intractable some 20 years ago. In an age of ever increasing awareness of the richness of microbial diversity and the need to evaluate in full the biological potential of novel microorganisms, these, often overlooked collections, may provide a valuable source of novel organisms which have already been brought into pure culture. It is the support for these types of collections, either in the form of helping to ensure their continued existence, or arranging for their successful transfer to other institutions which is one of the major tasks of the WFCC "Committee on Endangered Culture Collections" both at present and the immediate future.

B.J.Tindall, Chair

## Committee on Patents

The WFCC patents committee had been set up in 1974 as a response to intergovernmental discussions which started at that time on mechanisms to regulate the deposit of microorganisms for patent purposes in culture collections. With the input of this committee the resulting 'Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedures' could be concluded as workable. Since that time the patents committee had kept a watching brief on the operations of the Treaty and has advised depositors, depositories and governments of its functioning. When in 1987 WIPO intended to publish an official guide to the deposit under the Treaty, again the chairman of the patents committee, Ivan Bousfield, was invited to assist in its preparation. Members of the committee have collaborated on publications and have participated in the organization of international training courses and symposia concerning patent deposits. They have advised culture collections on the acquisition of the Status and the functioning of an International Depository Authority (IDA) and were able to advise regulatory bodies on arising impingements on the patent deposit system by forseen legislation.

The tasks of the WFCC patents committee are to be seen in connection with existing and developing international legislation covering the deposit of living biological material for patent purposes in culture collections. The main body involved in this kind of legislative is the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva. Close collaboration with this organization should be furthered as they have compiled various

legislative information of importance for IDAs. Collaboration should also be sought with the WFCC Postal, Quarantine and Safety Regulations Committee. The information collected by members of this committee on national legislation covering the work with biological material should be consulted by individual IDAs to be informed on additional national regulations influencing the patent system.

It was decided at an earlier meeting that all IDA representatives should be *per se* members of the patents committee (presently there are 29 IDAs in the world). The new Executive Board of WFCC decided in Veldhoven to have in addition three corresponding members from regions of the world where the patent system with respect to deposit of biological material is just developing to ease early transfer of relevant knowledge.

Future Activities of the Committee and its Members:

- to keep and update contacts with WIPO
- provide WIPO regularly with updated information on individual IDA requirements
- to provide support to new IDAs or those collections planning to become an IDA
- to continue the recently started ECCO initiative on the questionnaire on IDA practice after it will have been completed on the European level. The resulting compilation of IDA experience may be used to produce a kind of guide for future IDAs and for informing patent offices, attorneys and prospective depositors. Consultation of WIPO and EPA will be needed to ascertain the necessary legal input.

D. Fritze, Chair

## Biodiversity Committee

The Committee was established in 1992 to monitor developments with the coming into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its implications for culture collections. Accordingly, the committee requested observer status for the WFCC from UNEP to attend appropriate meetings. This was granted and subsequently the WFCC has been sent invitations and documentation by the Secretariat of the CBD for appropriate meetings.

Members of the WFCC Biodiversity Committee are: V. Canhos, R. Colwell, M. Goodfellow, D. Hawksworth, B. Kirsop (Chair), U. Simizu, E. Stackebrandt.

## Biodiversity Meetings Attended

The WFCC was represented at the following meetings (either by the Chair of the Biodiversity Committee, the Vice President, the Secretary or a delegate for the WFCC Biodiversity Committee):

UNEP International Conference on the Convention on Biological Diversity: National Interests and Global Imperatives (Nairobi) - January 1993

Norway/UNEP Expert Meeting on Biodiversity - May 1993; distributed WFCC material; 5 minute intervention granted

Intellectual Property Rights, Indigenous Cultures and Biodiversity Conservation - Green College Oxford, May 1993

IUMS Congress - WFCC Meeting, June 1994 (see below)

Conference of the Parties (COP II), Jakarta, 1995

Biosafety Expert Working Group, Madrid, May 1995

Biosafety Expert Working Group, Cairo, November 1995

CABI International Meeting on Biodiversity Conservation - London, July 1996

At all these meetings good contacts were made with appropriate CBD people, WFCC material was distributed and many people were informed about the role of culture collections in ex-situ conservation of microorganisms. The Vice President of WFCC (Dr. V. Canhos), who is also a member of the Biodiversity Committee, also met CBD Secretariat people and SBSTTA members on a number of occasions and was able to promote WFCC interests.

Meeting at IUMS Congress, Prague, July 1994

The Committee decided that it would be helpful to organise a meeting in association with the IUMS Congress to raise awareness about the CBD and to begin to consider some of the implications of the CBD for culture collections.

A meeting was held at which some 70 people attended. Presentations were made by Phillippe Sands (environmental lawyer and Director of FIELD), Arturo Martinez (CBD Secretariat) and a number of WFCC officers. As a result of this, a WFCC publication was prepared called 'The Biodiversity of Microorganisms and the Role of Microbial Resource centres'. This publication was sponsored by UNEP and has been widely distributed - particularly at a number of the above meetings. It has been found very useful by many government representatives, some of whom are poorly informed about microbial biodiversity and its role in maintenance of the biosphere.

CBD Clearing House Mechanism

It was agreed at COPII to establish a Clearing House Mechanism for the CBD to aid the flow of information. The WFCC Biodiversity Committee decided it would be appropriate to prepare a proposal for a WFCC/CHM, aimed at training and capacity building and information distribution. A draft proposal was prepared and sent to the CBD Secretariat for consideration and advice. However, at this time the Secretariat was changing both staff and location and the proposal has not been considered further. A copy was nevertheless requested by a member of the secretariat staff recently and interest has been shown again; the Committee needs to decide how to proceed with this.

It seems clear that the WFCC has much to offer with training and information distribution regarding conservation of ex-situ microbial resources, and the possibility of developing a WFCC/CHM seems very relevant, considering the emphasis in the CBD on technology transfer and capacity building. This option should be further discussed by the next WFCC EB and Biodiversity Committee.

Information Document

After subsequent talks with the CBD Secretariat it became clear that it would be helpful if an Information Document on access to ex-situ microbial resources could be prepared for possible distribution at COPIII and consideration by SBSTTA in the future.

Access is an issue that has a number of implications for culture collections; the special characteristics of microorganisms and the operation of about 500 collections registered with the WFCC's CCINFO database at WDCM need to be considered by Parties to the convention who must implement the CBD at the national level.

Funds were not available to arrange an expert group meeting for the purpose and it was decided to prepare a draft document using electronic communication (e-mail) and to organise a workshop at ICC 8 to endorse and/or amend the draft. The Forum for Industrial Microbiology agreed to help with the organisation.



