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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.

Criticism of Paper by Messrs. Cridland and Morris

In general, this seems to be a very interesting and well put-together paper. My criticisms of it concern technical matters that can be easily corrected by the authors. Regarding the nomenclatural matter I shall describe shortly, I would not approve the paper for publication unless the situation is dealt with satisfactorily.

Specific comments:

A. Nomenclature: If Göppert's Taeniopteris coriacea is infertile, which is the way C. & M.'s paper reads, there is no justification for regarding this as a transfer--Spermopteris coriacea (Göpp.) Cridland and Morris. If Göppert's T. coriacea was fertile, and C. & M. are indicating that it should be taken out of Taeniopteris, the transfer is all right, but C. & M. should be much more specific in this. If, as I read the paper, Göppert's Taeniopteris coriacea was an infertile species of the form genus Taeniopteris, and C. & M. are arguing that their new specimens should be considered distinct from this because they are fertile, the new entity requires a new specific name. It can be coriacea but would be Spermopteris coriacea C. & M., gen. et sp. nov. Göppert's T. coriacea, if sterile, cannot be assumed to have anything to do with this new taxon.

It is clear from the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, as modified in Montreal, that one can continue to use both names in cases such as this, depending on what one is discussing. In this instance, it could be Taeniopteris coriacea Göpp. or Spermopteris _____ C. & M., depending on whether one is writing about Paleozoic fern frond form genera or the pteridosperms.

If the change I have called for is necessary (which hinges on the fertility of T. coriacea), some rewriting of the text will be required. One of the available specimens will be designated the holotype for the species, etc.

B. Stratigraphy: It must be possible to do better than Upper Pennsylvanian Series. Des Moines? Virgil? It would be better to come even closer. Besides, the Pennsylvanian is a System, not a Series.

C. Punctuation: This is really an editorial matter, but the punctuation could be improved in a few places. For example, on p. 4, line 9 ff., a number of commas are required.

D. Spelling, etc.: p. 7, last line: separate...from
p. 5, l. 3: appressed

April 8, 1960

Dr. Harold C. Bold, Editor
American Journal of Botany
Department of Botany
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Harold:

Enclosed is my review of the Cridland and Morris
paper.

Glad to have been of help, if it has been any.

Yours with best wishes,



Alfred Traverse

AT:pjd

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

Comments on paper by Shokry I. Saad

This paper should bear the title, "Pollen morphology of *Ctenolophon*", or something of the sort. The present title implies that the study is far more than it is. After all, there really is little in the paper about taxonomy, no more than one might expect in a paper on the morphology of the pollen of some genus.

The group of persons here who have read the paper are of the opinion that this is in no sense an acceptable study of the morphology of the pollen in the genus in question. The pollen has neither been thoroughly investigated nor properly illustrated (the illustrations are not prevaillingly of professional caliber). The main conclusions that the author reaches about the nature of the wall of the pollen of *Ctenolophon* are so novel that they would have to be supported by much better photomicrographs of much better thin sections perhaps stained in some critical fashion to bring out the author's contention that the outer part of the wall is not exine but perine. The author's argument in the text is just as unconvincing as his photos. He says that this outer layer is not rooted in the exine as part of his proof that the outer layer is not exine. This strikes us as obviously assuming what he wishes to prove and then using the assumed fact to "prove" his point.

Although because of the unacceptability of the work as a whole, we feel it largely beside the point, the paper has many errors that would have to be corrected, such as:

- p. 1 & bibliography: Hallier (ref.?)
- p. 1 & " : Exell & Mendonca (ref.?)
- p. 1 & bibliography: reference should not be to Waterbolck but to Kuyt, Muller and Waterbolck.
- p. 2, l. 5: should be singular: acetolysis
- p. 2, l. 11: must say how many colpi, not just colpi
- p. 3: if a new layer, the medina, is to be introduced to palynological terminology, it deserves more explanation than is given here!
- p. 5: the author says that "consequently the outer layer of...etc." But we do not see what this is consequent from.
- p. 6: the exact origin of the hairs in question should certainly be given--from the anthers or what?
- p. 6: l. 13: much more closely....?
- p. 7: literature cited: there are a number of obvious errors here, suggesting that the whole thing should be checked. For example, the last paper listed gives the authors in the wrong sequence! Ridley's citation is inadequate, etc.

