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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

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Dr. A. M. Scott.,

2824., Dante Street,

New Orleans - 18, La. USA.



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Form - 66

First fold here

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Sender's name and address :-

Dr. M. O. P. IYENGAR,
71, V. R. Pillai Street,
Triplicane, MADRAS. 5.
(INDIA).

To open cut here

71, V.R. Pillai Street,
Triplicane, Madras.

4th July 1952.

Dear Dr. Scott,

I thank you for your two letters of the 30th May and the 13th June, respectively, and am glad to learn that the reprints that I sent you reached you all right.

I thank you very much for your kindness in sending me the following papers :-

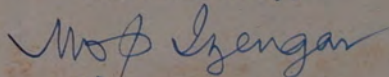
1. The Freshwater algae of Southern United States-I. Desmids from Mississippi, with descriptions of new species and varieties.
2. The Freshwater algae of Southern United States-III. The desmid genus ~~xxx~~ Euastrum, with descriptions of some new varieties.
3. Spinocosmarium quadridens (Wood) Pres. and Scott and its varieties.
4. New varieties of Staurastrum ophiura Lund.

The genus Spinoclosterium Presc. & Scott is quite interesting and I think is quite necessary for the reception of forms which combine the features of several genera and could not very well placed in any single one of them.

I am glad you agree with me as regards the new genus Triplastrum. Here also we had the same difficulty as the one you felt with regard to your Spinocosmarium. The desmid combined the features of several genera and could not very well be placed in any single one of them.

As regards Spinoclosterium, though the only point of difference from Closterium is the stout solid spine at each end, I am inclined to feel, like Professor Prescott, that the presence of the spine must be considered as a sufficient enough feature for referring it to a new genus. I have not come across this desmid anywhere in South India. I shall write to you.

Yours sincerely,



M. O. P. Iyengar.

2824 Dante St. New Orleans, La.
June 13 1952

Dear Dr. Iyengar,

It seems that I was a little too quick in acknowledging receipt of the first package of your papers, because about ten days later I received the second lot, containing your papers on Desmids from Kodaikanal, and the new genus *Triplastrum*.

My only previous knowledge of *Triplastrum* was having seen it mentioned in the literature, so I was a little bit surprised to find that it is a re-assignment of the small species formerly classed with *Triploceras*. I am quite familiar with *Triploceras*, which is quite common in southern USA with several varieties, and I have a new variety from North Australia and Indonesia. But I have never seen any of the small forms which you include in *Triplastrum*. I would be inclined to agree with your assignment to a new genus, because they differ so radically from the other known forms of *Triploceras*; nevertheless I think that there will be two opinions among desmidiologists, some of whom will approve and others disagree, just as they do concerning the genus *Spinocostarium* Presc. & Scott.

For the last six months I have been having a friendly argument with Prof. Prescott regarding the correct name for the desmid *Closterium cuspidatum* Beil. in Rafs 1848. What was apparently the same plant was found Bernard in a pond at the Botanical Garden in Singapore in 1909 by Ch. Bernard, who named it *Spinoclosterium curvatum*. In the last few years the plant has turned up in many different parts of the world, in Canada, Michigan, Maine, New Hampshire, Mississippi, Florida, North Australia, Indonesia and Japan, where Minoru Hirano has created the new combination *Spinoclosterium cuspidatum* (Beil.) Hirano. But several desmidiologists, myself among them, are not convinced that ~~these~~ the mere addition of terminal spines to an otherwise undoubted *Closterium* is sufficient justification for the establishment of a new monotypic genus, while Prescott and some others hold the opposite opinion. In an effort to solve the problem, and to ascertain the exact nature of Bernard's plant, I asked a friend in Bogor, Java, to try and get for me some collections of algae from the Botanical Garden in Singapore, which he succeeded in doing through the courtesy of Mr. Sinclair, Curator of the Herbarium in Singapore. I received these collections just a week ago, but am sorry to say that the desmid in question cannot be found, and is probably not present in the material. This was not unexpected, since it would have been somewhat miraculous if the plant had been refound after nearly half a century. Frere Iracee-Marie recently published a paper on the same subject in *Le Naturaliste Canadien*. It is not impossible that you may run across this desmid in the course of your investigations, and if you do I hope that you will publish your own opinions on it.

Sincerely yours,

2824 Dante St.
New Orleans, 18, La.
May 30 1952

Dr. M. O. P. Iyengar,
71, V.I. Pillai St.,
Madras, India.

Dear Dr. Iyengar,

Please accept my sincere thanks for sending me, no doubt at the request of Dr. Subrahmanyam, the reprints of your papers on Pleodorina sphaerica, and on the Ecology of the River Cooum with reference to the Diatomaceae.

While I am interested in a general way in all freshwater algae, I have specialized on the Desmidiaceae, and it is literature on this family that I am anxious to get, particularly the paper in which you described the new desmid genus Triplestrum.

Prof. Prescott and I have in press a paper on desmids from South Australia which should be printed very shortly, and we are preparing another on F.W. algae from North Australia, to be published by the Australian Government next year in the official account of the 1948 Expedition to Arnhem Land. At the present time I am studying a nice lot of samples from Borneo, Java, Bali and Sumatra, in which many species and varieties are turning up that apparently are new to science. For their determination it is important that I have all the desmid literature on the Indo-Malayan region, and while I have most of the classical works, I am completely lacking in all of the recent desmidological works of Indian algologists.

Therefore, I should appreciate it very highly if you would be kind enough to send me reprints of any papers on desmids that you and your colleagues or students have published. Of course, I shall be sure to send you copies of all papers that Prof. Prescott and I publish.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. W. JUNK
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December 21st, 1960

Mr. Arthur M. Scott

2824 Dante Street,

New Orleans 18 / La.,

U.S.A.

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