



Flora of the World

SPECIES PLANTARUM PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

25-26 September, 2008

Minutes of the tenth meeting of the Committee, held at the Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, NC, USA.

1. Welcome and apologies. The meeting was opened at 9.30 am, when Wayt Thomas, Secretary, called members to the meeting. The following Steering Committee members sent their apologies for not being present: Gideon Smith (Chair), Ib Friis, Dmitry Geltman, Jonathan Bennett, Chris Anderson, Ghilleen Prance, Philippe Morat, Iwatsuki, Alex George, H. Ohashi, Tom Daniel, Karol Marhold, Santiago Castroviejo, Tarciso Filgueiras, Richard Pankhurst, Karen Wilson, Monica Moraes, Vicki Funk, Bengt Jonsell, and Warren Wagner (Treasurer).

Members attending: Richard Brummitt, Pierre-André Loizeau (Publisher), Jan Kirschner (Vice-Chairman and Editor), Wayt Thomas (Secretary), David Boufford, James Zarucchi, Barbara Ertter, and Nancy Morin. Several members, made extraordinary efforts to attend the meeting (i.e., Loizeau, Berendsohn, Ertter and Morin), and their efforts were much appreciated.

It was very difficult to steer the spontaneous discussion and keep to the sequence in the Agenda. The first item discussed was the make-up of the Steering Committee, and Fund-raising and the use of electronic media were brought up repeatedly. In order, however, to present a logical sequence in the minutes, the different lines of discussion were collated and placed in the appropriate category. Therefore, the sequence as presented in the minutes may have little relationship to the actual flow of the meeting.

2. Local logistical arrangements. The meeting started in the dark, as the Duke University Marine Lab was without power due to high winds. Power was restored by late morning on the 27th.

3. Minutes. The minutes of the ninth meeting, held at Kew in 2006, were approved.

4. Secretary's Report. Wayt Thomas presented a talk on the Organization for Flora Neotropica so as to show the SPP Steering Committee members where his "origins" were and how he might think about issues that arise in SPP. This included some of the practical activities that OFN has adopted for attracting proposals for monographs and publishing them.

5. Treasurer's Report. Warren Wagner emailed his Treasurer's report (attached) which was accepted.

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8 June 2001	Bergius Foundation	6,973.00	6973.00
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26 August 2005	Australian Commonwealth	1,857.69	21,540.19
23 October 2006	Australian Commonwealth	1,247.56	22,787.75
14 August 2008	Australian Commonwealth	1,601.94	24,389.69
Cumulative Bank fees (2001-2008)		- 164.00	24,225.69

Based on sales of Species Plantarum volumes an amount of **\$1,601.94 USD** has been transferred from the Australian Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage to the US bank account.

Pierre-André requested that the Committee approve the expenditure of \$6000 to subsidize card-copy printing costs. The request was approved.

6. Editor's Report. Three contributions have been submitted and edited: **Opiliaceae**, by P. Hiepko, had been in hand for some time and was now ready, including 10 genera and 33 species, occupying over 80 pages. The other two families were monotypic endemics of New Caledonia, **Amborellaceae** and **Paracryphiaceae**, both by J. Jérémie of Paris.

We received **Sparganiaceae**, but it still needs some herbarium citations.

It was considered important to highlight the manuscripts which have been promised, and to contact each potential contributor. Wayt said he would get the list from the previous minutes, put them in table form, and contact all the authors.

The IOPI acronym should be eliminated from the cover of new SPP monographs.

Future family accounts (taken from the last meeting's minutes):

Bennett, said his work at BM on a revision of **Solanum** was funded by 5-year NSF grant. There were thought to be about 1500 species. A full time IT person was included in the project, and data accumulated in BRAHMS was placed on the internet as soon as a species was fully revised and subjected to editorial assessment. It would be possible to make the database available, but a PDF was much easier. All species accounts were peer-reviewed by *Solanum* taxonomists around the world. Illustrations, including the type of every name, were included. Descriptions were not split up in the database at present. Keys would be added later. After initial completion, maintenance would be by BM and NY, and all up-dates would be carefully recorded.

Marhold said that the **Brassicaceae** project was heading first for a species checklist (c. 3000 species). Jonsell noted that an overall plan for the family was needed, and that he would address *Rorippa* and related genera after his present commitments to Linnaeus and Fl. Nord. were over.

Kirschner reported the bad news that the **Violaceae** project headed by Harvey Ballard had not been funded by NSF. However, work was proceeding and he hoped to have a checklist soon.

Brummitt reported that he was included in a **Convolvulaceae** project headed by George Staples and Dan Austin which was looking for NSF funding.

V. Funk reported that work was proceeding on a checklist of **Asteraceae** (c. 25,000 species), and it might be possible to complete an SPP account of some smaller tribes such as Mutiseae relatively soon.

An offer had been made by Barbara Ertter (Berkeley) and collaborators of an account of the **Rosaceae-Potentilleae** (excluding *Alchemilla* and related genera), and this was accepted. The secretary would communicate with her.

I. Belyaeva said she was working towards a **Salicaceae** account (c. 400 species), and had her information at present in a DELTA database. An interactive key would be included.

An account of **Strobilanthes** (Acanthaceae, Asian, c. 400 species) had been offered by J.R.I. Wood (Oxford), and Bennett was involved having written his thesis on the genus.

Callitrichaceae (c. 75 species) was being prepared by R. Lansdown (Stroud, UK), and the secretary was in touch.

Wagner was turning his attention to a species level account of **Onagraceae** (900 species), having recently submitted a tribal/generic account for publication.