Comments on paper by Sherry I. Saad

This paper should bear the title, "Pollen morphology of *Stenolophos*", or something of the sort. The present title implies that the study is far more than it is. After all, there really is little in the paper about taxonomy, no more than one might expect in a paper on the morphology of the pollen of some genus.

The group of persons here who have 12 June, 1961 are of the opinion that this is in no sense an acceptable study of the morphology of the pollen in the genus in question. The pollen has neither been thoroughly investigated nor properly illustrated (the illustrations are not prevailingly of professional caliber). The main conclusions that the author reaches about the nature of the wall of the pollen of *Stenolophos* are so novel that they would have to be supported by much better photomicrographs of such better thin sections perhaps stained in some critical fashion to bring out the author's contention that the outer part of the wall is not exine but perine. The author's argument in the text is just as unconvincing as his photos. He says that not rooted in the exine as part of his exine. This strikes us as a failure to prove and then using 'prove' his point.

✓ Dr. Harold C. Bold
✓ Editor, American Journal of Botany
Department of Botany
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Harold:

I know that must begin to seem as if I am an old witch, but this paper by Saad is the last straw! Drs. Schemel, Gutjahr and Traverse have all read it critically and are agreed that there is no excuse for publishing the thing. It might just possibly pass muster for the journal of some junior academy of sciences, though I doubt it.

We strongly suspect that the paper either has already been rejected by Palynologie, I mean Pollen et Spores and is not even thought to be up to the quality of Erdtman's own journal, Grana Palynologica.

You are on the spot. If you publish this thing, it will be a black eye for the A. J. B....can't you find an out such as that we don't publish for non-members, or something?

Best wishes.

Yours as ever,

Alfred Traverse

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AUSTIN 12

August 2, 1962

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Shell Development Company
2525 Bel Aire Boulevard
Houston, Texas

Dear Al:

As time permitted since your telephone call last week, I have been investigating the possibility of finding you some space for use during your residence in Austin. As I told you in anticipation on the telephone, a request for space is really more difficult to satisfy than a request for money insofar as the Department of Botany is concerned! We have on tap for next Fall a Staff of 15 people of professorial rank or the equivalent, 44 graduate students and 12 post-doctorate personnel, not to mention various ancillary characters who support those already cited. To make a long story short, there simply is no possibility of my finding you any sort of a little office or even one that you could share with someone--because we have two, three, and even four people in what normally should be one person's office. I have called Dr. Clabaugh, the new Chairman of the Geology Department, who reports a similar situation.

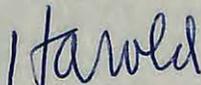
The only thing I can suggest is this. We have a series of closets or cabinets in the second floor corridor, one of which I could have emptied to store some of your things. In addition, in the laboratory in Room 219, I could make available 4 fairly good-sized drawers. Then, if and when you had opportunity to work, you could use one of the microscopes in the teaching laboratory which should be free in the evenings when I assume you would work. I am sorry not to be able to come up with a better suggestion, and even so, the closet space I mentioned will not be available until mid September.

I have one further suggestion, Why do you not write to Professor P. T. Flawn, who is Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at 18th and Red River, Austin. It is just possible he may be able to find quarters for you.

I will be out of the city from August 19th until some time the first week of September.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,



Harold C. Bold

HCB:ce

Box 1501, Substation B
Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tenn.
Jan. 9, 1957

To Section Secretaries
Botanical Society of America, Inc.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am at present engaged in preparing copy
for a new edition of the Yearbook to cover 1955-56.
My files do not contain the names of the section
secretaries (I have the chairmen) for 1954. Will you
kindly get these for me from your files and send them
at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Harold C. Bold

Harold C. Bold, Secretary
Botanical Society of America

HCB:B

January 16, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Secretary, B. S. A.
Box 1501, Substation B
Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Bold:

In response to yours of 9 January, the Secretary-
Treasurer of the Paleobotanical Section for 1954 was
Dr. Sergius H. Mamay.

Yours truly,


Alfred Traverse, Secretary
Paleobotanical Section

AT:rb

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

February 14, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Botanical Society of America
Box 1501, Substation B
Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Bold:

With reference to your letter of February 11 to the Section secretaries, our Section will not require abstracts, nor are there other instructions for our papers. I have made a note of the necessity of contacting Dr. Steere when our program has gelled.

