



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL ECOLOGY

Vol. 8, No. 1, February, 1991

CALL FOR PAPERS

Annual ISCE Meeting, Dijon, 1991.

The 8th annual meeting of the International Society of Chemical Ecology will take place July 2-7, 1991 in Dijon France. Rémy Brossut, the local organizer, and his symposium committee are finalizing the program. Abstracts for anyone wishing to participate with either an oral or poster presentation should be submitted on the enclosed abstract form no later than May 15, 1991.

Send this to: Dr. Rémy Brossut, Lab Zoologie, 6 Bd Gabriel, 21 000 Dijon, France. Phone: (33) 80 39 62 94. FAX: (33) 80 39 50 66.

An impressive group of scientists has been invited to participate in four Symposia.

The Symposium titles and prospective speakers are:

I. SEMIOCHEMICALS IN VERTEBRATES - G. Beauchamp (Philadelphia, PA, USA); R. Claus (Stuttgart, Germany); D. Crump (Petone, New Zealand); P. Kappeler (Durham, NC, USA); E.B. Keverne (Cambridge, UK); R. Mason (Bethesda, MD, USA); B. Maurer (Firmenich Company, Switzerland); J.P. Signoret (Nouzilly, Paris, France); J. Vandenbergh (Raleigh, NC, USA); D. Muller-Schwarze (Syracuse, NY, USA).

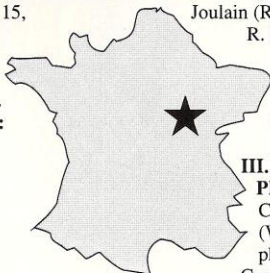
II. PLANT-INSECT INTERACTIONS - G. Bergstrom (Goteborg, Sweden); M.S. Blum (Athens, GA, USA); W. Boland (Karlsruhe, Germany); M. Boppre (Freiburg, Germany); S.S. Duffey (Davis, CA, USA); P.P. Feeny (Ithaca, NY, USA); Y. Flamand (Firmenich Company, Switzerland); J. Harborne (Reading, UK); D. Joulain (Robertet Company, Grasse, France); R. Kaiser (Givaudan Company, Switzerland); C. Masson (Bures sur Yvette, France); J. Pasteels (Brussels, Belgium); M. Rowell-Rahier (Basel, Switzerland).

III. HUMAN PHEROMONES AND PERFUMES - C. Biochi (Torino, Italy); G. Dodd (Warwick, UK); G. Epple (Philadelphia, PA, USA); J. Gamero (Channel Company, France); G. Ohloff (Firmenich Company, Switzerland)

IV. EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVES ON SEMIOCHEMICALS IN INSECTS - J.L. Clement (Marseille, France); J.P. Farine (Dijon, France); W. Francke (Hamburg, Germany); J.M. Jallon (Paris, France); C. Lofstedt (Lund, Sweden); K. Mori (Tokyo, Japan); C. Nalepa (Raleigh, NC, USA); G. Prestwich (Stony Brook, NY, USA); S. Takahashi (Kyoto, Japan).

The meeting will take place on the campus of the Université de Bourgogne. Registration will begin at 16.00 on Tuesday July 2. Symposia and contributed papers will begin on Wednesday July 3 and continue through Sunday morning July 7. Thursday afternoon is free for a visit to vineyard in Beaune, sight-seeing on your own, or shopping. A Banquet will be held Friday evening.

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ISCE Newsletter is published tri-annually, in October, February and May. It is financed through member contributions. None of the material contained herein may be reprinted without the proper written acknowledgement of the editor. Address all correspondence and newsletter submissions to the editor. Deadline for the next issue is April 15, 1990.

From the Editor

The official society logo is now on the masthead. It has a long history. This design is the one the majority of those polled voted for. The Society takes another great leap forward!

There are 3 important inserts in this issue. They are: the Dijon registration form (two sides), the Dijon abstract form, and the application for student travel assistance (two sides). Please share this meeting information with interested colleagues.

A few people have sent suggestions and information for the newsletter. Please continue to do so. I greatly appreciate this, and I need your help. Remember to send your 1991 dues to James Nation or Martine Rowell-Rahier. The newsletter depends on membership support for its publication costs.

Take a minute to respond to the straw poll regarding travel to the tropics in 1993.

