

ISCE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4, No. 2, September, 1987

International Society of Chemical Ecology

From the Editor

At the July meeting, I officially took over as secretary of the Society and editor of the newsletter. I would like to thank Eloy Rodriguez on behalf of all of us in the Society for the job he has done as editor of the newsletter. Eloy shepherded the newsletter through its first years of publication and ensured that it was established with a firm foundation and a professional look.

The change in editorial leadership has provided an opportunity to reflect on how we can continue to improve our service to the membership through the newsletter. There have been a number of requests from our members regarding the newsletter. The most frequent request has been for more issues. Members making this request have pointed out that the newsletter is the major means of communicating between annual meetings and that the Society needs to communicate with its members more than twice a year. I agree and so beginning with this issue, the number of annual issues will be increased from two to three. The issues will be published in September, January, and May.

Along with requests for more frequent newsletter publication, members have given many ideas for columns. I will try to implement these. However, for the newsletter to maximize its function as a conduit of information for members, there must be input from the membership. I ask each of you to keep this in mind and to consider sending information that you feel might be of interest to others in the Society. The information may take the form of a few sentences about a newly published book that you have read, a meeting announcement, an award you have received, employment opportunities, opinions on issues regarding the field of chemical ecology, and so forth. I shall look forward to receiving the input and passing it along to members in the newsletter.

Nancy M. Targett

President's Message

I wish to thank everyone who attended the 4th Annual ISCE meeting at Hull for their contributions and helpful cooperation.

During the meeting the executive committee and council spent a long time discussing the reports of the executive committee and the plans and proposals put forward by President Jean Langenheim. Jean has put a lot of thought and effort into ensuring that the Society goes forward from strength to strength, and we can be very grateful and pleased that she was prepared to do this. As you will see on p. 2 of the newsletter, we now have several committees charged with fund raising, future meetings, awards (travel, society medal, etc.)

The effectiveness of these committees depends largely on the enthusiasm of their members. The aim is to involve as many members as possible in the running of the Society so that the burden laid on any individual is a reasonable one. Nancy Targett as secretary and Jim Nation as treasurer obviously have more to do than most, and we can be grateful to them both for the readiness with which they agreed to look after the affairs of the Society.

Eloy Rodriguez put much time and effort into his duties as secretary and the treasurer and, although the executive committee and council were not able to thank him in person, his work on behalf of the Society since its inception is greatly appreciated by all.

Finally, thank you Jean for your morale-boosting leadership.

David A. Jones

ISCE Dues Change

Several changes were introduced into the dues structure this year as the result of discussions within the executive and council. Non-U.S. councilors discussed the additional expense incurred by individuals who must convert from their own currency to U.S. dollars in order to pay annual dues. The executive decided to take a first step in recognizing and trying to alleviate this problem by accepting payment in two currencies — U.S. dollars and Swiss francs. In addition to the U.S. ISCE account overseen by treasurer Jim Nation, an account has been opened in Switzerland. Martine Rowell-Rahier was appointed on behalf of the Society to oversee the Swiss account. The advantage of the

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1988 ISCE Meeting Athens, Georgia, U.S.A.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the International Society of Chemical Ecology will be held at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA, U.S.A. from June 24-27, 1988. Murray Blum will host this meeting, which will take place at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education located on the campus. Full details, including the call for papers, will be available in the January newsletter.

1987-88 ISCE Officers and Committee Appointments

The beginning of the ISCE fiscal year seems an appropriate time to review the names of those elected to offices and appointed to committees of the Society.

ISCE Executive Committee

President: David A. Jones, U.K.
Vice President/President-Elect:
Jerrold Meinwald, U.S.A.
Secretary: Nancy M. Targett, U.S.A.
Treasurer: James L. Nation, U.S.A.
Past-President:
Jean H. Langenheim, U.S.A.
Editorial Representatives, JCE:
R. Milt Silverstein and
John Simeone, U.S.A.