A draft document has been prepared with input from some 30 people, who in turn consulted regionally. This was printed for the workshop by the Base de Dados Tropical and has been widely distributed. It has also been made available on the Internet through the WFCC WWW site at the World Data Center for Microorganisms.

Funds to support speakers have been obtained from the European Commission (DGXII), IUMS, ECACC and a number of companies. The workshop took place on August 30/31 immediately following ICC 8.

Following the meeting, the Info Doc will be revised and reprinted and immediately sent to the CBD Secretariat who have indicated their willingness to release this at COPIII (Argentina, November 1996). If this should prove difficult for the secretariat, the InfoDoc will in any case be distributed at COPIII by the WFCC.

It is hoped that the Recommendations from the InfoDoc will be supported in due course, in particular the proposal to set up expert groups to develop Codes of Conduct/Guidelines etc and advise on the practical implementation of the CBD by culture collections.

B. Kirsop, Chair

### Committee on World Data Centre for Microorganisms (WDCM)

At a UNESCO meeting in 1966 the Japanese government proposed a data center of culture collections and the proposal was welcomed by international scientific communities. The World Data Centre for Microorganisms (WDC) was then set up by Prof. V.B. D. Skerman at the University of Queensland in Australia and relocated to the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN: RIKAGAKU- KENKYUUSHO in Japanese) in 1986.

Since 1992 WDCM published the World Directory of Collections of Cultures of Microorganisms (4th edition) in 1993 and distributed copies of the Directory to all culture collections listed in the publication. Registration numbers have been allocated to 469 organizations in 58 countries by June 1996.

The center recently amended its acronym WDC to WDCM because many types of World Data Centers have been set up in scientific disciplines and WDC'M' will define and distinguish it more clearly.

### Data Activities of WDCM

WDCM develops and provides on-line databases to the public by use of a World Wide Web server. It is easy and quick for users on INTERNET to search the databases of WDCM.

The databases physically stored in the WDCM server are:

- culture collections (CCINFO)
- strain names of the holdings (STRAIN)
- World Catalogue of Algae (ALGAE)
- Hybridomas and their immunoreactive products like monoclonal antibodies (HDB)
- catalogue of strains held by collections in Japan (JFCC)
- quinone data (QUINONE)
- approved list of bacterial names

A number of links to useful databases on microbiology, molecular biology and biodiversity have also been

established.

The usage of the databases increased considerably when the system was changed from FAIRS-I to Gopher in April 1993. Furthermore, the access explosively increased when WDCM set up the World Wide Web (WWW) server in 1994 and the average number of accesses per month is now over 30,000. However, there are many culture collections that have no way of accessing INTERNET. Therefore WDCM developed a software for data capturing that works on stand alone PCs. The software is distributed free of charge.

## International Cooperation

WDCM is a data center of and for the World Federation for Culture Collections and is international by nature. It actively cooperates with such international initiatives as Microbial Strain Data Network (MSDN), BIN21, Species 2000 and the Asian Network on Microbial Researches, especially under consideration of biodiversity. Whenever the initiatives set up their WWW servers, WDCM will set links to there from the WDCM home page. Thus WDCM users are navigated to other useful information resources through the links displayed on the pages of WDCM WWW.

In the framework of international cooperation, WDCM accepts visitors from abroad. Researchers from China, Kenya, Korea, Mongolia, Singapore and Thailand studied data management in WDCM and were also able to learn about the management of culture collections in the Japan Collection of Microorganisms (JCM) which is a partner of WDCM in RIKEN.

## Future Prospects

Biodiversity sustains the ecosystem and carries human welfare. We have to describe biodiversity as it is and sustain it for the future. We start recognizing the value of biodiversity and many relevant national, regional and international projects started these years. It is of utmost importance to share the respective data, information and knowledge among the projects. WDCM aims to serve as one of the key vehicles for the sharing of data and the development of databases and software to meet future needs.

D. Fritze, Chair; H. Sugawara, Director WDCM

## Committee on Education: Report on UNESCO/WFCC Technical Information Sheets.

To meet the need of scientists especially in developing countries, the WFCC Education Committee has initiated in 1988, with support from UNESCO, to produce Technical Information Sheets (TIS) on various collection related matters.

These information sheets describe well practiced methods avoiding sophisticated equipment. On request TIS can be obtained free of charge from the editor. These information sheets are also re-published in World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology in order to broaden their circulation.

So far, the WFCC Education Committee has published 14 Technical Information Sheets on the methods of microbial isolation, cultivation, enumeration, maintenance, long-term preservation, identification and packing & shipping of biological materials.

In the future it is expected to cover other aspects pertaining to the needs of microbiologists and curators especially in developing countries. However, there is a shortage of material for the publication of new TIS and I would like to invite WFCC members to send their special methods which might help other colleagues in doing things better, easier or quicker.

During the last 4 years, more than 540 requests have been received and TIS have been distributed free of charge to scientists all over the world.

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board, 25 August 1996, Veldhoven, Netherlands

Minute 1. Presidents welcome. The President welcomed the outgoing Executive Board of WFCC to its meeting on 25 August 1996 at 1.00 pm, preceeding the 8th International Congress of Culture Collections (ICCC-VIII) (Theme: Culture Collections to Improve the Quality of Life) at the Koningshof Congress Centre, Veldhoven, The Netherlands.

Minute 2. Record of Attendance. Present were Dr. L. Sly (Australia), President; Dr. V. Canhos (Brasil), Vice-President; Dr. D. Fritze (Germany), Secretary; Dr. D. v.d. Mei (The Netherlands), Treasurer; and the Board Members Dr. D. Hawksworth (UK), Dr. T. Nakase (Japan), Dr. Z. Yuan (China). Apologies had been received from T. Deak (Hungary) and A. Ventosa (Spain). Ex officio were present Mrs. B. Kirsop (UK), Past President; and Dr. H. Sugawara (Japan), Director WDCM. Dr. D. Smith, Chair of the Committee on Postal, Quarantine and Safety Regulations was invited as guest.

Minute 3. Approval of Agenda. The agenda was approved with the modification that the ICCC-8 status report should be given directly following the officers reports due to time constraints. The report of the Nominations Committee was added as a separate item.

Minute 4. Minutes of the last meeting. Agreed

Minute 5. Matters arising from the minutes.-

Minute 6. Officer's reports. The President's, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were given. These will be published in the next WFCC Newsletter.