John Romeo

Call For Papers - Dijon (Continued)

A **Full Package** including registration, drinks and cold dinner (Tuesday evening), breakfast, lunch, dinner, room in the student residence (singles only), and banquet will be available. Deadline for the Full Package is: May 1, 1991. Costs are:

Full member - FF 1750 (\$ 350 US)
Student member - FF 1250 (\$ 250 US)
Full non member - FF 2000 (\$ 400 US)
Student non member - FF 1500 (\$ 300 US)
Accompanying person - FF 1500 (\$ 300 US)

A **Package/Hotel** will also be available. This includes everything above except the room in student residence. The cost is FF 450 (\$90 US) less than the above prices. Per night costs for a single or double room in a Hotel will be added. Hotel costs are:

Category 1: FF 200-250 (\$40-50 US)
Category 2: FF 250-300 (\$50-60 US)
Category 3: FF 350-500 (\$70-100 US)

Dijon, an historical town of 150,000 inhabitants, is the capital of Burgundy. It is crowded with churches, timbered houses and town houses constructed between medieval times and the present day. It is a town of fine arts with 7 museums including the "Musée des Beaux-Arts (second only to the Louvre). Dijon is considered a gastronomic capital. In July the climate is pleasant and sunny.

Some flights link Paris Charles De Gaulle or Orly with the Dijon airport. However, rail service from Paris is recommended. Direct high speed trains travel 9 times a day from Paris Gare de Lyon. Time is 1h 40. The campus is a 30 minute walk from the station. Bus and taxis are available.

More details will be forthcoming in the May newsletter. Remember the following deadlines:

Package with Hotel ----- March 15, 1991
Student Travel Award Applications --- March 31, 1991
Full Package ----- May 1, 1991
Abstract ----- May 15, 1991 .

All fees must be paid by May 1, 1991. If possible, please pay in French Francs.



Books By ISCE Members

Timothy Johns of Macdonald College of McGill University in Montreal, Canada has written With Bitter Herbs They Shall Eat It: Chemical Ecology and the Origins of Human Diet and Medicine. The interdisciplinary study, which synthesizes ethnobotany and chemical ecology, draws on Johns' field work among the Aymara of highland Bolivia and his studies in Africa. The book has had favorable reviews, contains 356 pages, costs \$40 US, and is published by The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ 85719.

Bernard Fried of Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, USA recently has co-edited Handbook of Thin-Layer Chromatography. The book stresses current TLC methods most suitable for laboratory work, and provides a discussion of theory and optimization to facilitate understanding. Chapters on applications to amino acids, carbohydrates, lipids, steroids, phenols, antibiotics, pigments, pesticides, and toxins are among those included. The book contains 1064 pages, costs \$165 US, and is published by Marcel Dekker, New York, NY 10016, and Basel, Switzerland.

A Ululation From the President Is Chemical Ecology a Viable Discipline?

The International Society of Chemical Ecology is now almost 8 years old. We are passing out of infancy (undergoing metamorphosis, if you will) and approaching puberty (ecdysis?). Growth and development are normal processes, but what will be the appearance and future prospects of the progeny? As President of the Society, I have reflected on the current direction of our group and the future of our chosen field. Many questions arise. I see clouds on the horizon, and unless we make certain adjustments to our course these could be associated with stormy waters. In this letter to the membership I want to put forth some challenges, ask some questions, and open a forum on our role in the study of the broader field of "ecology".

Many recent ecological treatises fail to mention or hardly discuss contributions to ecological studies based on chemical methodology. Why is this? Have we not carried out work worthy of mention, or do our efforts simply represent parochial interests that have little impact on the whole of ecology? This ignominy (if this means contributing so little of value as to not be worthy of mention) is further seen in review and funding of proposals by agencies which support scientific research in many countries.

One of the reasons for this treatment may be that many "chemical ecologists" do not have academic credentials that mainstream ecologists consider adequate to carry out "ecological" work. Many purists view our society as a group of miscreant dreamers, challenging obvious hierarchies of ecological thought, but lacking the perspective and training to add to important ecological theory and practice. Admittedly, we are an unusual assemblage of chemists, botanists, zoologists, primatologists, entomologists, biochemists, yes, and ecologists. Is this a weakness? Do we need to produce new offspring specifically trained in "chemical ecology"? I assume that most of our current membership is of the mixed-ancestry type; we have changed from our original field because of love for an interdisciplinary, dynamic field which we know as "chemical ecology". Do we, or did we, have the necessity of conversion to another faith before being permitted to enter this new area? Or are there "rites of passage" to which we must submit before full acceptance as legitimate scientists?