ISCE Councilors

Ana Luisa Anaya, Mexico
Gunnar Bergstrom, Sweden
Murray S. Blum, U.S.A.
Remy Brossut, France
Lincoln P. Brower, U.S.A.
Keith S. Brown Jr., Brazil
Wittko Francke, West Germany
Larry Gilbert, U.S.A.
Clive G. Jones, U.S.A.
Jean H. Langenheim, U.S.A.
Jeremy McNeil, Canada
Yoko Naya, Japan
Martin Obin, U.S.A. (student rep.)
Jacques M. Pasteels, Belgium
Martine Rowell-Rahier, Switzerland
Arnon Shani, Israel

ISCE Committee Appointments

Awards Committee

Chair: Lena Brattsen, U.S.A.

Student Travel Award Subcommittee

Chair: Jeremy McNeil, Canada
Members: Jacques M. Pasteels, Belgium
Don Gerhart, U.S.A.

Society Medal Award Subcommittee

Chair: Jerrold Meinwald
Members: ISCE Councilors

Future Meetings Committee

Chair: John T. Romeo, U.S.A.
Members: Murray B. Isman, Canada
Yoko Naya, Japan
Eric C. Albone, U.K.
Konrad Dittner, West Germany

Fund Raising Committee

Chair: Jerrold Meinwald, U.S.A.

The Journal of Chemical Ecology and its Connection to the Society

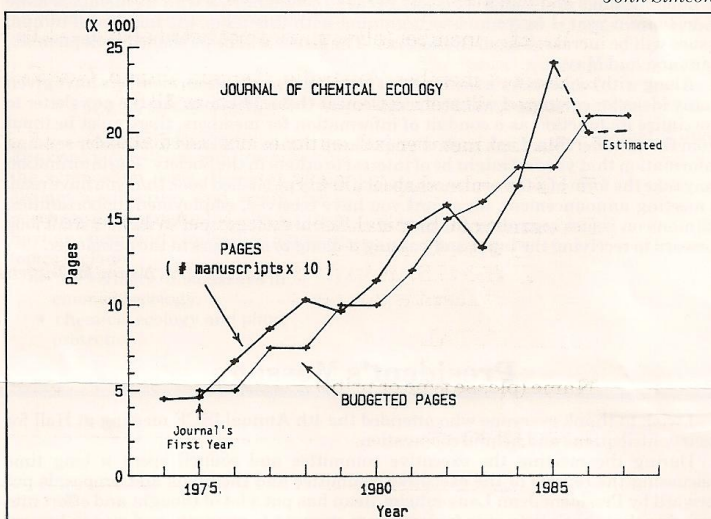
The *Journal of Chemical Ecology* has enjoyed four years of service to the Society membership. A brief historical statement describing the relationship appeared in the ISCE newsletter of March, 1985 (p.5). We continue to be enthusiastic about the growing field of chemical ecology and the potential of strengthening it through strong participation of interested scientists and the potential service to the field that a journal and a Society make possible.

The journal has grown during its 14-year history from a quarterly (1975,1976) to a bi-monthly (1977-1981) to a monthly (1982 to the present). Its page budget increased steadily (see figure below) from 500 to 2100 pages, and the manuscripts, which average nearly 10 pages each, have kept pace.

There has been a gradual change in the journal through the years, to a current broader mix of published content. This reflects essentially the work of individual researchers and, in time, should evolve to a more satisfying representation of what collectively we think the field ought to be. Members are urged to study definitions such as the scope of the field, on the inside front cover of the journal, to scrutinize journal content to judge how the discipline is developing, and to utilize the Letter-to-the-Editors to make their opinions known. We call your attention to one such letter scheduled for the February, 1988 issue (Vol. 14, No. 2) by Dr. Clive Jones in which he thoughtfully suggests changes in definition that would improve the conceptual understanding and thereby result in better coverage of the ecology in chemical ecology.

Finally, members are reminded that the journal is available to them at the greatly reduced rate of \$40 (\$50 overseas) per year.

R. Milt Silverstein
John Simeone



4th Annual Meeting—Hull

One hundred eighteen people from 20 countries attended ISCE's 4th annual meeting, which took place from July 13-17 in Hull, England. David Jones hosted the meeting at Lawns Halls, University of Hull. This year's symposia emphasized four aspects of chemical ecology: bioassays, applications, crop protection and biochemical mechanisms. Contributed papers represented the diverse interests of Society members. The common theme to all was the influence of chemistry in biological interactions.