This would be an appropriate time to inform you of the death of our Section's chairman, Professor J. H. Hoskins, last Friday, February 8. According to our by-laws, this means that I am chairman as well as secretary of the Section until the Stanford meetings. I don't know what official steps are necessitated, but you will know and can inform me. Practically speaking, this changes nothing, since I had been performing the Chairman's duties since his heart attack last October.

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse, Secretary
Paleobotanical Section, B. S. A.

AT:rig

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

March 8, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Secretary, B.S.A.
Box 1501
Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Bold:

In connection with preparation of a statement on the history of the Paleobotanical Section, I need to see the minutes of the Council and of the Society for the years 1935-1937. Can this be arranged? They could be sent to me by registered mail and returned the same way.

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse, Secretary
Paleobotanical Section, B.S.A.

AT:rlg

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Box 1501, Substation B
Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tenn.
March 26, 1957

To the Members of the Council
Botanical Society of America, Inc.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Society you are asked at this time to nominate three members as candidates to serve on the Editorial Committee. These are to be added to the names suggested by the Editor, which are as follows (alphabetical order):

Reed C. Rollins, Harvard University
Rogers McVaugh, University of Michigan
Ralph Wetmore, Harvard University

Please send me your three suggestions, listed in order of preference, before May 18, 1957. From your lists I will select the three whose names will appear on the second nominating ballot to be mailed to the membership early in June.

The question of publishing abstracts of papers presented at the Annual Meeting has again been raised. At present, only the Physiological and General Sections, of the seven sections of the Society, require and distribute abstracts. These are circulated in advance of the meetings. Should abstracts of all papers to be presented at the Annual Meetings be circulated to all the membership in advance of the meetings, or after the meetings? I think this question should be considered at the Council meeting in August. Would it be the Council's thinking that a committee be appointed to consider this question and report to the Council in August?

Sincerely yours,

Harold C. Bold, Secretary

HCB:B

March 26, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold, Secretary
Botanical Society of America
Box 1501
Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Bold:

Thanks for sending along the minutes of the Council, I have abstracted the material that I needed and have sent the book back to you by registered mail.

Unfortunately, it appears that I shall also have to see the next volume of the minutes (1938-1942, or whatever period is represented). Would you send me this volume also?

Glad to hear that you'll be in Austin. As you may know, the geology department there have recently added a paleobotanist to their staff, Jane Gray. She's a very good scientist.

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse

AT:rlg

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

April 2, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold, Secretary
Botanical Society of America
Box 1501, Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Dr. Bold:

Thanks for the further number of the minutes of the Council. I have perused them and am returning them the same way that they were sent.

I didn't find much of interest. What I have been looking for is information about the founding of the Paleobotanical Section. In the previous book, the Council minutes for 1935-36 showed that it had been announced that the ~~purpose~~ purpose for formation of a paleobotanical section was approved. As far as I can find there is no further mention of the authorization for the Section. When it is next mentioned, in 1949, the Section is a going concern.

I wonder if the place to look would be the minutes of the business meetings of the Society? Would you glance at those for 1935-1938 and see what you can find for me? I hesitate to ask you to underwrite the postoffice still more by sending the required book.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse, Secretary
Paleobotanical Section

AT:rlg

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

April 5, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Box 1501, Substation B
Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Harold:

In response to your letter of March 26, I nominate the following persons for the Editorial Committee:

Henry N. Andrews, Jr. - Washington University

Theodor Just - Chicago Museum of Natural History

Wilson N. Stewart - University of Illinois

You did not say whether the tradition is to request permission of these people before nominating them. I have not done so. I should think anybody elected would be happy to serve but would appreciate being informed if I should let the nominees know that they have been nominated.

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse, Chairman pro tem
Paleobotanical Section

AT:rlg

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

May 1, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold, Secretary
Botanical Society of America
Box 1501, Vanderbilt University
Nashville 5, Tennessee

Dear Harold:

I can see no objection to polling the membership on the question of abstracts. At the time of the poll it would doubtless be a good idea to mention explicitly the possibility of an increase in dues following from publication of abstracts.