If we say yes, we should train chemical ecologists, will the "hybridized habitat" needed for survival of these "hybrid offspring" exist? For me, this is a timely topic. I recently have spoken to several prospective graduate students. Can I conscientiously advise them to study "chemical ecology"? If they do, will there be positions available for which they will be able to compete? Or will each one also have to be prepared to market himself as an "ecologist", "entomologist", "plant biologist", or "chemist" first and as a "closet chemical ecologist" second? Can such a student trained in this culturally mixed society expect to find grantors sympathetic to his entreaties for support?

After discussions with a number of members, it is my perception that much "chemical ecology" is funded under the guise of systematics, ecology, chemistry, biochemistry etc. Except in Germany, Japan, and possibly Switzerland, there seem to be few opportunities to prepare proposals for research in chemical ecology and market them as such. Each must stand on some other basis to be successful. This has an effect on the quality and direction of chemical ecology. Can we establish a mechanism to insure that funding is available for truly interdisciplinary areas of research such as chemical ecology?

Now, it is my belief that it is one thing to complain, lament and protest, but our ululations will come to naught unless we have some sense of direction, put forth a positive case, and petition the proper authorities. What can we do and who should do it? As the one international society representing "chemical ecology", I feel that the membership, council and executive officers of ISCE should all be vociferous and adamant in support of our case.

But have we missed the boat in other regards? For example, back to this point of being largely ignored by the ecologists. It seems clear that we have chosen a different set of important issues and problems from those that appeal to most mainstream ecologists. Have we focussed on insignificant points or minutia? Can we really tackle problems that are "big issues" in ecology? I'll be the first to state — I don't know. I don't have the background to answer this question definitively and I will be so brazen as to say that most of our members are in the same boat. Before I'm pulled from the stage with the long-handled hook, I want to add that many of us do things we're interested in and many of these things have practical and scientific value. I feel that the quality of the work done by most of our members is outstanding, but does this work address important ecological issues? Who decides? What are these issues?

It is my opinion that we should (in Texas vernacular) take the bull by the horns, ask questions, ponder our fate, deliberate, chart our course and move forward. I don't feel we can go it alone. I would suggest that we build stronger bridges to both ecological and chemical disciplines. How might this be done? I am interested in members' views. How can we convince busy "ecologists" that we have something to offer and interest them in more collaborative enterprises? How can we work jointly to begin to resolve some of the issues seen as important in the eyes of ecologists?

As I indicated at the onset, I feel some undercurrents of uncertainty as to the destiny of our ship. I don't have the answers. We must assess our mission and modify our approach as needed to accomplish our collective goals. I await your response.

Fund Raising 1990

In the last newsletter, we inadvertently left out the name of BASF (West Germany) one of our sponsors for the 1990 meeting in Quebec.

We regret this omission and want to thank BASF publicly for its generous contribution.

1990-1991 ISCE Committees

The management of the Society is vested in the Executive Committee. A series of appointed committees helps to do a lot of the work. Keeping track of these multi-national committees is no easy task. Members may find the following list helpful.

Executive Committee

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Laboratoire de Biologie Animal & Cellulaire
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B-1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

John Romeo, Secretary
University of South Florida
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Department of Entomology & Nematology
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Gainesville, FL 32611, U.S.A.

Wittko Francke, Past-President
Universität Hamburg
Institut für Organische Chemie
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D-200 Hamburg 13, Germany

R. Milt Silverstein, Editorial Rep.
S.U.N.Y., College of Environmental
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Syracuse, NY 13210, U.S.A.

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D. Daloze
Y. Naya
R. Brossus (Dijon organizer)
J. Romeo (Tampa organizer)



Upcoming Meetings

February 27-28, 1991. *The Royal Society*, London, England. "The Evolutionary Interaction of Animals and Plants". Contact: Executive Secretary, The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y5AG, England.

June 22-26, 1991. *Phytochemical Society of North America*, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA. "Phenolic Metabolism in Plants". Contact: Dr. Frank Stermitz, Dept. of Chemistry, Colorado State Univ., Ft. Collins, CO 80523. Telephone: 303-491-5158.

June 16-22, 1991. *Chemical Signals In Vertebrates VI*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA. Contact: Catherine M. Beinhauer, Conference Management Associates, Inc., 127 Brook Hollow, Hanover, NH 03755. Telephone: 603-643-2325. Abstract Deadline: March 15, 1991.

June 17-21, 1991. *Second North American Tannin Conference*, Michigan Technological University, Houghton MI, USA. "Plant Polyphenols: Biogenesis, Properties and Significance". Contact: Susan L. Bucheger, Public Service Professional Development, Michigan Technological Univ., 1400 Townsend Dr., Houghton, MI 49931-1255. Telephone: 906-487-2262.