The Society banquet was a sumptuous affair highlighted by good food and camaraderie. In remarks following the banquet, President Jean Langenheim officially turned over the Society leadership to President-Elect David Jones, passing on to David the Society's Swedish cedar gavel. Certificates of appreciation were presented to our host David Jones, and to outgoing officers Jean Langenheim and Eloy Rodriguez. The banquet speaker was the distinguished Professor Jeffrey Harborne, who presented a perspective of the history of chemical ecology in Europe.

Graduate Students: Report from Hull

Travel grants and student awards dominated discussion at the meeting of graduate students and postdocs held during the ISCE meeting in Hull. To date, travel grants to facilitate attendance at the annual meetings have been sporadic, and this present year non-existent. This reflects the growing pains of a relatively new Society. However, the executive committee and council are committed to the idea of student travel awards and expect funds to be available on a yearly basis beginning in 1988. In view of this, attendees of the Hull student meeting proposed that a fixed application procedure be instigated. This would ensure that students would know both where and when to apply. Furthermore, it was suggested that ISCE travel awards be allocated well in advance of the annual meeting so that recipients can use the information to assist them in obtaining additional support from other sources.

Students at Hull suggested that travel grants be limited to ISCE members who were contributing either a paper or a poster at the meeting. They further suggested that priority be given to students who had not previously received such a grant, and that the amount awarded be weighted according to the distance of travel involved. To maximize the number of student recipients, nobody would be fully funded by these awards, as the idea is to give "leverage money" to facilitate further fund raising. The grants would be paid out at the meeting.

The student proposals concerning student travel awards were presented at a Hull executive committee/council meeting and favorably viewed. A committee was established to deal with travel grant applications (see committee appointments on p. 2). Further details of how to apply will be released in the January newsletter along with the announcement for the Georgia meeting.

The concept of student awards (these are distinct from travel awards) has been suggested by the executive committee/council as means of recognizing excellence in student contributions and of encouraging student participation at meetings.

Three forms of award have been proposed. The first, suggested by students at the Berkeley meeting, was an award for best student manuscript (i.e. student as first author) submitted each year to the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*. The second suggestion was an award for the best contributed student paper at the annual ISCE meeting. The third was an award for the best student poster. In addition to a certificate of recognition, it was proposed that the

award include a year's subscription to the *Journal*, or a year's membership in the Society.

Students at the meeting discussed the pros and cons of the proposed student awards. Concerns were expressed about how scientific work in a discipline as diverse as chemical ecology would be compared. Students were also concerned that such a competition might disadvantage students whose first language is not English. However, they felt that this could be minimized if manuscripts/contributed papers/posters were judged on their scientific content, rather than presentation.

The idea of an award for best manuscript was generally well received at the Hull meeting both by students and members of the executive committee and council. Awards for student oral and poster presentations, however, received a more mixed response. At the Berkeley meeting, it had been suggested that the competition introduced by awards for oral and poster presentations could inhibit the friendly, informal atmosphere of ISCE meetings. In contrast, the feeling at the Hull meeting was that a little friendly competition would have a positive effect, and that the receipt of such awards might help student members when applying for jobs. Perhaps the difference in opinion reflects the difference between North America, where such awards are common at scientific meetings, and Europe, where they are much rarer. After considerable discussion, the student meeting, which included members from Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, and the U.S., voted unanimously in favor of all three awards — for manuscripts submitted to the *Journal*, contributed papers, and posters.

The Hull student/post-doc meeting was attended by 18 people, which is hardly representative of the entire ISCE student membership. We would like to enlarge our sample size and see if the feelings of the students at the Hull meeting were representative of student members in the Society as a whole. Therefore, I ask you to take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire below and return it to the newsletter editor. We'll give you a report on the outcome in the next newsletter.

Let me wrap up with a few miscellaneous items from the meeting. There is good news regarding student dues. Although there has been a restructuring of membership dues, the student rate is still \$10/18SF for members in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, S. Africa, W. Europe and the U.S. It has been reduced to \$5/9SF for students from other countries (see article on p. 1 for details). The resume/CV board set up at Hull to put job seekers in contact with job offers appeared to be successful, and will be repeated at future meetings. Six students/post-docs marketed themselves, and there were even three job offers!

