

ISCE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6, No. 3, September, 1989

International Society of Chemical Ecology

President's Message

The ISCE is beginning its seventh year. It has become a well established interdisciplinary forum which I urge all members to further support at all levels. Following our sixth annual meeting held at Gothenburg, we are deeply indebted to Gunnar Bergström, who perfectly planned and organized this year's ISCE meeting. Under the major theme "Evolutionary Aspects of Chemical Ecology" the scope of the outstanding scientific program ranged from problems in synthetic chemistry to aspects of theoretical ecology. The audience highly appreciated well-balanced alternations between invited lectures, symposia and contributed papers.

One of the meeting's highlights was Tom Eisner's stirring appeal to undertake efforts to stem the tide of species extinction and the loss of chemical information as well as yet unknown natural products

which are associated with them (see also President's Message, ISCE Newsletter, Vol. 6, #2, May 1989). At the end of the conference a resolution (see p. 3) was unanimously adopted, which will be published and distributed worldwide. The result of this resolution and similar future activities will largely depend on the international recognition of our society which in turn is based on the reputation, activities, and, last but not least, the quantity of its members. Thanks to the efforts of ISCE's secretary, Nancy Targett and student member J. Evan Ward, the new ISCE membership directory has been finished. While going through this, it becomes quite obvious that there are several areas in the world where the ISCE is clearly underrepresented. Please help to fill this gap by spreading around the ideas of the ISCE. Recruit new members!

To support such activities, the ISCE board is busy promoting the society.

Special efforts are devoted to the preparation of a brochure which will provide information about the history, statement of purpose, and areas of research encompassed by chemical ecology. It will be illustrated by selected examples. This brochure will be helpful in the search for financial support. Due to the efforts of the Fund Raising committee, especially those of past presidents Jerrold Meinwald and Gunnar Bergström, the Gothenburg meeting was financially supported by several companies. Industry seems to prefer to repeatedly give small amounts of money instead of making one large donation. This should encourage all members to be active in fund raising and, for the benefit of the ISCE, use their con-

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Fund Raising Proves Successful in 1989

The ISCE is indebted to the following corporations and organizations for their support of our activities.

AGRISENSE Fresno, CA, U.S.A.	Firmenich, Inc. Princeton, NJ, U.S.A.	Sandoz Agro Division Basel, Switzerland
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Business Meeting Minutes International Society of Chemical Ecology 6th Annual Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden August 1989

Executive. Jerrold Meinwald, President; Wittko Francke, Vice-President/President-Elect; Nancy Targett, Secretary; James Nation, Treasurer; R. Milt Silverstein, Editorial Representative, *Journal of Chemical Ecology*.

The business meeting was called to order by President Jerrold Meinwald. Gunnar Bergström was congratulated for the fine job he has done in organizing this Gothenburg meeting. With 144 attendees from 23 countries it represents our largest and most international meeting to date. Dr. Meinwald noted that the status of the society was very good. The books of the society were officially audited last fall and the society was pronounced fiscally sound and stable. During this last fiscal year we also benefitted from a successful corporate fund raising campaign. Especially encouraging is the growth in the number of companies contributing to ISCE support. This committee effort included: Jerrold Meinwald (chair), Gunnar Bergström, Rémy Brossut, Wittko Francke, David Jones, Koji Nakanishi, Yoko Naya, Wendell Roelofs, and Dietrich Schneider.

To deal with topical issues within the society, several new committees are being formed:

Program Committee. This committee's charge is to solicit and collate ideas for topics for future meetings.

Bylaws Committee. This committee's charge is to re-examine society election procedures, to make recommendations regarding future procedures and to assure that they are consistent with society bylaws.

Eisner Initiative Committee. This committee's charge is to draft a statement concerning the Eisner initiative (see President's Message in the May 1989 newsletter or Eisner, T. "Chemical Exploration of Nature: A Proposal for Action," In *Ecology, Economics and Ethics: The Broken Circle*. F.H. Bormann and S.R. Kellert, eds. Yale University Press, New Haven, Spring, 1990.)