Minute 7. ICCC-VIII Status Report. Dr. Rob Samson, Secretary of the Local Organizing Committee reported that by 24 August about 250 participants had registered for ICCC-8 and that a number of additional registrants is to be expected. Due to lack of funding through UNEP 16.000 \$US had to be transferred from WFCC funds to ICCC-8 to balance the account. Thanks to the generous funding through some Ministries of the Netherlands, the National Society of Arts and the company Gist Brocades a major gap in funds could be avoided. Some of the bigger sums to be spent were about 45.000 Guilders for sponsoring speakers (ca. 80), 20.000 Guilders for 500 copies of the congress proceedings and 22.000 Guilders for travel support for participants from developing countries.

Minute 8. Committee Chair reports. Reports were given for the Committees for Membership; Postal, Quarantine & Safety Regulations; Biodiversity; Endangered Culture Collections; and World Data Centre for Microorganisms. It was stated that the work of the Biodiversity Committee (B-C) and the Committee on Postal, Quarantine and Safety Regulations (PQSR-C) both had been notably productive over the last four years. The compilation of national as well as international regulations covering the handling of microorganisms published by the PQSR-C is timely and urgently needed not only by CCs but by all microbiologists. The activity of the B-C lead to two workshops and a position paper describing the situation of CCs with respect to the Convention on Biodiversity. This Information Document on access to ex-situ microbial genetic resources within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be distributed at the third Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

The full wording of all reports will be published in the next WFCC Newsletter.

**Minute 9. Nominations Committee Report.** The Nominations Committee had been set up by the president to conduct the ballot for two of the new officers and six of the additional members of the WFCC Executive Board. The Committee consisted of Dr. Dieter Claus (Chair), Dr. Rita Colwell, Mrs. Barbara Kirsop, and Dr. Kazuo Komagata. Of the nominees proposed by the Nominations Committee and by the WFCC Membership the following were elected: as President: Dr. Vanderlei Canhos, as Vice-President: Dr. Dagmar Fritze, as additional board members: Dr. Alan Doyle, Dr. Masao Takeuchi, Dr. Cletus Kurtzman, Dr. Karel Kersters, Dr. Da-Kang Song, and Mrs. Lois Blaine.

**Minute 10. Delegate reports.** CODATA delegate Dr. Sugawara stated that the next meeting will be in Tsukuba, Japan. The WDCM databases will be demonstrated and BIN21 activities shown through the WDCM homepage.

IRRO and MSDN delegate Dr. Canhos stated that he resigned from both committees but that BDT continues to provide support to make the data bases available on-line. As to the release of organisms into the environment, WFCC should follow up and make links to the databases available at BINAS and OECD Biotrack.

**Minute 11. General Business. Budget Process.** The budget is developing positively since a recent letter from the treasurer to the membership to remind on payment of fees. It was discussed that regular invoices should be sent annually at least to Sustaining and Affiliate Members.

**Statutes revision.** Revision of the Constitution is recommended by the present Board to the incoming with respect to Article XII and Bylaws C and D.

**Skerman Award.** It was agreed that a small Nominations' Committee should be set up to care for the procedure of proposing and selecting appropriate awardees for this prize in taxonomy, including the wide advertisement of the call for proposals. It was confirmed that the award would consist of a cheque of 2000 \$US for the awardee, who would be invited to give a lecture on his/her taxonomic work at a WFCC conference. Travel and accommodation costs of the awardee would of course also be covered.

**Congress proceedings.** It was noted with great applause that the Proceedings volume of ICC-8 had already been prepared and printed before the congress due to untiring perseverance of the organizers.

**Future meetings. ICC-IX venue.** A call was made in the last WFCC Newsletter for sending in proposals for the venue of the next WFCC congress ICC-IX. Following a previous proposal from Dr. Lindsay Sly, Australia, to host this meeting this proposal was renewed. This was the only proposal received. It was discussed whether it would be beneficiary to hold ICC-9 in conjunction with one of the other major meetings of IUMS or IUBS or whether this effect would be negligible considering the place and scope of the congress. The proposal and further considerations will be handed over to the newly to be formed Executive Board for decision. Venue of intermediate (between WFCC-congresses) meeting of WFCC-EB. Possible venue for the intermediate meeting of the Executive Board would be one of the major microbiological meetings in 1998, possibly the 8th International Symposium on Microbial Ecology, 9 - 14 August, 1998, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. As usual a workshop will be organized on that occasion as a satellite meeting of that congress.

**12. Honorary Membership.** Following two proposals, each signed by more than 10 WFCC members, the Executive Board of WFCC decided on Honorary Membership to be awarded to Mrs. Barbara Kirsop and Dr. Dieter Claus. CVs of both and lists of publications together with descriptions of their scientific work were presented to the president. Under consideration of the outstanding contributions of both personalities to the furthering of the aims of WFCC it was unanimously agreed to award Honorary Membership to both of them. The award will be officially announced at the General Assembly and the occasion of the Banquet Dinner will be used to present the respective certificates and, as a symbol of WFCC, two small Ginkgo trees.

**13. Other business.** The Board agreed that a Resolutions Committee should be formed to draw up the resolutions coming from the present congress. The draft of these resolutions should be presented at the General Assembly and further input sought from the WFCC membership. The resolutions will be published

together with the Minutes of the new Executive Board in IJSB and in the WFCC Newsletter.

14. Close of meeting. The meeting was closed at 5 pm.

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## Election of new WFCC Officers and Members of the Executive Board

### Announcement of the results of the ballot 1996

Members entitled to vote:	376
Number of ballots:	106 (= 28.2 %)
Invalid ballots:	13 (= 12.3 %)
Valid ballots:	93 (= 87.7 %)

	Number of votes
<b>President</b>	
V. P. Canhos (Brazil, Tropical Culture Collection)	89
<b>Vice President</b>	
D. Fritze (Germany, DSMZ)	90
<b>Executive Board</b>	
L. Blaine (USA, ATCC)	38
V. Campos-Pardo (Chile, Universidad Catolica de Ocean Valparaiso)	23
A. Doyle (UK, ECCC)	51
P. Green (UK, NCIMB)	36
D.J. Grimes (USA, US Department of Energy)	5
N. Gunde-Cimerman (Slovenia, MZKI)	20
R. Hay (USA, ATCC)	24
I.B. Ivshina (Russia, Inst. f. Ecol. and Genet. of Microorganims)	37
K. Kersters (Belgium, LMG)	48
N. Krieg (USA, Virginia Polytechnic Institute)	20
C.P. Kurtzman (USA, NRRL)	51
N. Magdoub (Egypt, Ain Shams University)	19
K. Ohwada (Japan, University of Tokyo)	20
S. Saono (Indonesia, Institute of Sciences, R&D Centre)	25
D.-K. Song (China, Institute of Microbiology)	42
M. Takeuchi (Japan, IFO)	54
H.-S. Xu (China, University of Qingdao)	9

According to the WFCC statutes the following candidates are elected:

