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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.

25 April 1969

Dr. Frans Stafleu
International Bureau for Plant Taxonomy
106 Lange Nieuwstraat
UTRECHT, Nederland

Dear Frans:

This is just a note to thank you for the many courtesies which you gave me. Having a chance to have dinner with you and your wife was a great pleasure, and I will always remember the afternoon seeing the polders and eating smoked eel.

I look forward to seeing you in Seattle. My best regards to your wife.

Sincerely,

David J. Rogers
P

DJR:qm

25 April 1969

Dr. Aristid Lindenmayer
Hubrecht Laboratory
Uppsalaalan 1
UTRECHT, Nederland

Dear Aristid:

This is just a short note to tell you how very much I appreciated your and your wife's hospitality there. It was a real pleasure and very helpful to stay with you, rather than at a hotel.

I will ask my student in leaf vein plan analysis to read your paper in Theoretical Biology and then to contact you directly. I am sure it will be an interesting interchange. His name is Robert Brill.

As to possible invitations to you for next year or the year after, I am going to have to make some sort of survey of our position to see if there is any way to support your effort with money. At the moment things are not too promising.

Best wishes and looking forward to seeing you in Seattle.

Sincerely,

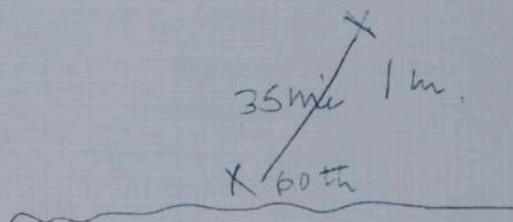
David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

DJR:gm

Gerard P. Baerends
University of Groningen.

Behavior

See Dr. Kaufman



Wijn: Liebfraumilch
Côte de Beaune Villages

Menu

D I N E R

ter gelegenheid van
het symposium
"Biosystematiek"
Amsterdam, 14 en 15 april

Heldere aspergesoep

Gegratineerde
céleris-hamschotel

Kalfsoester "Hawaienne"

diverse groenten

aardappelen

Plombière

Koffie

Wijn: Liebfraumilch
Côte de Beaune Villages



KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

the royal netherlands
academy of sciences
and letters

**ITS task
history and
ORGANIZATION**



INSTITUUT VOOR DE TROPEN
MAURITSKADE 63

Maandag 14 april 1969

- 10.00 uur Gelegenheid tot koffiedrinken
10.30 " Prof.dr. J. Lever, : Opening
Voorzitter Biologische Raad
10.35 " Prof.dr. K.H. Voous (Amsterdam): Inleiding
11.05 " Prof.dr. R. Hegnauer (Leiden): Chemotaxonomie en biosyste-
matiek
11.55 " Drs. J. van der Land (Leiden): Systematiek en verwantschap
van de wormenphyla
12.45 " Lunchpauze
14.15 " Dr. J.J. Barkman (Wijster): Taxonomie en oecologie
15.05 " Prof.dr. D.J. Rogers (Boulder, U.S.A.): The aims, successes
and shortcomings of numerical
taxonomy
15.55 " Gelegenheid tot theedrinken

Dinsdag 15 april 1969

- 10.00 uur Gelegenheid tot koffiedrinken
10.30 " Dr. T.W.J. Gadella (Utrecht): Chromosomale aspecten van de
biosystematiek
11.20 " Prof.dr. J. de Ley (Gent): Nieuwe aspecten van de systematiek
der bacteriën
12.10 " Prof.dr. G.P. Baerends (Groningen): De bruikbaarheid van
ethologische kenmerken voor de
zoölogische systematiek
13.00 " Lunchpauze
14.30 " Dr. J.T. Wiebes (Leiden): Vijgen en vijgewespen, een voor-
beeld van biosystematisch onder-
zoek aan een symbiose
15.20 " Prof.dr. F.A. Stafleu (Utrecht): Het biosystematisch patroon
anno 1969
16.10 " Prof.dr. H.F. Linskens, : Sluiting
Voorzitter Kon. Ned. Bot. Ver.
16.15 " Gelegenheid tot theedrinken

THE AIMS, SUCCESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS OF NUMERICAL TAXONOMY

1. I honestly shouldn't give this talk --not a numerical taxonomist; don't know what should or should not be included in the definition.
DEFINITION: A variety of talents in this audience; some mathematically (or statistically) oriented, others "computerniks," others even taxonomists. Since each comes with a special vocabulary, I will try to speak in one best known to me -- taxonomy.
2. Rather, a taxonomist interested in the science; prefer, therefore, to call myself (or my efforts) taximetrics.
3. This indicates a concern for use of taxonomic rules to guide development of models and programs.
4. Turns, then, on the role of the taxonomist, his need to provide a clear understanding of working processes. Description of activities becomes essential.
5. The 2 kinds of biological work - analysis and synthesis.
Differences between two
Taxonomy, generally of 2nd type -- also evolution and some types of ecology. What implications here?
6. The parts of taxonomic endeavor.
 - a) "Formal" taxonomy--names, rules for, reporting or results, keys, lists of species or other taxa.
 - b) Classifications--break down into step-wise process - data gathering, data analysis, similarity measures, clustering.
Each step requires its own type of rules, math and programming.
 - c) Evolutionary studies

7. Important feature, then, is to put the substantive scientist, with his special knowledge, in a central role, rather than replace.