Treasurer's Report. Dr. James Nation reported that the society was on firm financial footing with approximately 400 members. He reviewed the society's 1988 U.S. Internal Revenue Service Form 990 which detailed cash flow for the year. For 1988 the society had a net worth of \$31,408.60. Our expenses were \$26,032. For 1989 (up to August) our net

worth is \$53,509. Although this is not a final figure for 1989, our projections are that we will experience an increase in net worth indicating that our society is continuing to grow.

Secretary's Report. Dr. Nancy Targett reported that the new membership directory is available. It is free of charge to members. A fee of \$10.00 will be charged for the directory for non-members. Dr. Targett thanked J. Evan Ward for his efforts in the preparation of the new directory and noted that the society will make an effort to publish a new directory every three years. In the intervening years, an addendum will be published that can be inserted into the current directory.

The newsletter will continue to be published three times/year. In addition, a new section detailing society news and titled "ISCE NEWS NOTES" will be added to the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*. Watch for it beginning in January, 1990.

Journal Editor's Report. Dr. R. Milt Silverstein noted that the journal had developed a considerable time lag in publishing papers. This was due to an insufficient page allotment. The allotment has just recently been increased to 3,600 pages. The editors hope to narrow the gap from receipt of a manuscript to publication of that manuscript to 8-9 months. Dr. Silverstein offered special thanks to reviewers for their mostly prompt reviews.

Motions before membership. Dr. James Nation presented a motion to the membership that Article VIII, Section 1 of the bylaws be amended from:

"The fiscal year of the society shall be from September 1 to August 31." to:

"The fiscal year of the society shall be from January 1 to December 31."

The motion was seconded by Dr. Amos Smith, III. After a very brief discussion members voted unanimously for the amendment.

Dr. Clive Jones was called upon to present a brief history of the movement for a changed Statement of Purpose and Areas of Research. Results of a straw (nonbinding) ballot taken in the newsletter were presented. Dr. Jones then motioned that Article II, Section 1 of the bylaws

which includes the ISCE Statement of Purpose be changed from:

"The International Society of Chemical Ecology is devoted to promoting an understanding of the origin, function and significance of naturally occurring chemicals that mediate interactions within and between organisms." to:

"The International Society of Chemical Ecology promotes the understanding of interactions between organisms and their environment that are mediated by naturally occurring chemicals."

The motion was seconded by Dr. Jeremy McNeil. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Dr. Jones further motioned that after our Statement of Purpose in the bylaws we insert a description of the "Areas of Research" included in chemical ecology. He proposed that this description read as follows:

"Research areas include the chemistry, biochemistry, and function of natural products, their importance at all levels of ecological organization, their evolutionary origin, and their practical application."

Dr. Jean Langenheim seconded the motion. There was considerable discussion on the changes in the wording from the original version which met with 89% approval when it was presented in the nonbinding poll of the February 1989 newsletter. As a result of this discussion the above motion on "Areas of Research" was withdrawn. Dr. Jones then motioned that we accept the original version of the "Areas of Research" which read as follows:

"Research areas include the study of structure, function, and biosynthesis of natural products, their importance at all levels of ecological organization, their evolutionary origin and their application to social needs."

The motion was seconded by Dr. Jeremy McNeil. The motion carried unanimously.

Future Meetings. Members were reminded that future annual meetings are scheduled as follows: Quebec 1990; Dijon, France 1991; Kyoto, Japan 1992; Tampa, Florida 1993.

New Officers and Councilors. Dr. Meinwald announced the new officers: Dr. Wittko Francke, President; Dr. David Seigler, Vice President/President-Elect; Dr. James Nation, Treasurer; Dr. Nancy Targett's term continues as Secretary; Dr. Meinwald then thanked outgoing councilors Drs. Ana Luisa Anaya, Gunnar Bergström, Wittko Francke, Clive Jones, Martine Rowell Rahier, and Martin Obin for their service to the society.

Following this the meeting was adjourned.