President	V. P. Canhos (Brazil, Tropical Collection)	(89)
Vice-President	D. Fritze (Germany, DSMZ)	(90)
Board Members	M. Takeuchi (Japan, IFO)	(54)

A. Doyle (UK, ECACC)	(51)
C.P. Kurtzman (USA, NRRL)	(51)
K. Kersters (Belgium, LMG)	(48)
D.-K. Song (China, Institute of Microbiology)	(42)
L. Blaine (USA, ATCC)	(38)

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## MEETING OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

The new WFCC Executive Board met on 28 August, 1996 in Veldhoven, Netherlands during ICC 8. At this occasion the elected members decided on the additional names to compose the board, in order to ensure regional representativity within the Federation. Dr. B. Ivshina (Russia), Dr. Susono Saono (Indonesia) and Dr. J. L. Staphorst (Republic of South Africa) were indicated as WFCC Executive Board members. The minutes of the Executive Board meeting and the composition, goals and action plan of the new WFCC committees are available at the WFCC homepage at <http://wdcm.nig.ac.jp> and will be published in the next WFCC newsletter.

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### NEW WFCC MEMBERS, NEW ADDRESSES AND OTHER CHANGES

#### New Ordinary Members

Banks, Jeff, Dr.  
Campden and Chorleywood Food  
R.A. CCFRA  
Chipping Campden  
Gloucestershire GL5 6LD, United Kingdom

Chantanao, Amara, Mrs.  
Kasetsart University

Department of Microbiology (Bangkhen Campus)  
Phahonyothin Road  
Bangkok 10900, Thailand

Jain, Rakesh Kumar, Dr.  
Institute of Microbial Technology  
Sector 39A  
Chanigar 160036, India

Camacho, Raul, Dr.  
Escuela Superior Politecnica de Chimborazo  
ESPOCH Departamento de Ciencias Biológicas  
P.O. Box 06-01-104  
Riobamba, Ecuador

Hunter-Cevera, Jennie, Dr.  
Center for Antimicrobial Discovery and  
Diagnostics  
CEB 70A-3317  
1 Cyclotron Road  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Berkeley, California 94720, USA

Logrieco, Antonio, Dr.  
ITEM Istituto Tossine e Micotossine  
da Parassiti-egetali  
C.N.R.  
Viale Einaudi 57

Phawichit, Sunetra, Mrs.  
Department of Agriculture  
Mycology Branch, Plant Pathology  
and Microbiology Division  
Phahonyothin Road  
Chatuchak  
Bangkok 10903, Thailand

Piaggio, Mario, Dr.  
Facultad de Ciencias  
Seccion Micologia MVHC  
Tristan Narvaja 1674  
Montevideo CP 11200, Uruguay

Smith, David, Dr.  
Curator  
IMI International Mycological Institute  
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Egham, Surrey TW20 9TY, United Kingdom

Staphorst, J.L., Dr.  
Plant Protection Research Institute  
Agricultural Research Council  
Private Bag X134  
Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa

Tiedje, James, Dr.  
Michigan State University  
Centre for Microbial Ecology  
Plant and Soil Science Bldg.  
East Lansing, MI 48824, USA

Yuan, Gwo-Fang, Dr.  
Culture Collection and Research  
Center (CCRC) of the Food Industry

Bari 70125, Italy  
Meng, Xiao-Ri, Dr.  
Lanzhou Institute of Biological Products  
Ministry of Public Health  
Department of Anaerobic Bacteriology  
118 Yanchang Road  
Lanzhou Gansu, China

Samson, Rob, Dr.  
Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures  
Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences  
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P. O. Box 273  
3740 AG Baarn, The Netherlands

Sontirat, Pattana, Mrs.  
Department of Agriculture  
Mycology Branch, Plant Pathology  
and Microbiology Division  
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Chatuchak  
Bangkok 10903, Thailand

Sung, Jae-Mo, Dr.  
Kangwon National University  
College of Agriculture  
Mycology Laboratory  
Chuncheon 200-701, Korea

van der Toorn, Jos, Ir.  
Culture Collection  
Kluyver Laboratory for Biotechnology  
University of Technology  
Julianalaan 67  
2628 BC Delft, The Netherlands

Research and Development Institute (FIRDI)  
P.O. Box 246  
Hsinchu, Taiwan

### New Affiliate Members

HÜKÜK Culture Collection of Animal Cells  
contact: Dr. S.I. Gürhan  
Sap. Ens. PK.714  
TR-06044 Ankara, Turkey  
Institute of Ecology and Genetics

Microbial Strain Collection of Latvia  
contact: Dr. V. Nikolajeva  
Kronvalda Blvd 4  
LV-1586 Riga, Latvia  
NCDC, National Collection of Dairy Cultures

of Microorganisms  
Collection of Regional Specialized  
Alkanotrophic Microorganisms  
contact: Dr. Irena B. Ivshina  
Ural Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences  
13, Goleva Str.  
614081 Perm, Russia

State Research Centre of Virology  
and Biotechnology  
Koltsovo  
Novosibirsk Region 633159, Russia

Collection of Cultures of Microorganisms  
attn. Dr. Vladimir E. Repin, Director

Dairy Microbiology Division  
National Dairy Research Institute  
attn. Dr. Rameshwar Singh  
Karnal 132001, India

IBT Culture Collection of Fungi  
contact: Dr. Ulf Thrane  
Department of Biotechnology, Bldg. 221  
Technical University of Denmark  
DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark

Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle Paris (LCP) contact:  
Marie-France Roquebert, Dr. 12 Rue Buffon  
75005 Paris, France

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## NEWS FROM AND FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS

### Transfer of WDCM from RIKEN to the National Institute of Genetics

Hideaki SUGAWARA, National Institute of Genetics, Mishima, Japan

1. Background. Dr. Sugawara moved from the Life Science Research Information Section (LSRIS) in the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN) to the Center for Information Biology (CIB) in the National Institute of Genetics (NIG) in February, 1996. At that time, Dr. Takashi Nakase, the director of Japan Collection of Microorganisms (JCM), took over the head of LSRIS which is the host of WFCC-MIRCEN World Data Centre for Microorganisms (WDCM).

Dr. Nakase and Dr. Sugawara came to the conclusion that it would be appropriate to transfer WDCM from RIKEN to NIG. It is mainly because Mr. Satoru Miyazaki, who used to be responsible for the development and maintenance of computer systems for WDCM, also moved from RIKEN to NIG on August 1st. NIG is equipped with better information environment for biological research.

The proposal of the transfer was approved by the executive board of RIKEN and the faculty of NIG. The executive board of the Japan Society for Culture Collections (JSCC) also understood the situation and supports the transfer.