Historical antecedents and developments

1. Pre-computer - binomial names, dichotomous keys

- a) Telegraphic descriptions, museum storage of specimens, all significant to think about - methods -
Hierarchical, (nested box) organization; non-overlapping sets; partitions
- b) E. Anderson's non-metric methods in introgressive hybrids
Methods of description parallel very closely present procedures for describing input - Simple graphs
- c) Work in biological statistical analysis - much generated by agricultural statisticians
- d) Anthropometric analyses
- e) Work of George Boole, Cantor, Godel, Church, Turing, Von Neumann in math paved way for use of computing machines

2. Computer-age developments - biology - direct on Taxonomy

Sewell Wright and Genetics input, but not yet coincident

English work - PHA Sneath, bacteriology

Williams and Lambert, ecology (later in Australia)

Jeffrey, statistics - factor analysis

Russians - who knows?

Italian - Capali, Sforza, Silvestri

German - no large role

Belgian

U. S. -Kansas

School started by C. D. Michner

1957 - Michener and Sokal, first to surface

Sokal, with Sneath, developed school of statistically oriented

First use of "numerical taxonomy"

Express purpose: "objectifying the taxonomist - a breathless,
get-with-it, you're dead unless school

Still a nebulous definition of what it includes (or excludes)

Other efforts - ours

Many others now beginning - want to know how

Future Potential

No question that these investigations tend to involve more people

But how well? Depends on kinds of work we're willing to do.

Effects - on biological thought processes and methods

on math itself, as more and more stimuli come from us

on procedures in libraries, museums, etc.

April 1969

Dr. David J. Rogers
Taximetrics Laboratory, Biol. Dept.
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado 80302

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TAXIMETRICS LABORATORY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
ARMORY 101
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER, COLORADO 80302

April 1969

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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
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April 1969

The Aims, Successes and Shortcomings of Numerical Taxonomy

ABSTRACT

From one person's point-of-view, the aims are as follows: (1) to examine the theoretical bases of taxonomy, (2) to consider as an important objective of taxonomy the production of more information-carrying classifications, and (3) to make more precise the several processes of subdisciplines of taxonomy.

The successes of numerical taxonomy are (in part): the forceful and vigorous reexamination of the basic structure and procedures of taxonomy and the production of several meaningful methodologies employing computing machines in support of taxonomic endeavors.

The shortcomings of numerical taxonomy are (in part): Failure to incorporate the necessary mathematical disciplines; failure to fully appreciate the values extant in taxonomy (orthodox, classical or intuitive); and failure to sufficiently understand the working of computing machines.

26 March 1969

Dr. Frans Stafleu
International Association for Plant Taxonomy
406 Lange Nieuwstraat
Utrecht, Netherlands

Dear Frans:

It seems for now that I shall arrive at Schiphol from Paris via Finnair #854 at 4:50 P.M. on April 12. I hope there will be at least some way to communicate with you, or to have someone there to tell me about final reservations in Amsterdam.

I am very much looking forward to my stay in Holland.

Sincerely,

David J. Rogers

DJR:gm

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

KLOVENIERSBURGWAL 29 - TELEFOON 0 20 - 22 29 02 (7 LIJNEN) - AMSTERDAM-C.

DATUM: March 6, 1969

Professor D.J. Rogers,
Taximetrics Laboratory,
Department of Biology,
Armory 101,
University of Colorado,
Boulder, Colo 80302 - U.S.A.

Dear Professor Rogers,

Professor Stafleu has asked me to change the reservation in the American Hotel. The reservation now is as follows.

One double room, Saturday, April 12 - Wednesday, April 16 for Mrs. Rogers and yourself;

One single room, Sunday, April 13 - Wednesday, April 16 for Mr. Estabrook.

Yours sincerely,

D.E. van Beusekom
D.E. van Beusekom

*Write to change to single
for me - leave Geo's as
is - same dates.*

12 March 1969

Mr. D. E. van Beusekom
Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen
Kloveniersburgwal 29
Amsterdam-C, Netherlands

Dear Mr. van Beusekom:

I appreciate very much the trouble you have taken with regard to our hotel reservations, and I must ask you to make one more change. Mrs. Rogers will be unable to accompany me, so that a single room is all I will need. The dates, April 12 - 16, remain the same. (American Hotel)

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

DJR:gm

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

KLOVENIERSBURGWAL 29 - TELEFOON 0 20 - 22 29 02 (7 LIJNEN) - AMSTERDAM-C.

