

Appendix II: Copy of the "rules" distributed to all new members

THE SYSTEMATICS ASSOCIATION

An Association for the study of Systematics in Relation to General Biology and Evolution

RULES

1. The Association shall be called "The Systematics Association; an Association for the Study of Systematics in Relation to General Biology and Evolution".
2. The objective of the Association is the advancement of education of the public in the study of systematics.

The Association shall have the following purposes:

- a) to promote and provide facilities for the study of the theory and practice of systematics,
 - b) to promote the exchange of information between scientific workers in all branches of biology and palaeontology with particular reference to matters of taxonomic interest, and
 - c) to encourage, assist and improve research and teaching in systematics and taxonomy.
3. Membership of the Association is open to all prepared to work towards the fulfilment of its objectives.
 4. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Council, which, subject to these Rules, shall have power to take such steps and apply the funds of the Association in such a manner as they deem expedient for the promotion of its objectives.
 5. (a) The Council of the Association shall be elected from among the members of the Association resident in the British Isles and shall consist of nine Officers namely: a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, an Editor-in-Chief, a Grants and Awards Secretary, a Programmes Secretary, a Newsletter Editor and Webmaster plus a Student Representative and 24 ordinary members. All members of the council are elected for a term of three years. The President shall not hold office for more than one term, three consecutive years. Other Officers are eligible for re-election for a maximum of two terms, six consecutive years. One third of the ordinary members of council shall retire annually in rotation, and may not be re-elected till the expiration of one year from the date of retirement. Retiring Presidents and other Officers shall become *ex-officio* members of the Council for a period of one year after retirement and shall be supernumerary to the ordinary members and may be considered eligible for election to Council at the end of this period of one year.

(b) Any two members of the Association may nominate a member to fill a vacancy in the council. In the case of Officers of the Association, if more than one member is nominated for any individual post there shall be an election by ballot to the membership of the Association. The completed voting papers must be received by the appointed secretary not later than 1st November for presentation to the Annual General Meeting. In the case of members of the Council, other than Officers, nominations shall be received in writing by the Secretary not later than ten days before the Annual General Meeting.

- (c) A vacancy among the Officers, occurring after the Annual General meeting, shall be filled by the Council within three months of its occurrence.
- (d) Any vacancies occurring among the ordinary members of the Council otherwise than by regular retirement under these Rules may be filled by the Council, and the member so appointed shall take the seniority for retirement of the member whose place is filled.
- (e) The Council may at any time co-opt additional members for stated special purposes.
6. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held during the last quarter of each calendar year.
7. The meetings of the Association shall be convened by notices posted to every member, setting forth, as far as practicable, the business to be transacted thereat.
8. Candidates for election into the Association must be proposed in writing by two members, and their names submitted for election at a meeting of the Council. The name of an elected candidate shall not be added to the list of members till the first annual subscription has been paid. When candidates are elected in March or late in the financial year, the first subscription shall cover the following year.
9. The financial year of the Association shall be from 1 May to 30 April. All monies shall be received by the Treasurer, whose accounts and balance sheet shall be audited by two members or other persons appointed by the Council, circulated to all members of the Association and submitted to the next following Annual General Meeting.
10. The annual subscription shall be at such a rate as shall be determined from time to time by the Annual General Meeting and shall become due on 1 June. If any members shall be in arrears with their subscription for two complete years, they shall be advised that unless the amount due be paid before the end of the then current year their names will be removed from the list of members. The Council shall have the power to deprive any individual of membership if they deem it necessary in the interests of the Association.
11. Members are entitled to receive one copy of each of the Association's Publications at a reduced rate.
12. These Rules shall not be altered save by the agreement of at least two-thirds of those voting at an Annual General Meeting of the Association. No motion to alter these Rules shall be deemed in order unless the proposed alteration shall have been furnished in writing before 1st September to the Secretaries, who shall set out the same at length among the business to be transacted at the Meeting. No alteration shall be made to these Rules which would cause the Association to cease to be a Charity at law.
13. No member of the Council shall be entitled to be paid or to receive any sum out of the funds of the Association otherwise than by way of reimbursement of expenses properly incurred by the member.
6. In the event of the Association being dissolved any funds or assets remaining after payment of all outstanding debts and liabilities shall be paid or transferred to the Linnean Society of London for the purposes of promoting the study of systematics in relation to general biology and evolution as set out in Rule 2 (a, b, c) above.