Gothenburg Meeting Resounding Success

One-hundred forty four people from 23 countries attended ISCE's sixth annual meeting in Sweden, making it the society's largest, with the attendees representing our most geographically diverse group to date. Gunnar Bergström hosted the meeting at the Nordic School of Public Health, University of Gothenburg. An introductory lecture by Dr. Thomas Eisner titled "The insect as druggist—the utilization of plant secondary metabolites by insects" got us thinking about the impact of the current rate of species extinction on the future of natural products and chemical ecology. During his plenary address Dr. Douglas Futuyma addressed the major theme of the Gothenburg meeting with his presentation titled "Ecological chemistry in evolutionary focus: What are the questions?" The invited papers, minisymposia, and contributed papers represented the diverse interests of society members. In addition to the scientific discussions considerable attention was directed to proposals suggesting that the society make a statement regarding conservation of species not only for their biological value but also for their potential chemical value. At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Natural Products constitute a treasury of immense value to humankind. The current alarming rate of species extinction is rapidly depleting this treasury, with potentially disastrous consequences. The International Society of Chemical Ecology urges that conservation measures be mounted worldwide to stem the tide of species extinction, and that vastly increased biorational chemical studies be undertaken aimed at discovering new chemicals of use to medicine, agriculture, and industry. These efforts should be undertaken by a partnership of developing and developed nations in such a way that the benefits flow to the developing nation as well as to all humankind."

Comments regarding this Gothenburg resolution are most welcome. Please address them to Dr. Jerrold Meinwald, Cornell University, Baker Laboratory, Ithaca, NY 14853-1301.

Following a sumptuous banquet, President Jerrold Meinwald passed on the Swedish cedar gavel to incoming President Wittko Francke. Society Medals were awarded to Drs. Miriam Rothschild and Murray Blum. Certificates of appreciation were presented to meeting host Gunnar Bergström, treasurer James Nation, outgoing president Jerrold Meinwald and outgoing ISCE councilors Ana Luisa Anaya, Gunnar Bergström, Wittko Francke, Clive G. Jones, and Martine Rowell-Rahier.

Students Awarded Travel Funds for Gothenburg Meeting

Four student ISCE members received travel awards to help defray the cost of travel to the ISCE's 6th annual meeting in Sweden. They were: Victoria Soroker, Israel to present a paper entitled "Hormonal Control of *in vitro* Pheromone Production in *Heliothis armigera*;" Mona C. De Vries, U.S.A. to present a paper entitled "Rhizocephalan Parasitized Crabs Respond to Analogues of Crab Larval Release Pheromones;" Claude Everaerts, France to present a paper entitled "Chiral Alarm Pheromone and Caste-Specific Reaction in *Nasutitermes princeps*;" and Gregory K. Storey, U.S.A. to present a paper entitled "Chemical Defenses of the Imported Fire Ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, against Infection by the Fungal Pathogen, *Beauveria bassiana*."

Student travel awards will be available again from the society on a competitive basis for the 7th annual meeting in Quebec, Canada. Details concerning applications for those awards will be printed in the January newsletter.

1989-1990 ISCE Officers and Committee Appointments

ISCE Executive Committee

Witko Francke, *President*
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Jerrold Meinwald, *Past-President*
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Baker Laboratory
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R. Milt Silverstein, *Editorial Rep.*
S.U.N.Y., College of Environmental
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Syracuse, NY 13210, U.S.A.

ISCE Councilors

May R. Berenbaum, U.S.A.
Michael Boppré, W. Germany
Rémy Brossut, France
Keith S. Brown, Jr., Brazil
Desiré A. Daloze, Belgium
Brian D. Jackson, U.K.
David A. Jones, U.K.
Jean H. Langenheim, U.S.A.
Jeremy N. McNeil, Canada
Jerrold Meinwald, U.S.A.
Yoko Naya, Japan
Hermann M. Niemeyer, Chile
John T. Romeo, U.S.A.
Martine Rowell-Rahier, Switzerland
Arnon Shani, Israel
Amos B. Smith, III, U.S.A.
Shozi Takahashi, Japan
Peter G. Waterman, U.K.