2. Proposal. Transfer of WDCM from RIKEN to NIG should be done by 31 March, 1997. NIG is qualified to be the host of WDCM based on the following facts:

1) Experience on international cooperation in data activities

Although NIG was established in 1949 for the study of genetics, it has carried out several research related services. The CIB hosts the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ) which is one of the three banks in the world that



gather, annotate, store and distribute information on DNA sequences. The other two banks are EMBL in Europe and Gen Bank in USA.

## 2) Experience on culture collections

The GSRC in NIG stores and distributes various organisms with genetically characterized traits. Among them, services with mice and *Escherichia coli* are particularly significant.

## 3) Resources for data activities for WDCM

Two experienced staff moved from WDCM in RIKEN to CIB in NIG this year. They will assure the continuation of WDCM activities in NIG.

Concerning the computer sources, the NIG is equipped with a large scale computer system which is connected to the INTERNET. The URL address of the Home Page is <http://www.nig.ac.jp/>. The mirror of the Home Page of WDCM will be prepared in NIG by the end of 1996 to make the transfer smooth.

In NIG, the CIB will be the host of WDCM and Professor H. Sugawara of the Laboratory for Molecular Classification will be the director of WDCM as before in RIKEN.

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In July 1996 the UK Government has published it's response to an indepent review of UK microbial culture collections. Copies of the report *A New Strategy for the UK Microbial Culture Collections: Government Response to the Independent Review of the UK Culture Collections* are available from Department of Trade and Industry, Office of Science and Technology (OST), Room G/6, Albany House, Petty France, London SW 1H 9ST (Tel. +44 171 271 2095, Fax +44 171 271 1028). The report is also available on the OST Home Page on the Internet at <http://www.open.gov.uk/ost/ukmcc/ukmcc.htm>.

## Request for collaboration

Strains of photosynthetic prokaryotic and eukaryotic microorganisms useful in photobiological hydrogen production and stored in culture collections

### BACKGROUND

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is promoting and accomplishing research on photobiological hydrogen production (IEA Hydrogen Agreement, Annex 10 - Photoproduction of Hydrogen). The research aims among others at a further examination and testing of the possibilities of using photosynthetic microorganisms for photoproduction of hydrogen. In order to realize the experimental work, cultures of suitable organisms are needed.

### OBJECTIVE

The participants of the IEA research program are of the opinion that by making existing hydrogen-producing strains of photosynthetic microorganisms known and available, this may stimulate research for the purpose. A list of relevant strains could be made, including addresses of culture collections from which the strains can be distributed.

### OPPORTUNITY

On behalf of the scientists concerned with the ongoing IEA photobiological hydrogen research, I cordially ask the culture collections affiliated to WFCC to participate in our compilation effort.

## PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT

Information needed for the compilation of strains of hydrogen-producing photosynthetic microorganisms:

1. Name and address of culture collection.
2. Species and strain designation.
  - 2.1 Prokaryotes (Anoxyphotobacteriae and Oxyphotobacteriae)
  - 2.2 Eukaryotic microalgae (Chlorophyceae, Bacillariophyceae, Xanthophyceae etc.).
3. References to publications where the strains have been used in experiments on hydrogen metabolism/production.
4. Interested in collaborative projects on screening of nitrogenase - and hydrogenase - mediated hydrogen production capability among strains of photosynthetic microorganisms?

Please send me information on relevant strains in your possession, and preferably before the end of December 1996. The aim is to publish the outcome as soon as possible. You will receive a reprint of the publication by giving a positive response.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Olav M. Skulberg  
Curator

CULTURE COLLECTION OF ALGAE  
Norwegian Institute for Water Research  
P.O. Box 173, Kjelsås, N-0411 Oslo, Norway

Tel. +47 22 185 100  
Fax +47 22 185 200

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## BIODIVERSITY

### WFCC BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORT

on

Participation at the 3rd Conference of the Parties

of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The WFCC has observer status at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meetings as a non-governmental organisation. As such, the WFCC attended the Conference of the Parties 3rd meeting (COP3) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the beginning of November, 1996, with the purpose of further raising awareness of the importance of microbial diversity and the role of culture collections in implementation of the CBD. In this role,

the WFCC was supported by the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) and the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS).

Previous to COP3, the WFCC had been working on the preparation of a background document on 'Access to ex-situ microbial genetic resources within the framework of the CBD' in order to draw attention to the uncertainties and opportunities for culture collections in the implementation of the CBD. This document had been drawn up by a number of people and organisations and was finalised at a workshop held in association with the WFCC's International Conference on Culture Collections (ICCC8), Veldhoven, Netherlands, August 1996. The finalised Document was printed by the Fundacao Tropical de Pesquisas e Tecnologia, Brazil, and >300 copies were made available at COP3.

Additionally, this Document was well summarised by the Secretariat of the CBD and the summary was made available at COP3 as an official Information Document, UNEP/CBD/COP/3/Inf.19, to all governments parties to the Convention.

COP3 was attended by Dr Vanderlei Canhos (President WFCC) and Barbara Kirsop (Chair, WFCC Biodiversity Committee) who were able to talk to many government-representatives about culture collections and the WFCC's activities and role. These discussions were very productive, and the impression was gained that microbial diversity is now recognised as a fundamental element of the biosphere that requires additional attention by Governments. The WFCC is increasingly recognised as an active and strong organisation with an essential role to play in advising governments on such issues as access, distribution and conservation of microbial genetic resources.

The WFCC was successful in securing a room for an evening workshop to introduce the document to governments and discuss any issues that were of interest to Parties. Some 40 participants attended (November 5th, 6-8 pm), which was very encouraging in view of the alternative activities at this time and the workload undertaken by all participants. At the workshop, the background to the WFCC was introduced and the major elements of the Information Document were discussed. A number of questions were asked subsequently. The WFCC representatives were joined for this event by Professor David Hawksworth, President of IUBS, who was able to contribute authoritatively to the discussions.

During the course of the COP3 debates, a number of countries included the importance of microorganisms in their interventions. Countries who mentioned microorganisms (mostly in the context of the need to give priority to agricultural biodiversity), or endorsed the proposals from other countries, included: Brazil, Argentina, Morocco, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, India, Netherlands, Tunisia. The USA (which is not a party to the Convention) also supported the need for emphasis on microbial diversity. Other countries, such as the EU, felt there was a need for a gap analysis study. There was some divergence between countries that recognised an urgent need and did not accept any delaying tactics, and others that wanted more information before proceeding.

In comparison with other COP meetings, at which microorganisms have been near-invisible, this COP represented a marked change in awareness and interest in microorganisms. It remains to be seen how this becomes translated into projects. The time should be right for projects to be submitted relating to microbial taxonomy, environmental studies, conservation and the legal and administrative management of microbial genetic resources.

