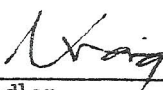


WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY

Newsletter no. 1: 1 April 1983

**TO: PLANNING COMMITTEE
WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY**

Now that the Planning Committee is established, I am sending this first official communication in order to report on progress and to solicit the committee's advice on several important matters. For informational purposes, I am also sending copies of this newsletter to the presidents of national and international herpetological societies and several other key persons in order to keep them informed about our activities.



Kraig Adler

1. Announcement About Congress.

The enclosed notice, announcing the existence of our committee and plans for a congress, has just been distributed by me for publication in the following herpetological journals: Amphibia-Reptilia, Australian Society of Herpetologists Newsletter, British Journal of Herpetology, Bulletin de la Société Herpétologique de France, Bulletin of the Herpetological Association of Africa, Copeia, Hamadryad, Herpetofauna (Australia), Herpetologica, Herpetological Review, Japanese Journal of Herpetology, Journal of Herpetology, Lacerta, Salamandra, Snoken and The Snake. To benefit the congress, we should want this notice to reach the widest possible audience, not only herpetologists but all other persons using amphibians and reptiles in their research. Accordingly, I ask each member of the Planning Committee to send copies of this announcement to ten leading biological journals in their country and neighboring countries. These copies are enclosed for your convenience; please feel free to translate this notice into other languages where necessary.

I kindly ask you to send me a list of the journals (by country) to which you have sent the announcement. This will permit me to send additional notices to journals that are missing from our combined lists.

Secretary-General

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2. Finances.

Although the congress itself should be self-supporting financially, we need to establish a mechanism to cover the costs of this committee's activities until the congress is held. Marinus Hoogmoed has graciously agreed to act as Treasurer and has set up a bank account in the Netherlands. Our costs will be mostly for printing and postage but if we establish a large international committee (see no. 4 below), the postage alone will amount to a considerable expense. I recommend that we raise funds from individuals and societies by offering them recognition for their support of the congress. Specifically, I suggest the following plan:

Individuals

For "Patron" status, payment of 100 Dutch guilders (about US \$38).

For "Benefactor" status, 500 Dutch guilders (US \$190).

These would be one-time-only payments.

Societies

Pro-rata payment of 1 Dutch guilder (US 38¢) per member of the society. Payments would be made in one lump sum or spread equally over a three-year period if necessary. Such a payment would result in "Adherent Society" status.

My guess is that we could raise several thousand guilders florins in this way, sufficient to cover our expenses. Such individuals and societies would be recognized by listing their names prominently in congress publications, including the official program. Later, we could solicit funds from commercial firms (book dealers, scientific equipment manufacturers, etc.) by allowing them to purchase advertising space in the congress program. Please let me have your comments on this financial plan.

3. IUBS Recognition.

I believe it is important that we seek recognition of our organization by the International Union of Biological Sciences, headquartered in Paris. This is the largest international society of biologists and the official body that sanctions world congresses. If we do so, we would thereby become the Section of Herpetology of the IUBS. Such recognition has been extended to the ornithologists, entomologists and other groups. It would give legitimacy to our international status and probably would make it easier for congress delegates to obtain funding for their trip.

Through the courtesy of Harold Cogger I have learned, however, that the earliest time at which we could be accorded IUBS recognition is at the time of their next General Assembly (Budapest, August 1985). I plan to put together within the next year the necessary documents to apply for formal recognition, and hope that we can gain provisional status prior to the Budapest meeting. These documents will be circulated to the Planning Committee before submission to IUBS.

4. International Herpetological Committee.

For practical purposes it was necessary to keep our present Planning Committee small but it seems appropriate now to establish in addition a larger, more geographically- and biologically-representative International Herpetological Committee. Clearly, herpetologists will play a central role in planning the congress but we will want to attract much broader representation if the congress is to be successful. Geographically, I believe we should seek persons from all nations having significant herpetological activities but need to keep in mind that the greatest concentration of herpetologists is in Europe and North America. Biologically, we should also want to name to the IHC persons who are primarily recognized

as physiologists, paleontologists, behaviorists, etc. but who work with amphibians and reptiles. Such a group would be useful in providing the Planning Committee with a more balanced international evaluation, both geographically and biologically, of its proposals and would demonstrate convincingly the truly global nature of our planning for the congress.

If you agree to the establishment of an IHC, then please comment on the size of the group. I suggest that 50 individuals would be sufficient to provide the desired diversity and balance of opinion. Needless to say, we would want the most outstanding scientists to be named to this committee. Please give this matter careful thought and then send me the name, address and research area for twenty nominees. I will compile a list and distribute to the Planning Committee for final selections. My plan is that this IHC would serve until the first congress at which time a new IHC would be selected or a mechanism established to provide for later elections.

5. Date and Site for Congress.

I suggest that we postpone any detailed discussion of these topics until after the procedures of our committee, finances and the proposed IHC are established. The notice just distributed for publication in journals asks for comments about possible sites, and for potential hosts to contact us.

6. Stationery.

I am sending each member of the Planning Committee a small supply of our stationery for their use. Please use it for official business, for example in sending the notices to various biological journals. I have a modest reserve supply if you need extra.

Incidentally, the chameleon drawing is from Quadrupedibus Oviparis (Tiguri, 1554). volume two of the great Historia Animalium by the Swiss naturalist Conrad Gesner. This book is said to be the first illustrated work in zoology.

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Let me have your comments on these matters, in particular your responses to the several requests or questions raised in items nos. 1, 2 and 4. As soon as I have your responses, I will communicate with the committee again.

Please do not hesitate to mention other issues that you believe we should consider. It is absolutely essential in laying the groundwork for the first congress that we evaluate all aspects and concerns so that we establish a firm precedent for later congresses. This will take careful thought on our part, but we will be amply rewarded for our efforts with an outstanding first congress.



WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY

By recent action of the officers and official representatives of the major national and international herpetological societies, an international committee has been established to plan the first World Congress of Herpetology. The congress will be held in 3-5 years at a site yet to be selected. The Planning Committee consists of:

Donald G. Broadley (Zimbabwe)

Harold G. Cogger (Australia)

J. C. Daniel (India)

Ilya S. Darevsky (U.S.S.R.)

Marinus S. Hoogmoed (Netherlands)

Toshijiro Kawamura (Japan)

Michael R. K. Lambert (U.K.)

Hubert Saint Girons (France)

P. E. Vanzolini (Brazil)

David B. Wake (U.S.A.)

Kraig Adler (U.S.A.), *Secretary-General*

The congress will be organized to include a wide range of topics, to appeal to all persons interested in the scientific study of amphibians and reptiles. The committee currently is setting guidelines for operation, including the establishment of a larger and broadly representative International Herpetological Committee to provide a self-perpetuating mechanism for future congresses.

The Planning Committee solicits comments from the herpetological community on all aspects, in particular the choice of a convenient site and content of the congress. Potential hosts for the congress are also invited to communicate. Further announcements will be published in this journal.

Address comments or questions to any member of the Planning Committee or to the Secretary-General: Professor Kraig Adler, Cornell University, Section of Neurobiology and Behavior, Seeley G. Mudd Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853, U.S.A.