July 28-August 1, 1991. *Plant Growth Regulator Society of America*, Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers, Boston, MA, USA. "Biotransformation & Natural Products" and "Regulation of Growth in Greenhouse Crops". Contact: Dr. R.M. Devlin, Cranberry Experiment Station, Univ. Mass., Glen Charlie Rd., East Wareham, MA 02538. Telephone 508-295-2213. Abstract Deadline: March 31, 1991.

September 2-6, 1991. *European Society of Evolutionary Biology*, Debrecen, Hungary.

July 12-16, 1992. *Third International Legume Conference*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England. "Review of Evolutionary Processes". Contact: Dr. Roger M. Polhill, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB, England.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISCE 1991 Dues were due in January. If you have not yet renewed your membership, send a check in US dollars to: James Nation, Room 3104, Dept. of Entomology & Nematology, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA; or a check in Swiss Francs to: Martine Rowell-Rahier, Zoological Institut, Univ. Basel, Rheinsprung 9, CH 4051 Basel, Switzerland. About half of our members have renewed for 1991. Because of high postage rates, extra billing costs us quite a bit of money, so please send us your check now.

Regular members from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, United States, Western Europe pay \$25 US or 45 SF. Student members from those countries pay \$10 or 18 SF. Regular members from all other countries pay \$10 US or 18 SF and student members from all other countries pay \$5 US or 9 SF. Life memberships are \$400 US.

ISCE Committees have been reconstituted. A complete list is published in this newsletter. If you wish to become involved in serving the Society in some capacity, write to David Seigler our President.

Member Addresses are being reformulated on a new computer by our Membership Secretary, Martine Rowell-Rahier. Please be patient, and send any corrections to her.

Student Travel Awards, Dijon, France 1991

Competitive awards to subsidize the travel expenses of student members to Dijon, France are available this year. The ISCE executive has increased funding for this purpose, so several awards will be made. The selection committee consists of Jeremy McNeil, Chair, Don Gerhard and Adolf Nahrstedt.

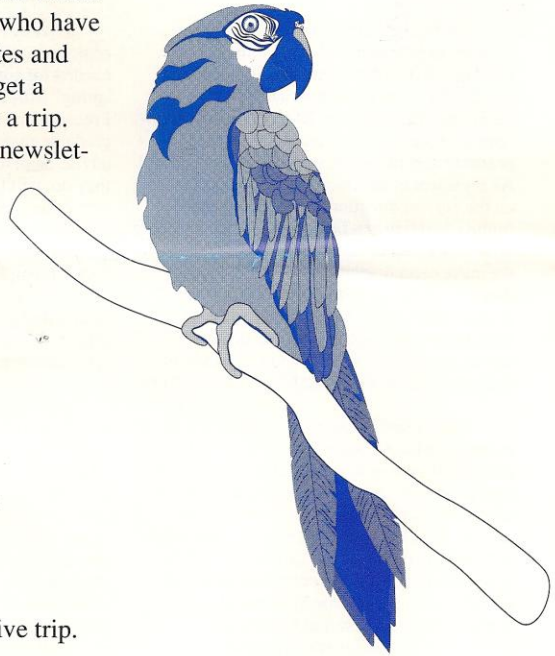
The procedure to be used in applying for an award is as follows:

1. Complete the application form provided in this newsletter. The eligibility rules are printed at the top. Note that both the applicant and the applicant's Major Advisor must sign the front page of the application. Don't forget to complete the back side of the application which asks for the abstract.
2. Mail the completed form and 2 copies to: Dr. Jeremy McNeil, Université Laval, Dept. de Biologie, Ste. Foy, Québec, G1K 7P4 Canada.
3. Applications must be post-marked by March 31, 1991. Applicants will be notified of awards in late April.

Travel to the Tropics in 1993

In connection with the 1993 ISCE annual meeting to be held on Clearwater Beach (Tampa) from August 1-4, we are planning to organize a field trip to Costa Rica to explore the tropics. This would be coordinated by Holbrook Travel of Gainesville, Florida who have years of experience with scientific tours to Costa Rica. Dates and plans for this have to be made far in advance. We need to get a rough idea of how many people might be interested in such a trip. Please respond to the following questions and return to the newsletter editor.

- I am interested in a one week trip to Costa Rica
- I am interested in a 4-5 day trip to Costa Rica
- I prefer the week before the meeting
- I prefer the week after the meeting
- I would want to visit both lowland and mountain areas
- I would want to collect insects and/or plants
- I am willing to pay to pay \$800- 1000 for an all-inclusive trip.



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