Our Section, from what I can find out, has been lukewarm on the subject of abstracts. It seems to me that they do perform a function in helping people prep for the meetings. But, if the Society has abstracts, a separate B.S.A. program will have to be published. This will be a nuisance.

Yours very truly,


Alfred Traverse, Chairman pro tem
Paleobotanical Section, B.S.A.

AT:rlg

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division

September 10, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Botany Department
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

Dear Harold:

Minor problem that I had intended to take up with you or someone at the meetings: as you know, we have affiliate members in the paleo section. These are supposed, according to the by-laws, to get the "printed program of the B.S.A." Since A.I.B.S. took over the function of preparing our programs, the A.I.B.S. Bulletin is the only program circulated. Our affiliate members are not sent this. They also do not get the preliminary notices about the meetings, housing, etc. What can be done?

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse, Secretary
Paleobotanical Section, B.S.A.

AT:ml

Dr. Harold C. Bold

2

Would you note this and let me know if there is anything further I should do to make this official?

Very truly yours,



Alfred Traverse, Secretary
Paleobotanical Section, B.S.A.

AT:al

September 11, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Secretary, Botanical Society of America
Botany Department
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

Dear Harold:

Acting under the procedure set up in the by-laws, the Paleobotanical Section has amended certain of the Section's by-laws to read:

Art. II, No. 6: Candidates for office shall be presented by a nominating committee of three which shall be appointed by the chairman.

Art. II, No. 7: In event of inability of the chairman to perform his duties, or if the chairman vacates his office before expiration of his term, the secretary-treasurer shall serve as chairman pro tem until the election of a new chairman at the next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Section. A similar vacancy in the office of secretary-treasurer shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by appointment of the chairman.

Art. IV, No. 2, sentence 3: Names of members failing to respond to the membership questionnaire may be dropped from the membership roll at the discretion of the secretary-treasurer.

Art. IV, No. 3, sentence 3: The secretary-treasurer shall circularize the membership in the event of a special assessment; members in arrears after a period of six months shall again be notified and their names dropped from the list of members until the assessment is paid.

Art. IV, No. 4, sentence 3: Affiliates shall pay \$1.00 dues per annum, as well as all special assessments levied for the membership of the Section.

September 23, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold, Secretary
Botanical Society of America
Department of Botany
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Harold:

Still another piece of correspondence from the Paleo Section!
I guess I have not informed you of our officers for the current year,
elected at Stanford, although the minutes of the business meeting, of
which you received at least one copy, contain the information. The
current officers are:

Chairman: Dr. Sergius Mamay
Rm. 338, U. S. National Museum
Washington 25, D. C.

Secretary-Treasurer: A. Traverse

Representative on the Editorial Committee:
Dr. Wilson N. Stewart
Department of Botany
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse

AT:ml

November 1, 1957

Dr. Harold C. Bold, Secretary
Botanical Society of America
Department of Botany
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Harold:

Thought that I had taken care of this long ago, but can find no record of it, so, perhaps redundantly:

Chairman of the Paleobotanical Section, 1957-1958:

Dr. Sergius H. Mamay
U. S. Geological Survey, Washington

Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Alfred Traverse
Shell Development Co., Houston

Representative on the Editorial Committee, American Journal
of Botany:

Dr. Wilson N. Stewart
University of Illinois, Urbana

Very truly yours,


Alfred Traverse, Secretary
Paleobotanical Section

AT:ml

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division



SHELL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION RESEARCH DIVISION
3737 BELLAIRE BOULEVARD
HOUSTON 25, TEXAS

May 23, 1958

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Department of Botany
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Harold:

Enclosed is our program. There is (at least) one joker. The Fifth National Pollen Conference, which makes up our sessions 6 and 7, is co-sponsored by the Ecological Society. Dave Frey of Indiana is helping organize the program. Because of the fact that Frey is accepting papers up to May 30, the program as I am submitting it is not complete (he tells me that he still expects two or three more papers to be submitted). However, Frey is prominent in the local committee at Bloomington and says that he will be drawing up the A.I.B.S. program with Mrs. Stewart in Bloomington in June and that he will be personally responsible for inserting the required titles into our program, which seems okay to me.

Glad you thought of encouraging friend Graham to give a paper. He should profit by the experience.

