SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

Genus Helicoceras Linder

Sri S. Y. Padmanabhan, Mycologist, Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, writes as follows:

Sri. Daya Nand Pant, in a communication published in *Current Science*, Vol. 20, No. 8. August 1951, p. 212, claims to have recorded the Genus *Helicoceras* Linder for the first time in India. Attention may be drawn in this connection to the *Annual Report of Central Rice Research Institute*, 1948-49, p. 26, wherein *Helicoceras nymphœarum* (Rand.) Linder was reported to have been isolated from rice grains. The identification of the fungus was confirmed by Dr. Hughes of the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, England.

Food Plants of the Desert Locust

Referring to Sri. K. B. Lal's letter on *Food Plants of the Desert Locust*,* Sri N. N. Sen, Conservator of Forests, Land Management Circle, U.P., writes as follows:—

"It would be interesting to note that when some locusts settled down in June 1951, in Kukrail Forest Block, near Lucknow, they went selectively for the babul (*Acacia arabica*) trees only and did not touch any other species. There were a number of mango (*Mangifera indica*), mahwa (*Bassia latifolia*), neem (*Azadirachta indica*), reonj (*Acacia leucophlaea*) and cheonkar (*Prosopis spicigera*) and other species in the immediate neighbourhood.

* *Curr. Sci.*, 1951, **20**, p. 165.

Control of the Indian Bookworm

The following recommendations are made regarding the control of infection of the larvæ of the bookworm, *Gastrallus indicus*:

The infected material should be air-heated in small lots, in suitable ovens at 60° C. for 4 hours or at 70° C. for 3 hours. Higher temperatures are not recommended as they would adversely affect the durability of paper, palm-leaves, etc. But should such an adverse effect be of no consequence (as in the case of the library cards), exposures to higher temperatures may also be made.—(By courtesy of the *Indian Forester*, 1951, 77, 511).

Technetium in the Sun

C. E. Moore (*Science*, 1951, *114*, 59), has pointed out that spectral evidence suggests the existence in the Sun of the recently discovered element, 43, technetium. Comparing the wavelengths of the intense low level lines in the laboratory spectra of Tc I and Tc II with those of the lines in the solar spectrum, none are found corresponding to Tc I, either due to the lines falling on top of those due to other elements, or occurring in a region where they are masked by the continuum. In Tc II also, some of the lines coincide with those due to other elements, but the hitherto unidentified solar line at 3195·23 Å agrees well with the line at 3195·21 Å in the laboratory spectrum. None of the lines appear to be definitely absent, so that if technetium exists in nature, the above evidence would indicate the possibility of its presence in the Sun.

Nuffield Foundation Travelling Fellowships, 1952-53

It has been decided to award the Fellowships for the year 1952-53 in the following subjects:—

Two Fellowships in Medical Sciences, preference being given to candidates wishing to study (1) Pharmacology, and (2) Industrial Medicine; one Fellowship in Engineering, preference being given to candidates wishing to study Hydraulic Engineering or Agricultural Engineering; one Fellowship in Natural Sciences, preference being given to candidates wishing to study Industrial Standardisation and Quality Control. It is estimated that the total value of an award (exclusive of travelling expenses) will be at the rate of from £ 770 to £ 890 a year, according to individual circumstances.

Applications for Fellowships for 1952-53 (one original and three copies) should be submitted not later than 15th January, 1952, to the Secretary, Nuffield Foundation Indian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Government House, New Delhi, from whom copies of the form of application may be obtained.

Dye Extracts from Tamarind Seed Testa

Recent investigations carried out at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, have resulted in the development of a process by which it is

possible to obtain dye extract at a cost of about 9½ annas per pound from tamarind seed testa. The process in question has been patented and full rights of ownership therein now vest in the Central Government.

According to this process, the dye can be extracted from the testa in a standard form which has been found to give uniform and dependable results in dyeing and which in cost of dyeing compares favourably with the coal-tar acid dyes.

Any person or firm desirous of undertaking the exploitation of the process is requested to communicate direct with the Secretary, Patents Advisory Committee, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, New Delhi, for further information.

Inventory of Research Equipment

Following the suggestions from a number of research workers, three types of data forms were prepared by the UNESCO South Asia Science Co-operation Office, New Delhi, and sent out to the Heads of the University Departments and research institutions to furnish information on the special apparatus, rare chemical and type cultures, etc., which they consider unique acquisitions in the laboratories. The value of the proposed inventory will be gauged by the information available which may help another institution to plan its laboratory equipment or to plan any research work. Very soon the collected information will be compiled and it will be appreciated if those who could not send the information earlier will kindly do so now.

Dr. K. R. Ramanathan

Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, Director of Physical Research, Ahmedabad, has been elected President of the International Association of Meteorology for the triennium, 1951-54.

Dr. B. R. Nijhavan

Dr. B. R. Nijhavan, Assistant Director, National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, has been elected a Fellow of the Institution of Metallurgists, United Kingdom.

Industrial Plants from Germany

India's war reparations from Germany include a Methanol Plant, a T.N.T. Factory, a Glycerine Plant, a Precision Machine Tools Manufacturing Factory and an Electric Steel Smelting Furnace. The *Methanol Plant* from the Badische Anilin Soda Fabrik, Ludwigshafen, is valued at Rs. 5,30,282. It is meant for the production of methanol from the stage of compression of raw methane gas to a synthesis of 90 tons of pure methanol in 24 hours. It is expected that the plant will be taken up by the Sindri Ferilizer Factory.

Valued at Rs. 1,74,888, the *Trinitrotoluene (T.N.T.) Factory* is capable of producing 12 tons T.N.T. in 24 hours at the rate of 4 tons per charge and 3 charges per day. This plant has been retained for use by the Ordnance Factories.

European Brewery Convention

At a meeting of the Council of the European Brewery Convention, it was decided to hold the next Congress in the south of France, the subjects for discussion being: (1) the relation between the analytical figures of the barley and the malt and the physicochemical stability of the beer, and (2) the control of spoilage organisms in beer.

To facilitate the exchange of brewing students between different countries, each country was asked to prepare a list of breweries willing to accept such students.

Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association held recently, the following Office-bearers were elected for the year 1951-52:—

President: Dr. J. C. Ghosh; *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. D. M. Bose and Prof. M. N. Saha; *Hony. Director*: Prof. P. Ray (*Ex-Officio*); *Members*: Dr. S. K. Banerji, Hon'ble Sri. C. C. Biswas, Dr. K. Biswas, Dr. S. R. Bose, Dr. P. N. Brahmachari, Sri Dwijesh Chandra Chakraborty, Dr. Satish Chandra Ganguly, Dr. M. S. Krishnan, Prof. P. C. Mahanti, Dr. Shyamaprasad Mookerjee and Sri Nagendra Nath Sen.

The Electrochemical Society : India Section

At the First Annual Meeting of the India Section of the Electrochemical Society held at Bangalore on August 2, 1951, the following Officers were elected:—

Chairman: Dr. B. K. Ram Prasad (Bombay), *Vice-Chairmen*: Mr. J. Balachandra (Bangalore) and Mr. K. Rajagopal (Mettur Dam), *Secretary-Treasurer*: Dr. T. L. Rama Char (Bangalore).

Secretary: M. Sreenivasaya, B.A., F.I.I.Sc., F.A.Sc. Editor: G. N. Ramachandran, M.A., Ph.D. D.Sc., F.A.Sc.
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