

International Commission on the Taxonomy of Fungi
General Meeting
Minutes

CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre, Utrecht, the Netherlands
Saturday, 14 April 2012

Members present: K.A. Seifert (Chair), A.N. Miller (Secretary), C. Aime, T. Aoki, D.L. Hawksworth, S.A. Redhead, A.Y. Rossman, R.A. Samson, C.L. Schoch, M. Thines, and N. Zhang

Regrets: G. Bagyanarayana, J. Bischoff, P. Chaverri, P. Crous, J. Dianese, I. Druzhinina, D. Geiser, P. Johnston, T. May

Chair: Keith Seifert

Secretary: Andrew Miller

The meeting started at 9:05 am.

1. Seifert: Review of programme of work.

A brief overview of the mandate of the ICTF was given along with an introduction of the members. Eleven members were present, which represented quorum. The officers were introduced, and there were no motions to request a new election of officers or members at this time. The Programme of Work for 2011-2014 that was first introduced at the 2011 ICTF meeting was presented as a basis for the subsequent discussion. As a general principal, Keith stated that he wants all members of the Commission to be active in what is expected to be a very busy time until the next IMC.

2. Miller: Communications options for ICTF.

The envisioned purpose of the Yahoo chat group, and the problems experienced by some members in receiving emails from this group, were discussed. Nearly 25% of the members were not receiving notices from Yahoo notifying them of new messages or documents on the chat group, so alternatives were explored. Andrew Miller set up a new list-serve for ICTF, which appears to be working better for all members. A suggestion was made to use the list-serve in combination with the ICTF website to facilitate communication within the Commission, and allow for the different communication preferences of the members.

3. Miller: Discussion of ICTF Website.

The ICTF website has been hosted at the Vienna University of Technology by Irina Druzhinina and her colleagues for about ten years. The ICTF extended its deep thanks to Irina and the

programmer Alexey Kopchinskiy for their work at putting together and maintaining the site. Andrew Miller offered to host the ICTF website at the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) at the University of Illinois. The biological informatics specialist at INHS will work with Irina and colleagues to transfer the website. Suggestions were made to add a blog function to the website and to use the list-serve to notify members when something new is added to the website. The contents of the website need to be enhanced considerably. The ICTF will attempt to organize the nomenclatural working groups and ICTF subcommissions so that there will be a central page for people to find out what lists are being developed and who is working on them. The possibility of using an academic networking site such as LinkedIn was suggested.

A vote was taken that the website be moved from Austria to USA. All members present voted unanimously for the transfer of the website. Miller abstained.

Action items: Andrew should transfer the ICTF website to INHS and add the ICTF to a LinkedIn group.

4. Seifert & Redhead: Relationship of ICTF and Nomenclature Committee for Fungi (NCF) and their representation at mycological meetings during 2012.

The ICTF general meeting followed the One fungus: Which name symposium held at the Dutch Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) in Amsterdam, where many issues pertaining to the relationship between the ICTF and the NCF were discussed. At that meeting, it was made clear that the NCF would welcome proposals to override the priority of anamorphic names when teleomorph names were well established, as well as lists of either protected names or rejected names. These can be initiated and submitted by any competent group, but there was a strong desire for coordination, and acknowledgement that ICTF subcommissions and working groups were expected to lead initiatives for the fungi covered by their mandates. Additional working groups and subcommissions are expected to form (item 5 below), some stimulated by the ICTF and others independently. The chairs and secretaries of both the ICTF and NCF requested to be informed of any activity, in order to prevent redundant efforts.

At the ICTF meeting, it was noted that the two groups are collaborating well, and the close proximity of the Chairs (Scott Redhead, NCF and Keith Seifert, ICTF) is helpful. The NCF is recognized as the mandated body to evaluate completed lists for presentation to the General Nomenclatural Committee, and the responsibilities of the ICTF do not extend to any official evaluation of lists. There was a brief discussion of why the ICTF was not specifically mentioned in the Code; this reflected reluctance by the Botanical Congress to favor one body over another in the process, especially because the ICTF does not report to that congress.

5. All attendees: Participation in and leadership of existing subcommissions/affiliated commissions in planned nomenclatural discussions.

