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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.



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (BOTANY) • NELSON BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY
P.O. BOX 1059 • PISCATAWAY • NEW JERSEY 08854

August 17, 1982

Prof. C. H. Muller
Department of Botany
University of Texas
Austin, Texas 78712

Dear Neil:

Thank you for your letter of July 13 and all the information contained within related to Quercus. It was a great letter even with the delay.

I saw you in the audience at AIBS when Kevin Nixon gave his very interesting paper on Nothofagus. This genus I have a great research interest in also.

Baki Kasapligil was working in our herbarium yesterday, since he was in New Brunswick visiting a friend for 2 days.

Dr. Y.S. Lee (Korea) and I have submitted a joint grant to study the proteins of selected species of American and Asian Quercus. We have selected species from diverse subgenera and sections, as we want to consider the systematics and evolution of the groupings first.

We have selected species to establish protein profiles within the genus, or protein groupings within the genus. Our pilot experiments indicate we can do such protein work within the genus using pollen.

The present grant is a request to provide aid to work out all the techniques and compare the various types of obtained data. We have decided upon enough species from North America and Asia to establish profiles (protein groupings) after going through these species and obtaining profiles, in future years we can add more and more species and establish similarities based on proteins (electrophoresis, serology). By using several systems we can cross check our information, and over a period of time work on many species. We can not do the whole genus in two years, but we can establish the basic plan and schemes. Then in future years we or others can hang on more and more species and enlarge the information source.

At this early stage we do not want to study specific species problems or hybrid problems in detail. After we establish a base protein scheme, we can go after specific species and relationship problems brought to our attention from other data from other disciplines.

Having worked in chemosystematics for 25 years, I have learned the step wise sequence to follow to tackle large groups and complex problems. The genus Quercus is a large and a complex group.

Now that we are getting into Quercus it is important that we have more and more contact with other Quercus "freaks".

Aug 17, 1982

Prof. C. H. Muller

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I do hope N.S.F. will fund our request and let us go ahead with a very important and interesting project. Our pilot experiments indicate good data is very feasible for the genus.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Tucker to introduce our planned research to him.

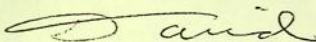
The time is "ripe" for some protein research in Quercus, and our recent research with pollen of other genera has set the path for us to proceed with Quercus.

Dr. Petersen and I reported some of our very preliminary findings for Quercus proteins at AIBS. We plan to test 12-15 enzyme systems. The serological findings, even if preliminary, also show great promise.

If others are interested, please feel free to show them this letter, so again contact is made with the interested researchers.

I wanted to talk to you at AIBS, but our paths did not pass, other than during Nixon's paper, and you left that session before I got your ear.

Sincerely yours,



David E. Fairbrothers
Professor of Botany
and
Director of Chrysler Herbarium

P.S. As we move along in the future obtaining pollen of s.w. and western oaks will become essential. The chance to work with American and Asian oaks seemed like a fantastic opportunity to me for a starting point.

cc. J. Tucker, B. Kasapligil

DEF:jm



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Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation August 31, 1982

Dr. Baki Kasıplıgil
Mills College
P.O. Box 9949
Biology Department
Oakland, California 94613

Dear Baki:

As I wrote the above date, I realized that summer was fast coming to an end, and a new semester will be starting next week.

I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed discussing research during your recent visit to the east coast. Be sure and visit with us upon future visits to the eastern U.S. I was also pleased to learn we had many common research interests as to plant groups.

I wanted to inform you that the reprints you sent arrived today, and they will be most valuable for our research. John Tucker recently sent me the reprints I spoke to you about during our conversation in my office.

I will be in contact about the collection of Quercus pollen for our research, as we discussed during our recent visit together.

I have not made contact with Armen Takhtajan to date, but do hope we see each other before his return to the U.S.S.R. in early September.

I was pleased I could locate Barbara Palser and bring her to you for a short visit before you left our campus.

Do not forget the oak symposium at AIBS next year. When I hear of more details, I will be in contact with you, and help you be informed.

Good oak hunting!

Sincerely,

David E. Fairbrothers
Professor of Botany
and
Curator of Chrysler Herbarium

DEF:jm