## NEXT STEPS

As a result of this initiative of the WFCC, and to take advantage of the current raised awareness, it is important that culture collections consider approaching their government departments as soon as possible to ensure recognition of the existence of the microbial resource centres in their country, and to begin discussions on the implementation of the CBD particularly with regard to access.

The WFCC will be considering the possibility of obtaining financial support for carrying forward some of the Recommendations, particularly the development of an internationally acceptable code of conduct for the WFCC registered collections. Regional activities, such as that proposed to the EU by the Belgian culture

collections, may form a basis for this. The WFCC Biodiversity Committee (BC) asks that WFCC members keep the committee informed of any developments in their countries that may be of importance and interest to other Federation members. Further developments by the BC will be made available through the WFCC Newsletter and the WFCC WWW site.

The WFCC is also actively considering ways in which capacity building for microbial genetic resource centres through training, partnerships and research programmes can be coordinated and developed through the WFCC Education Committee.

Copies of the publication 'Access to ex-situ microbial genetic resources within the framework of the CBD' may be obtained from <http://www.wfcc.nig.ac.jp/wfcc.html> by WWW Internet users, or from any officers of the WFCC or the Biodiversity Committee Chair (email: [bio@biostrat.demon.co.uk](mailto:bio@biostrat.demon.co.uk) or fax +44 17781 570175).

Barbara Kirsop

Chair, WFCC Biodiversity Committee

E-mail: [bio@biostrat.demon.co.uk](mailto:bio@biostrat.demon.co.uk)

Fax: +44 (0) 1778 570175

Tel : +44 (0) 1778 570618

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## FOCUS ON CULTURE COLLECTIONS

Under this heading the WFCC Newsletter offers culture collections, federations or organizations of culture collections the opportunity to present short articles covering the nature and activities of their collection or federation/organization.

### State Centre for Deposition of Microorganisms (RCDM)

The State Centre for Deposition of Microorganisms (RCDM) was founded in December 1993 and is the National Culture Collection of Armenia for non-pathogenic microorganisms. It is an institution within the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic Armenia. The aim of the collection is to collect, to maintain and to study microbial strains of scientific and industrial importance. To a later time it is intended to add collections of plant and animal cells and tissues.

The centre currently holds over 6000 different bacteria (including actinomycetes), fungi and yeasts. Cultures are maintained in active form, under mineral oil, by freeze-drying or in liquid nitrogen.

The collection holds

over 3000 strains of aerobic spore-forming bacteria, including some 2000 strains of entomopathogenic bacilli, over 1500 strains of non-sporeforming bacteria,

over 1500 strains of non-sporeforming bacteria, including phytopathogenic organisms, nitrogen-fixing and lithochemoautotrophic bacteria,

200 strains of streptomycetes and related organisms

about 1000 strains of fungi, including natural and synthetic polymer deteriorating organisms

500 strains of yeasts and lactobacilli.

Most of these strains were originally isolated from habitats within Armenia. The collection includes a lot of well defined extremophilic strains having important biotechnological potential and practical application for microbial transformation and production of different biologically active substances. These strains have been isolated from soil, water and various natural substrates of different ecological and geographical regions all over the world. Special attention is paid to the enzymatic characteristics of strains with emphasis to their use for biocatalytic reactions.

The research activities of the centre include the screening and identification of new isolates, the development of methods for long-term maintenance of viability and stability of industrial valuable properties, and studies on new practical applications of strains of the collection.

Recently, a Catalogue of Microbial Cultures has been published. The centre is sponsored by INTAS from the European Union. The head of the collection is Dr. Evrik G. Afrikian, Member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and Director of the Institute of Microbiology.

Address of the collection:

State Centre for Deposition of Microorganisms (RCDM)  
Institute of Microbiology  
National Academy of Sciences (NAS)

378510 Abovian City  
Republic of Armenia

Tel./Fax +374 61 23240  
e-mail: [microbio@pnas.sci.am](mailto:microbio@pnas.sci.am)

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## NEW CATALOGUES AND DATABASES OF CULTURE COLLECTIONS

American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852-1776, USA. ATCC Bacteria and Bacteriophage Reference Guide, 19th edition, 1996, US\$ 45 (US locations), US\$ 55 (elsewhere). Diskette and CD-ROM versions are also available (Fax +1 301 816 6361; E-mail [sales@atcc.org](mailto:sales@atcc.org))

American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852-1776, USA. ATCC Bacteria and Bacteriophage Ordering Catalog 1996 (abbreviated listing of all 14000+ strains, free of charge) (Fax +1 301 816 6361; E-mail [sales@atcc.org](mailto:sales@atcc.org))

Centraal Bureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS), P.O. Box 273, Baarn, The Netherlands. List of Cultures - Fungi and Yeasts, 34th edition, 1996, Hfl 35,- (Fax +31 35 5416142, E-mail [info@cbs.knaw.nl](mailto:info@cbs.knaw.nl))

Coleção de Culturas Tropical-Tropical Culture Collection, Catalogue of Strains: Bacteria, Filamentous Fungi, Yeasts. Coleção de Culturas Tropical, Rua Latino Coelho, 1301, Parque Taquaral, CEP 13087-010 Campinas, SP, Brasil (Fax +55 192 42 27 827, E-mail [cct@bdt.org.br](mailto:cct@bdt.org.br))

Institut Pasteur, Collection de Bactéries de l' Institut Pasteur (CIP), 25, rue du Docteur Roux, 75724 Paris, France. Collection of Bacterial Strains of Institut Pasteur, 1996. 200 FF. The catalogue includes 2574 strains (Fax +33 1 40 61 3007)

Republican Centre for Deposition of Microorganisms (RCDM), National Academy of Sciences, Abovian City, Armenia. Catalogue of Microbial Cultures, 1996 (Fax +374 61 23240, E-mail [microbio@pnas.sci.am](mailto:microbio@pnas.sci.am))

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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO CULTURE COLLECTIONS

- CDC proposes new rules for handling pathogens, toxins. ASM News 62, 394-396, 1996
- ASM comments on CDC rule for selected infectious agents. ASM News 62, 459, 1996
- E.C. Böttger Approaches for identification of microorganisms. ASM News 62, 247-250, 1996
- H.-J. Busse et al. Classification and identification of bacteria: Current approaches to an old problem. Overview of methods used in bacterial systematics. J. Biotechnol. 47, 3-38, 1996
- H.W. Doelle The role of MIRCENs in technology transfer. ASM News 62, 334-335, 1996
- D. Holzman Researchers debate tropical prospects for microbial resources. ASM News 62, 453-454, 1996
- J.L. Fox MIRCENs directors plan for the coming century. ASM News 62, 353-355, 1996
- P. Green A New Strategy for the UK Microbial Culture Collections. SMG Quarterly 23, 110-111, 1996 (see also page 20 of this Newsletter)
- D. Petts, T. Meacock Use of bar-codes in microbiology computerization. Microbiology Europe 4, No. 5, 12-18, 1996