DATUM: February 18th, 1969

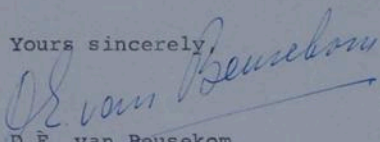
Prof. David J. Rogers
Taximetrics Laboratory
Department of Biology
Armory 101
University of Colorado
BOULDER, Colo. 80302 - U.S.A.

Dear Professor Rogers,

At the request of Professor Stafleu I reserved a room for you from Sunday, April 13th - Thursday, April 17 in the American Hotel, Leidsekade 97, Amsterdam, tel. 245322. Although the name of this hotel may lead you to believe otherwise, it certainly is a Dutch type hotel.

I hope this arrangement will meet with your approval.

Yours sincerely


D.E. van Beusekom

cc. Prof. Stafleu

18 February 1869

Dr. Frans Stafleu
International Association for Plant Taxonomy
106 Lange Nieuwstraat
Utrecht, Netherlands

Dear Frans:

I have made a few changes now to accomodate the meeting time in Amsterdam. These changes are as follows:

1. I will arrive from Marseille in Amsterdam on Saturday, April 12.
2. My wife will accompany me, and therefore we will need a room for two in Amsterdam.
3. My wife will leave Amsterdam on Tuesday, April 15. I will stay through Wednesday, April 16.
4. George Estabrook, the mathematician on our staff, will be arriving in Amsterdam by ~~Monday~~, April 13. He would appreciate an hotel reservation for Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights, April 13, 14, and 15.

We are looking forward to seeing you and to the opportunity to meet with the Dutch systematics community.

Sincerely,

David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

DJR:gm

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT TAXONOMY

Office:
International Bureau for Plant Taxonomy
and Nomenclature
106 Lange Nieuwstraat
Utrecht
(Netherlands)

UTRECHT, 11 February 19 69.

Bankers: Messrs Vlaer & Kol, Utrecht
Telephone: 030-15891

Professor David J. Rogers
Taximetrics Laboratory
Department of Biology
Armory 101
University of Colorado
BOULDER, Colo. 80302 - U.S.A.

Dear Dave,

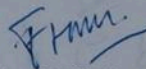
Many thanks for your letter and for your summary. Everything is in order, everybody awaits you. I hope you can arrive at Schiphol on Sunday, April 13th, rather than on the Monday because the symposium starts on Monday morning. You are scheduled to speak on Monday afternoon around 4 p.m.

Please let us know the time and hour of your arrival at Schiphol on the Sunday. I am forwarding your letter to Miss van Beusekom of the Biological Council who will make a hotel reservation for you. She will find you a more Dutch type hotel and will avoid the Hilton and the Apollo. I presume that she will write to you very soon.

It will be wonderful to have you here.

All the best,

yours sincerely,


F.A. Stafleu.

M to Paris # 702

Paris to Amsterdam

M

Taximetrics Laboratory

Armory 101

4 February 1969

Dr. F. A. Stafleu
International Association for Plant Taxonomy
106 Lange Nieuwstraat
Utrecht, Netherlands

Dear Frans:

I hope that everything is still in order for us to present a paper to the symposium for the Dutch Taxonomic community and that my plans to be in Amsterdam on April 14 and to leave on April 17 fall within the time when your meeting is to be held. Tentatively I have scheduled my arrival in Amsterdam on April 14 at 1:20 PM on Air France Flight 912. Please let me know as soon as you can if these days are satisfactory. My dates of arrival and departure can be moved. I can arrive on Sunday, the 13th, if necessary, or depart a day later on the 18th.

George Estabrook is planning to deliver the seminar at Nijmegen University with the technical discussion mentioned in your letter of 12 November.

I enclose herewith a title and a set of topics which I will cover in my presentation. The title is the one which you suggested and I find it appropriate to speak in those terms. I do not anticipate any need for projection equipment for my talk.

Since I have no idea about hotel arrangements in Amsterdam I will be pleased to have you make a reservation for me. I do not care to stay in a fancy American-type tourist hotel, but would rather get one which you might select for yourself. May I ask your assistance to make these necessary arrangements for me?

Looking forward to a prompt reply, so we may make our plans more precise.

Sincerely,

David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

DBB:gm
Enc.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT TAXONOMY

Office:
International Bureau for Plant Taxonomy
and Nomenclature
106 Lange Nieuwstraat
Utrecht
(Netherlands)

UTRECHT, 12 November 1968

Bankers: Messrs Vlaer & Kol, Utrecht
Telephone: 030-15891

Professor David J. Rogers
Taximetrics Laboratory
Department of Biology
Amory 101
Boulder, Colorado 80302 - U.S.A.