Peter White

Hull Symposia Issue Available from JCE

Plans are well along to publish the proceedings of the Hull meeting in a 1988 issue of the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*. Plenum has offered to make additional copies of the issue available provided that we can show that there is a demand for it. If you subscribe to the

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Student Award Questionnaire

We are seeking input from members (especially student members) regarding student awards (see above article for more details). Please fill out the questionnaire and send to the editor (name and address can be found in the index box on p. 1).

Circle one:

Student Member

Regular Member

Life Member

Check desired responses:

- Yearly ISCE student awards should NOT be given at the annual meeting.
 Yearly ISCE student awards should be given at the annual meeting.

Awards should be given for:

- Best student paper (student as first author) submitted to the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*
 Best student presentation at the annual meeting
 Best student poster at the annual meeting

COMMENTS:

Upcoming Meetings

July 18-22, 1988. **European Chemo-reception Research Organization Congress (ECRO 8'88)**, Warwick, England. Contact: Dr. Steve Van Toller, Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, U.K.

August 7-11, 1988. **Chemical Signals in Vertebrates**, Oxford, England. Contact: Dr. David Macdonald, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PS, U.K.

August 2-7, 1989. **32nd IUPAC Congress**, Stockholm, Sweden. Featuring a section of Chemical Communication and Interaction between Organisms. Contact for circular: IUPAC, c/o Stockholm Convention Bureau, Box 6911, S-102 39 Stockholm, SWEDEN

August 23-30, 1990. **International Congress of Ecology**, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. Theme: Ecological Perspectives in the 21st Century. Contact for circular: Prof. Akira Miyawaki, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Yokohama National University, 156 Pokiwadai, Hodogaya-Ku, Yokohama 240, JAPAN

Jobs Wanted

WANTED, exciting new challenge for **Dr. Clive Wall** who finds himself redundant from April, 1988 as a result of the termination of the insect pheromone monitoring research at Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, U.K. AL5 2JQ. CV will be sent upon request. ANY OFFERS?

DUES CHANGE

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Swiss account is that all members with Eurocheck or Girocheck accounts can avoid the cost incurred for converting currency. Money for dues and **Journal** subscriptions paid into the Swiss account will be transferred periodically in lump sums to the U.S. ISCE account.

Councilors from developing countries emphasized the problems of maintaining and expanding memberships for scientists in their countries. As a result of the discussions on this point, the executive established a two-tier dues system for regular memberships. Precedent for this type of system has been set by a number of other scientific organizations, such as the Association for Tropical Biology. ISCE dues for regular members in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, S. Africa, W. Europe and the U.S. are \$25/45SF. Dues for regular members in all other countries are \$10/18SF. Dues for student members in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, S. Africa, W. Europe and the U.S. are \$10/18SF. Dues for all other student members are \$5.00/9SF. Life memberships are available at only one rate, \$400 U.S.

JCE SYMPOSIUM ISSUE

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Journal you will automatically receive the symposium issue. However, if you are not a subscriber and would like to purchase the symposium issue, you now have an opportunity to do so. Symposium topics include:

- the veracity of bioassays in chemical ecology,
- chemical ecology and plant protection,

- the application of chemical ecology, and
- biochemical mechanisms and defense compounds.

If you are interested in purchasing this issue, please send your name and address to the ISCE newsletter editor. We are trying to estimate how many additional copies to request. The cost of the symposium issue has not yet been set by Plenum. If you signed up for the symposium issue at Hull, it is not necessary to resubmit your name.

Fund Raising

The Fund Raising Committee (Vice-President Jerrold Meinwald, Chair) is to produce a brochure outlining the aims and objectives of the Society and highlighting a few examples of the work of members. For the brochure, we will need some color photographs. We appeal to members to send us copies of slides or prints, together with a brief explanation of each, so that the group preparing the brochure can have a large number from which to choose.

The "prize" will be an acknowledgment in the text and, for a few lucky people, free advertising of their work.

David A. Jones

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