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## NEW BOOKS RELEVANT TO CULTURE COLLECTIONS WORK

- E. Bergogne-Bérézin, M.L. Joly-Guillou, K.J. Towner Acinetobacter, Microbiology, Epidemiology, Infections, Management. CRC Press, 1996, 288 pp., £ 115.00. ISBN 0 8493 9222 3
- J. Brisou Biofilms. Methods for Enzymatic Release of Microorganisms. CRC Press, 1995, 240 pp., £ 77.00. ISBN 0 8493 4791 2
- C.K. Campbell, E.M. Johnson, C.M. Philpot, D.W. Warnock Identification of Pathogenic Fungi. Public Health Laboratory Service, London, 1996, £ 25.00. ISBN 0 901144 39 8

- J.E.L. Corry, G.D. W. Curtis, R.M. Baird  
Culture Media for Food Microbiology. Progress in Industrial Microbiology Vol. 34, 1996. Elsevier, Amsterdam. 472 pages. US\$ 218.75. ISBN 0 444 81498 1
- Part 1: Review of media. Part 2: Pharmacopoeia of media. Appendix I: Testing methods for use in quality assurance of culture media. Appendix II: Test strains.
- S. Gravesen, J. C. Frisvad, R.A. Samson  
Microfungi. Munksgaard, Copenhagen, 1994, 168 pages, US\$ 52.00. ISBN 87 16 11436 1
- B. Grout (ed.)  
Genetic preservation of plant cells in vitro. Springer, Heidelberg, 1995, 169 pages, DM 128.00. ISBN 3 540 57481 6
- Z. Hubálek  
Cryopreservation of Microorganisms at Ultra-Low Temperatures. Academia, Prague, 1996. 286 pages.
- A safe, long-term maintenance of viable microbial cultures is of paramount importance in microbial technology, culture collections, etc. Cryopreservation of microorganisms below -140° C (ensuring that any biochemical and cryogenic processes are stopped) is the only method that can be widely applied and is proven to be generally reliable. It usually retains high viability as well as phenotypic and genomic stability of the preserved microorganism which is crucial where the microbe is being used as a reference (type) or production strain. This book is an introduction to the principles and practices of microbial cryobiology. The emphasis is on applications of particular cryopreservation techniques in microbiology rather than on the physical theory of cryogenics. All sorts of microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi, algae and protozoa) have been treated comprehensively. Introductory chapters briefly describe the history, merits and pitfalls of microbial cryopreservation. Factors that can affect cryoresistance of microorganisms are discussed, and the mechanisms of, and hypotheses on, the freezing injury are also reviewed. The bibliography includes more than 1000 papers on the topic. The book might be a relevant reference guide to cryopreservation for microbiologists in culture collections, industry, biotechnological laboratories, genetic engineering, preventive medicine and other fields.
- C.J Hurst et al. (eds.)  
Manual of Environmental Microbiology. ASM Press, Herndorn, 1996, 850 pages. US\$ 98.00, ASM member price: US\$ 85.00. ISBN 1 55581 087 XG
- I. Introduction to environmental microbiology. II. General methodology. III. Water microbiology in public health. IV. Aquatic environments. V. Soil, rhizosphere, and phyllosphere. VI. Subsurface and landfills. VII. Aerobiology. VIII. Biotransformation and biodegradation.
- B. Kirsop (ed.)  
Access to *ex-situ* microbial genetic resources within the framework to the Convention on Biological Diversity. WFCC, 1996, 26 pages. ISBN 92 9109 042 5
- V. Lorian  
Antibiotics in Laboratory Medicine, 4th ed., Williams & Wilkins, 1996. ISBN 0 683 05169 5
- St.R. Maloy, V.J. Stewart, R.K. Taylor  
Genetic Analysis of Pathogenic Bacteria. A Laboratory Manual. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1996, 603 pp., US\$ 85. ISBN 0 87969 453 X
- S. Miyadoh et al. (eds.)  
Atlas of Actinomycetes. The Society for Actinomycetes Japan, 1996. 220 pages, 440 micrographs of 55 genera. Contact: Dr. Shinji Miyadoh, Pharmaceutical Research Center, Meiji Seika Kaish, Ltd., Morooka, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama, 222 Japan, Fax ++81 45 543 9771
- T. Nakazawa et al.,  
Molecular Biology of Pseudomonas. ASM Press, Herndorn. 1996. 526 pages. List price: US\$ 98.00, ASM member price: US\$ 85.00 . ISBN 1 55581 104 3G
- F.T. Robb et al.  
Archaea: A Laboratory Manual. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1995.  
- Halophiles. 280 pp., US\$ 65. ISBN 0 87969 438 6  
- Methanogens. 540 pp., US\$ 95. ISBN 0 87969 439 4  
- Thermophiles. 217 pp., US\$ 65. ISBN 0 87969 440 8
- D.McL. Roberts et al. (eds.)  
Evolution of Microbial Life. SMG Symposium, Volume 54. Cambridge University Press, 1996, 300 pp. Price US\$ 115.00 (Member's price: US\$ 46.00). ISBN 0 52156432 8

- R.A. Samson et al. Introduction to food-borne fungi. Fifth edition. CBS, Baarn, 1996. Hfl 50,00
- D. Smith (ed.) Postal, Quarantine and Safety Regulation: Status and Concerns. WFCC Committee on Postal, Quarantine and Safety Regulations, Report 1994-1996, 38 pages. Contact: Dr. D. Fritze, DSMZ, Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124 Braunschweig, Germany (Fax ++49 531 2616 418)
- G. St-Germain, R. Summerbell Identifying filamentous fungi. A clinical laboratory handbook. Star Publishing Company, Belmont. 320 pages, US\$ 49.95 (English edition), US\$ 59.95 (French edition). ISBN 0 89863 177 7 (English edition), 0 89863 179 3 (French edition)
- G.T. Tzotzos (ed) Genetically Modified Organisms: A Guide to Biosafety. CAB International, 1995, 213 pp., £ 30.00. ISBN 0 85198 972 1
- K. Weising DNA Fingerprinting in Plants and Fungi. CRC Press, 1995, 320 pp., £ 39.50. ISBN 0 8493 8920 8
- Laboratory Safety in Clinical Microbiology. Cumitech 26. ASM Press, Herts. 1996. List price: US\$ 12.00, ASM member price: US\$ 9.00
- R.S. Weyant et al. Identification of Unusual Pathogenic Gram-Negative Aerobic and Facultatively Anaerobic Bacteria, 2nd ed., Williams & Wilkins, 1996. ISBN 0 683 00615 0