Dear Dave,

I had to wait a few days before answering your letter because I wanted to do some "organizing". You will understand that I am delighted that you will come to Holland and that you are willing to talk on your special subject.

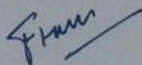
It so happens that the entire Dutch taxonomic community (zoological as well as botanical and microbiological) will convene in Amsterdam for a symposium sponsored by our biological societies and the Biological Council of the Academy of Sciences of the Netherlands. The theme of this symposium is 'Systematics today' and we try for the first time to bring Dutch systematists together in the same way as you in the United States did in 1967 at Ann Arbor. On behalf of the organizing committee I invite you to participate in this symposium and to give a paper (40-45 minutes) on the aims, successes and shortcomings of numerical taxonomy (this is not a title of course). We have no numerical taxonomy to speak of here in the Netherlands but we are all very much interested. The paper should be general and not too mathematical and should preferably touch upon the broad issues of handling taxonomic information with computers. We can offer you travelling expenses from Marseilles and back as well as living expenses (US \$ 25.= a day) in Amsterdam for the duration of your stay. We cannot - alas- offer a honorarium, but the apostles in the early middle ages did not ask for that either (a meagre consolation).

You could do Dutch taxonomy a great service in presenting us with an up to date picture of these modern methods and I very much hope that you are willing to accept our invitation.

In addition to this I think you will receive an invitation from Nijmegen University to give a seminar which can be more technical (the audience will have some mathematical background).

With all good wishes,

yours sincerely,



F.A. Stafleu.

24 October 1968

Dr. F. A. Stafleu
106 Lange Nieuwstraat
Utrecht, Netherland

Dear Dr. Stafleu:

I am looking forward to a trip to France on April 7 - 12, 1969, to attend the International Symposium on the Use of Computers in Archeology in Marseille. After the meeting I would like to have an opportunity to visit you in Utrecht. I would be willing during this visit to give a seminar on Computerized Information Retrieval for Biology, if you are interested and it can be arranged. Please let me know if sometime after the 12th April is a good time, and if this is an agreeable offer.

Sincerely yours,

David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

DJR:gm

25 November 1968

Dr. F. A. Stafleu
International Association for Plant Taxonomy
106 Lange Nieuwstraat
Utrecht, Netherlands

Dear Frans:

I am very pleased to have the invitation to participate in your symposium "Systematics Today." I will give you more details of the title and an abstract of my remarks soon.

I am hoping to have with me George Estabrook whose papers you have already seen, who might be considered to help with the presenting the talk to the members of the Nijmegen University faculty. However, Mr. Estabrook's participation still depends on our finding some funds for his travel. As soon as we can, we will let you know whether Mr. Estabrook will be coming along or not.

Once again thank you for your invitation. I am honored by it.

Sincerely yours,

David J. Rogers
Professor of Biology

DJR:gm

INSTITUUT VOOR DE TROPEN
MAURITSKADE 63

Maandag 14 april 1969

- 10.00 uur Gelegenheid tot koffiedrinken
10.30 " Prof.dr. J. Lever, : Opening
Voorzitter Biologische Raad
10.35 " Prof.dr. K.H. Voous (Amsterdam): Inleiding
11.05 " Prof.dr. R. Hegnauer (Leiden): Chemotaxonomie en biosyste-
matiek
11.55 " Drs. J. van der Land (Leiden): Systematiek en verwantschap
van de wormenphyla
12.45 " Lunchpauze
14.15 " Dr. J.J. Barkman (Wijster): Taxonomie en oecologie
15.05 " Prof.dr. D.J. Rogers (Boulder, U.S.A.): The aims, successes
and shortcomings of numerical
taxonomy
15.55 " Gelegenheid tot theedrinken

Dinsdag 15 april 1969

- 10.00 uur Gelegenheid tot koffiedrinken
10.30 " Dr. T.W.J. Gadella (Utrecht): Chromosomale aspecten van de
biosystematiek
11.20 " Prof.dr. J. de Ley (Gent): Nieuwe aspecten van de systematiek
der bacteriën
12.10 " Prof.dr. G.P. Baerends (Groningen): De bruikbaarheid van
ethologische kenmerken voor de
zoölogische systematiek
13.00 " Lunchpauze
14.30 " Dr. J.T. Wiebes (Leiden): Vijgen en vijgewespen, een voor-
beeld van biosystematisch onder-
zoek aan een symbiose
15.20 " Prof.dr. F.A. Stafleu (Utrecht): Het biosystematisch patroon
anno 1969
16.10 " Prof.dr. H.F. Linskens, : Sluiting
Voorzitter Kon. Ned. Bot. Ver.
16.15 " Gelegenheid tot theedrinken