Previously offered accounts of **Osmundaceae** by K. Iwatsuki and **Blechnum** by C. Chambers were thought to be near completion.

Possible future accounts might be **Vitaceae** by J. Wen and **Casuarinaceae** by K. Wilson.

Brummitt thought we should be more proactive in asking for accounts of smallish families with perhaps up to 50 species, perhaps trying to involve the major institutions. He might himself offer **Diapensiaceae**, and revise families he had written up as examples ten years ago, especially **Datiscaceae** and **Morinaceae**.

8. Web Site. Jan will see to getting an independent SPP web site started. He will see if his son, a budding web site developer, would be interested in constructing the site. The committee approved using SPP funds to pay for this. Wayt said he would help.

9. IOPI and ARBS Publications. Wayt will contact Karen Wilson to find out the status of IOPI, and KW and Annette Wilson to find out several important things about our existing publications: 1) can we get permission to use a scanned OCR version of those publications? Can we get copies for the publications either transferred to G, or at least sold at a bulk discount?

10. Fund Raising. Fund raising was discussed or fantasized about at many points during the two days. Wayt discussed a potential proposal which would be related to SPP goals, of funding several people to search for and collate all existing modern descriptions of the World's species as the 'next step' after the World Checklist is completed. He also mentioned several successfully funded projects to bring researchers to major herbaria on sabbaticals so that they can complete a treatment. A related project funded 3-6 months stays for doctoral students from developing countries to go to NY to carry out research.

GEF funding was discussed and Wayt discussed his experience with writing a GEF proposal for tropical America. This was compared to Gideon's proposal for a World Flora. Wayt will discuss with Gideon and those involved with the Neotropical

proposal to see if there might be enough interest to try again, now that we are nearing the deadline for the World Checklist.

We also discussed getting a letter from each of the World's major botanical institutions reflecting their support of SPP.

13, 14 – Deferred until we have a database up and functioning and have some new publications in hand.

16. BRAHMS as data input facility Denis Filer (Oxford) has made an SPP version of Brahms available on the web. This will be a monographer-friendly streamlined version.

17. Mapping Geneva has a very good, simple system for dot maps.

18. Index Alex George will continue to produce an index to current volumes. Pierre-André will supply him with the text of new accounts.

20. Updating of existing accounts. This could be in the form of a supplement to an existing account or continual updating on the web. Wayt wondered if we weren't getting the cart before the horse, worrying about updating treatments that didn't yet exist.

23. Reviews of submitted monographs. Recent monographs (e.g., Opiliaceae) were only seen by Jan and Dick. Wayt thought that as the number of submissions increases, this will be a task better done by others. It also provides the Editor with another objective opinion. The group thought that the Steering Committee would be an excellent place to start searching for additional reviewers.

24. Gratis Copies to Developing Countries. We discussed how to fund getting copies to active botanical centers in developing countries. IAPT sponsorships were discussed as a possibility.

25. Publicity. Gideon has a list of reviews of SPP treatments. Nancy suggested that we send a report to *Taxon* each year about our progress. We also discussed placing ads for the purchase of treatments in different botanical journals, and on Taxacom.

Dick talked about the World Checklist which was started 15 years ago with Rafael Govaerts working on *Quercus*. He was so successful, accurate and rapid, that he was kept on and the project expanded and he continued up through the letter "E" before he was diverted to other projects.

The Rio-2002 Convention on biological diversity meeting produced a World checklist as a target to be completed in 2010, with country-by-country distribution.

27. Steering Committee. The meeting started by jumping to item 27, "Election of Officers and Committee" members. It was widely believed that the make-up of the committee needed to be rejuvenated and inactive members taken off. Wayt Thomas reminded the committee that the Constitution requires re-election of members every 3 years. Therefore, inactive members could simply not be renewed. The need to maintain members from developing countries was brought up.

Ultimately, after considerable discussion, it was decided that an Executive Council be formed from the active membership of the Steering Committee. We indicated the following people to make up that Council:

- Gideon Smith (Chair)
- Jan Kirschner (Vice-Chair, Editor)
- Warren Wagner (Treasurer)
- Wayt Thomas (Secretary)
- Pierre-André Loizeau (Publisher)
- Walter Berendsohn (databases)
- Karol Marhold (Asst. Editor)
- Nancy Morin (publicity)
- Karen Wilson (Australian rep.)
- Editor (when separated from the Vice-Chair position)
- Asian Representative (to be chosen)
- Latin American Representative (to be chosen)

Dave Boufford will contact Ma in China and invite him to join SPP. If he is willing and seems interested, he could be asked to be the Asian representative to SPP. Wayt will suggest someone to act as the Latin American SPP representative.

28. Date and venue of next meeting. We received an invitation to meet jointly with the *Flora Malesiana* Project in Singapore in June or July of 2010. While it was thought that meeting with other projects was ideal, and that tropical Asia was one of the lacunae in the World Flora, it was also mentioned that it was a long way to travel. Wayt suggested that those who objected to Singapore should suggest alternatives within the next year.



Flora of the World

To: Species Plantarum Project Steering Committee

Subject: Report on finances for 2006-2008

This is the fifth financial report for the Species Plantarum Project. Since the last meeting at Kew there has been little activity.

In come and spending:

1. There has been no spending of SPP funds.
2. I here review all transactions since account inception in 2001.

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3. Based on sales of Species Plantarum volumes an amount of **\$1,601.94 USD** has been transferred from the Australian Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage to the US bank account.
4. These funds are currently available to spend on initiatives of the SPP and treatments of the *Flora of the World*.

Warren L. Wagner, Treasurer
24 September 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Wagner', written over the printed name and date.