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## CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

International Conference on Microbial Diversity: the current situation, conservation strategy and ecological aspects (ICOMID '96), Perm, Russia, 8-11 October 1996. Contact: Institute of Ecology and Genetics of Microorganisms, Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 13 Golev str., Perm 614081, Russia (Fax: +7 3422 64 67 11, E-mail [mike@iegm.perm.su](mailto:mike@iegm.perm.su))

New Frontiers in Screening for Microbial Biocatalysts, Ede, The Netherlands, 15-18 December 1996. Contact: Symposium Secretariat, Biocat Screening 96, Lidy Groot Congress Events, P.O. Box 83005, NL-1080 AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands (Fax +31 20 675 8236, E-mail [lidy.groot@inter.NL.net](mailto:lidy.groot@inter.NL.net))

Society for General Microbiology, 136th Meeting, University of Reading, 7-9 January 1997. Contact: Society for General Microbiology, Meetings Office, Marlborough House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading RG7 1AE, UK (Fax +44 1734 885656, E-mail [meetings@socgenmicrobiol.org.uk](mailto:meetings@socgenmicrobiol.org.uk))

Focus on Fungal Infections 7. San Antonio, Texas, USA, 13-15 March 1997. Contact: Conference Secretary, Imedex USA, Inc. 1060 Cambridge Square, Suite D, Alpharetta, Georgia, USA (Fax + 1 770 7517334, E-mail: [imedex@aol.com](mailto:imedex@aol.com))

Evolution of the Rumen Microbial Ecosystem, Aberdeen, 20-21 March 1997. Contact: Dr. R.J. Wallace, Rowett Research Institute, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9SB, Scotland (Fax +44 1224 716687)

Society for General Microbiology, 137th Meeting, Heriot-Watt University, 24-27 March 1997. Contact: Society for General Microbiology, Meetings Office, Marlborough House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading RG7 1AE, UK (Fax +44 118 988 5656, E-mail [meetings@socgenmicrobiol.org.uk](mailto:meetings@socgenmicrobiol.org.uk))

Molecules and Morphology in Systematics, Paris, 24-28 March 1997. Contact: Simon Tillier, Service de Systematique Molecularire, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, 43 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France (E-mail [tillier@mnhn.fr](mailto:tillier@mnhn.fr))



4th International Symposium on In Situ and On-Site Bioremediation, New Orleans, La., USA, 28 April-1 May, 1997. Contact: Bioremediation Symposium Registrar, The Conference Group, 1989 W. 5th Ave., Columbus, OH 43212-1912, USA (Fax +1 614 488 5747, E-mail [102632.3100@compuserve.com](mailto:102632.3100@compuserve.com))

American Society of Microbiology, 97th General Meeting, Miami Beach, Florida, USA, 4-8 May, 1997. Contact: ASM Meeting Department, 1325 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA (Fax +1 202 942 9340, E-mail [meetingsinfo@asmusa.org](mailto:meetingsinfo@asmusa.org))

13th Congress of the International Society of Human and Animal Mycology, Salsomaggiore Terme, Parma, Italia, 8-13 June, 1997. Contact: Institute of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Parma, viale A. Gramsci, I-14 43100 Parma, Italy (Fax +39 521 987139, E-mail [ishamcom@ipruniv.cce.unipr.it](mailto:ishamcom@ipruniv.cce.unipr.it))

18th Congress of the International Society of Human and Animal Mycology, Salsomaggiore Terme, Parma, Italia, 8-13 June, 1997. Contact: Institute of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Parma, Viale A. Gramsci, I-14 43100 Parma, Italy (Fax +39 521 987139, E-mail [ishamcom@ipruniv.cce.unipr.it](mailto:ishamcom@ipruniv.cce.unipr.it))

Spore Conference Cambridge, 8-11 July, 1997. Contact: Will Waites, Applied Biochemistry & Food Science, University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonnington Campus, Loughborough, Leics LE12 5RD (Fax +44 115 951 6162, E-mail [sczwm@szni.nott.ac.uk](mailto:sczwm@szni.nott.ac.uk))

9th International Conference on Bacilli, Lausanne, Switzerland, 15-19 July, 1997. Contact: Congress Secretariat, Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Microbiennes, Rue Cesar-Roux 19, CH-1005 Lausanne, Switzerland (Fax: +41 21 320 6078, E-mail [dkaramat@ulyes.unil.ch](mailto:dkaramat@ulyes.unil.ch))

11th International Congress of Nitrogen Fixation, Paris, France, 20-25 July 1997. Contact: Dr. Claudine Elmerich, Institut Pasteur, 28 rue du Dr. Roux, 75724 Paris Cedex 15, France (Fax +33 1 4568 8790, E-mail [elmerich@pasteur.fr](mailto:elmerich@pasteur.fr); <http://www.pasteur.fr/Conf/Nfixation.html>)

10th International Congress of Protozoology, Sydney, Australia, 21- 25 July, 1997. Contact: S.McKenzie, Conference Manager, Interact International Events, P.O.Box 236, Balgowlah, NSW 2094, Australia (Fax +61 2 9948 7406, E-mail [iie@ozemail.com.au](mailto:iie@ozemail.com.au))

Society for Industrial Microbiology Annual Meeting, Reno, USA, 3-8 August, 1997. Contact: Society for Industrial Microbiology, 3929 Old Lee HWY., Suite 92A, Fairfax VA 22030-2421, USA (Fax +1 703 6917991)

8th European Congress on Biotechnology, Budapest, Hungary, 18-23 August, 1997. Contact: IBUSZ, Travel Congress Dept., Ferenciek tere 10, 1953 Budapest V., Hungary (Fax:+36 1 1189161)

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To all WFCC Members

The Editor of the WFCC Newsletter welcomes any contribution you may have.

*Did you know or read about*

- news of culture collections
- new catalogues or databases
  - Internet news
- new regulations, eg. shipping of cultures (in your country or internationally)
  - workshops, conferences, meetings relevant to culture collections
    - books, publications, reviews
  - news of old and new members

*Would you like to*

- draw the attention to a current topic
  - send a feature article
- start a discussion on a problem recently occurred to you concerning culture collection matters
  - send a letter to the editor
- supply a good idea to improve the newsletter

*Please do not hesitate to send material to the editor*

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or to any WFCC officer or Board Member

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