

THE SECOND COLLOQUIUM ON PALAEOBOTANY AND PALYNOLOGY IN MEXICO

The "Second Colloquium on Palaeobotany and Palynology" took place on September 25—27, 1974 at Mexico City. Some thirty palaeobotanists and palynologists from North and South American countries as well as one colleague from Sweden participated actively in the event. More than thirty papers were delivered and the main topics covered by the contributions were:

- (1) The Pre-Quaternary and Quaternary palaeobotany and palynology of Mexico and neighbouring countries, (2) South American palaeobotany and palynology, and (3) The morphology and taxonomy of fossil and modern angiosperm leaves.

In the context of the first general topic, aspects of Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Miocene and Late Quaternary floras and palynofloras were discussed. Comprehensive or review papers were delivered by A. Silva P. on "Jurassic paleobotany of Mexico", by A. Graham on "History of the Tropical Rain Forest near its Northern Limits in Veracruz" and L. Gonzalez Q. on "The Pleistocene of Mexico, a climatic hypothesis".

The contributions in South American Palaeobotany by O. Rösler on "Some aspects of the palaeofloristic development in the Brazilian Eogondwanic Region" and by E. J. Romero on "A paleophytogeographic reconstruction of the area of Rio Turbio (Sta. Cruz, Argentina), in accordance with the palynological evidence" were highlights in the colloquium.

The last general topic included a series of contributions on philosophical, methodological and practical aspects of description, identification and classification of fossil and modern angiosperm leaves. This set of papers was indeed most stimulating and important. Aspects of Taxonomy and Parataxonomy in palaeontology and palaeobotany were discussed by J. Rueda Gaxiola, the vertebrate palaeontologist I. Ferrusquia Villafranca and by R. Weber. A new descriptive terminology for dicotyledonous leaf venation was presented by J. A. Wolfe and H. E. Schorn. L. J. Hickey explained the "leaf-ranking" method and E. J. Romero informed about the initiation of a revision of certain Tertiary leaf floras of Argentina by means of the leaf-ranking-method. E. P. Klucking described venation patterns of the family Annonaceae. The use of computers in taxometric partitioning of leaf collections and in general palaeobotanical documentation was discussed by G. E. Dolph and H. Tralau.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ANGIOSPERM PALAEOBOTANY

The colloquium finished with a Round Table Discussion on "Organization of researchers concerned with the angiosperm fossil record". This was also the title of the introduction paper delivered by D. L. Dilcher. The following points summarize the discussions and emphasize the proposals of the majority of the participants. The points were formulated after the meeting; however, they should be considered as a pronouncement agreed upon by those present:

- (1) An "International Association for Angiosperm Palaeobotany" will be established.
- (2) The "Association" will try to join all researchers working on or interested in the

Angiosperm fossil record (woods, leaves, flowers, pollen, fruits and seeds), and particularly those concerned mainly with morphology, taxonomy and/or phylogeny of the Angiosperms.

- (3) The main activities of the "Association" will be the formation of working groups of researchers in specialized fields, as well as establishing a system for information exchange within and between those working groups, in agreement with the wishes and needs of the membership. The "Association" will try to collect and distribute systematically all available data regarding reference collections, bibliography, terminology, related individual and institutional research programmes and facilities.
- (4) A working group concerned with the modern and fossil angiosperm leaves will be established.
- (5) At the beginning, the "Association" will work as a loosely, informally organized corporation, coordinated by a volunteer secretary, who was designated. The structure of the "Association" will be changed when the secretary and/or the membership consider it desirable or necessary.
- (6) A "Newsletter" will be established.
- (7) Aspects such as: regional representation, future meetings, association with other related organizations and request for dues will be worked out as the membership develops and the Secretary sees the need and possibility.

All colleagues interested in the new association are asked to contact the Secretary, Dr. Reinhard Weber, at the following address:

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