The definitions of committees, commissions and subcommissions were clarified and their reporting relationships were explained. Commissions report to the International Union of Microbiological Sciences (IUMS) executive board. The International Commission on Yeasts (ICY) and the International Commission on *Penicillium* and *Aspergillus* (ICPA) are sibling commissions to ICTF and all three report to the IUMS. Subcommissions of the ICTF report to

the ICTF, and the chairs are considered *ex officio* members of the ICTF. Examples include the International Subcommittee on *Trichoderma* and *Hypocrea* (ISTH), the *Fusarium* subcommittee (shared with the International Society of Plant Pathology *Fusarium* Committee) and the Fungal Working Group on DNA Barcoding (shared for the time being with the Consortium for the Barcode of Life, CBOL). Attempts were made over the past ten years to initiate subcommittees on *Mycosphaerella*, *Colletotrichum*, rusts, and ophiostomatoid fungi. These never fully developed or became active, although the subcommittees on *Colletotrichum* and rusts are again in the planning stage.

Several other nomenclatural working groups were discussed, including groups on Oomycetes (potentially to become a subcommittee of the ICTF), Yeasts (a working group of the ICY), and Hypocreales. It was reported that during the One fungus: Which name symposium, at least eleven distinct working groups within the Sordariomycetes were identified to begin developing individual lists of taxa.

It was questioned who should activate nomenclatural working groups, and the response from Scott Redhead and Keith Seifert was that they should be self-starting. A short message should be sent to the international community via IMAFungus. It is hoped that all of these Subcommittees and working groups will be active in developing the nomenclatural lists.

It was cautioned that nomenclatural lists should be created as databases, not word-processed documents. Website databases vs. Excel spreadsheets were discussed as to which format is best. Excel spreadsheets were viewed as being simpler and easier to use, but have their limitations. Subcommittees of ICTF will start on their nomenclatural lists, nomenclatural working groups will form and begin working on lists, and we need to be proactive about stimulating smaller bodies to participate. Groups will be able to get preliminary lists of names from Vincent Roberts (MycoBank) and/or Paul Kirk (Index Fungorum) in the form of Excel spreadsheets.

Action item: Keith and Andrew to write a brief article for IMAFungus encouraging the formation of working groups to form and begin work generating nomenclatural lists.

6. Seifert & Samson: Symposium planning for IUMS 2014 Montreal.

Two symposia were suggested: the ICTF could present a symposium on nomenclatural changes, and a conference symposium could be proposed on phylogenomics, which could bridge the bacteriologists, mycologists, and virologists. Marc Stadler volunteered to help with the proposal of the phylogenomics symposium. Scott Redhead and Cathie Aime volunteered to help with the nomenclatural symposium. It was suggested we need to publish the presentations.

Action item: Marc Sadler, Scott Redhead and Cathie Aime should work together along with Keith and Andrew to propose and organize the symposia at the IUMS by the end of April 2012.

7. Seifert & Miller: Symposium planning for IMC 2014 Thailand.

A symposium on nomenclatural changes will also need to be presented, including presentations or discussions of the finalized nomenclatural lists; but there will probably be many independent lists, so this would need to be carefully coordinated. A workshop on "Good Practice in Fungal Taxonomy" or "Good Mycological Practices" was suggested. We could also put this information

on the ICTF website and publish it in IMAFungus.

Action item: Andrew will ask for ICTF volunteers to assist in the planning of a symposium and a workshop for IMC10.

8. Other issues.

It was suggested that ICTF present a symposium at the Chinese Mycological Meeting (ICBP) in Sept. 2012. A few members are planning to attend.

Action item: Andrew will send a message to ICTF members asking for volunteers to present a symposium at ICBP.

Statutes of Commission. Rob Samson is concerned that some members are not active enough and there should be an amendment to the statutes to allow their expulsion. Keith has been considering amendments to the statutes to address concerns raised over the past few years that the Commission is a self-appointed body with little democratic legitimacy. Some members felt that the ICTF should remain somewhat autocratic. All members are expected to actively participate in the commission.

Action item: Keith will work on revisions to the statutes.

Amy Rossman moved that the meeting be closed and Cathie Aime seconded; the motion was approved. The meeting ended at 10:41 am.

Minutes approved by email vote on 7-May-2012.