ISCE Committee Appointments

Student Travel Award Committee

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

Society Medal Award Committee

Chair: David Seigler
Members: ISCE Councilors

Fund Raising Committee

Chair: Jerrold Meinwald
Members: Gunnar Bergström, Sweden
Rémy Brossut, France
Witko Francke, West Germany
Koji Nakanishi, Japan
Yoko Naya, Japan
Wendel Roelofs, U.S.A.

Bylaw Committee

Chair: W. Francke, West Germany
Members: G. Bergström, Sweden
L. Brower, U.S.A.
C. Jones, U.S.A.
J. Langenheim, U.S.A.
A. Shani, Israel
N. Targett, U.S.A.

**Note that committees are still in the process of being formed for 1989-1990.*

Continued from page 1

tacts to approach potential financiers. Our Treasurer, James Nation, who, knowing what the job entails, ran for and was elected to office for another three year period, will be happy about any sum.

Many thanks to the board members, and in particular to Jerrold Meinwald, Nancy Targett, and James Nation for the time and effort which they continuously spend at the helm of the ISCE. Finally, the ISCE is *your* society, make sure that it continues to flourish!

Witko Francke

7th Annual ISCE Meeting Slated for Quebec

The 7th annual meeting of the **International Society of Chemical Ecology** will convene at Laval University, Ste. Foy, P.Q., Canada from August 12–15, 1990. For this meeting the ISCE will gather jointly with the Phytochemical Society of North America. The PSNA is organizing a symposium on Modern Phytochemical Methodology. The ISCE is preparing two symposia dealing with the chemical and ecological aspects of reproduction and defense in both plants and animals. The call for submitted paper and poster presentations will be made in January 1990. Any enquiries concerning this meeting should be addressed to the meeting host: Professor Jeremy N. McNeil, Department of Biology, Laval University, Ste. Foy, P.Q., G1K 7P4, Canada.

ISCE News Notes

- ◆ Nominations are open for the **ISCE Society Medal**. Nominees should have made outstanding contributions to chemical ecology. A nomination should include a brief biography of the nominee, a statement of the nominee's chief scientific contribution(s), and a list of not more than six of the nominee's most significant publications. Each nomination must be accompanied by two seconding letters. Submit nominations to the secretary and newsletter editor Dr. Nancy M. Targett by January 31, 1990. A decision regarding the medal award-ee will be made by the ISCE council under chairmanship of society vice-president David Seigler, who will submit a recommendation to the executive committee for final approval.
- ◆ Plenum Publishing Corporation has substantially increased the number of allotted pages for each issue of the **Journal of Chemical Ecology** beginning with the 1990 volume. This will be reflected in increased subscription fees to the journal. However, members continue to get a substantial discount. Beginning in 1990 member subscription rates are \$69.00 (\$85.00 outside the U.S.). Non-members will pay \$99.50 (\$120 outside the U.S.). The new institutional rate is \$495.00 (\$575.00 outside the U.S.A.)
- ◆ The fast growing discipline of ecological chemistry will receive a further boost in Latin America where International Foundation for Science (IFS) grantees and applicants working in this discipline in Latin America will have a chance to meet each other and some world experts in the field in the friendly atmosphere of an IFS workshop to be held in Santiago, Chile, November 12–18, 1989. Nearly twenty IFS grantees and applicants have been invited from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. They will present work on plant–insect, plant–fungi, plant–virus and plant–plant interactions as well as on the synthesis of biologically active compounds such as pheromones, insecticides and herbicides.
- ◆ The first Mexican National Meeting of Chemical Ecology took place at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico on July 17–18, 1989. The attendees concluded that there is a great potential for development of chemical ecology in Mexico, recognized need for the establishment of multi-disciplinary groups of researchers and recommended that national meetings be convened on a regular basis. They also noted that “conservation of biotic resources and diversity, in natural areas and agroecosystems, is a priority in the present and the future of the country and the world, not only as the fundamental basis for human survival, but as a source of study of chemical ecology.”

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