Can you provide me with a small supply of application forms for B.S.A.?

Looking forward to seeing you one of these months.

Very truly yours,

Alfred Traverse, Secretary
Paleobotanical Section, B.S.A.

AT:ml

Enclosure

cc: Professor David Frey ✓
cc: Dr. Sergius H. Mamay

October 23, 1958

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Editor, American Journal of Botany
Department of Botany
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Harold:

I have read Dr. Mamay's paper with considerable interest. Asking the editorial committee to make allowances for the fact that I am not an algalogist or invertebrate paleontologist, I would say this is a very good paper on an interesting and important subject. The paper will be of interest to many persons who would not ordinarily open the covers of A.J.B. I find the paper well written, well illustrated and well organized. (I have had one of our staff members who is well versed in fossil algae read the paper, and he says it is very good.)

In fact, there is only one thing in the paper about which I am unhappy - and I am very unhappy indeed about that. It seems to me most unfortunate that much of paleobotany is based on study of samples the stratigraphic and geographic locations of which are sketchily known. The samples on which Dr. Mamay's paper is based provide a good example of what I mean.

Dr. Mamay should provide exact geographic location, as to township, range, section, etc. This might become an important site, who knows how long hence. Township and range figures will probably be useful long after "a slope mine owned by Joseph Lemont" is a forgotten phrase. I am sure this information can be provided for the samples. If the paper by Hendricks that Mamay cites gives the location in formation, that should be made clear.

The stratigraphy may now be difficult to get at, but I do not like a potentially important locality to be dismissed stratigraphically by a statement, "Mr. Lemont informed me that the limestone overlay the coal directly." The paper should give a stratigraphic section of the locality. Could the information perhaps be obtained from the Oklahoma Geological Survey?

At least, I should like to suggest that the U. S. Geological Survey insist that its collectors obtain adequate field data on samples and that its paleobotanists include a sufficient presentation of the geological setting in their papers.

Grade: B

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF BOTANY

Office of the Editor
Department of Botany
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

October ¹⁰ 1958

Dr. Alfred Traverse
Shell Development Company
3737 Bellaire Blvd.
Houston 25, Texas

Dear Dr. Traverse:

I am enclosing herewith the manuscript that you have agreed to review for the American Journal of Botany, namely:

"Litostroma, a new genus of problematical algae from the Pennsylvanian of Oklahoma," by Sergius H. Mamay.

The Editorial Committee will be very grateful for your opinion regarding the suitability of this paper for publication in the Journal. The author, of course, will appreciate a prompt decision concerning his paper. Four weeks are ordinarily considered an adequate period for completing a review. Most reviewers return the papers sooner.

Please furnish two copies of your specific criticisms or suggestions, one of these to be an unsigned copy that will be forwarded to the author. Also, kindly grade the paper A, B, C, D, or E, but be sure that your grade does not appear on the copy which is to be sent to the author. The accompanying sheet may be of help in your work of reviewing the paper.

Please return the paper in the enclosed Manila envelope, already stamped and addressed to me.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Harold C. Bold

Harold C. Bold
Editor

February 27, 1959

Dr. Harold C. Bold
Botany Department
University of Texas
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Harold:

On the subject which we discussed yesterday: I think that Scott is the better prospect of the two I mentioned to you. I should probably tell you that he didn't like the way the feeler from Texas was handled when he was offered the job that Jane G. had. Hence, it would be wise to make it plain if you approach him that this is an entirely different job. Just as a wild guess, I would say he gets about \$10,000 in his present job. He liked the university life I think and might be willing to consider a change. He's a terrific lecturer as paleobotanists go and his research is topnotch.

Aside from the big names, who are as well known to you as to me, there are precious few to add to the brief list. One possibility might be J. S. Lowther, Department of Geology, College of Puget Sound, Tacoma 6, Washington. He might consider this a promotion. He's a student of Arnold's, and I would presume to have enough anatomy to do the job for you, but I really don't know that. I think he considers himself more of a geological-paleobotanist.

I really feel that Scott and Felix are your best bets. Either one of them could do the job, but Scott is the better qualified.

Very truly yours,



Alfred Traverse

AT:mpd

Shell Development Company
Exploration and Production Research Division