



R. Gordon Wasson (1898-1986)
Author(s): Richard Evans Schultes
Source: *Taxon*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (May, 1987), pp. 557-558
Published by: International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT)
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1221489>
Accessed: 12/08/2010 17:55

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>. JSTOR's Terms and Conditions of Use provides, in part, that unless you have obtained prior permission, you may not download an entire issue of a journal or multiple copies of articles, and you may use content in the JSTOR archive only for your personal, non-commercial use.

Please contact the publisher regarding any further use of this work. Publisher contact information may be obtained at <http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublisher?publisherCode=iapt>.

Each copy of any part of a JSTOR transmission must contain the same copyright notice that appears on the screen or printed page of such transmission.

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Taxon*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

Eduardo A. Quisumbing, one of the pioneers in Philippine plant systematics, died on 23 August 1986 at the age of 90. A graduate of the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines, he obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago.

The National Museum, which houses the Philippine National Herbarium, was completely destroyed in World War II and the 605,367 specimens in the herbarium were reduced to ashes. After the war, Dr. Quisumbing as both Director of the museum and Curator of the herbarium, faced the task of restoration and rehabilitation. Botanical explorations were conducted year-round throughout the Philippines and by the time of his retirement in 1961, there were 76,983 preserved specimens in the restored herbarium.

Dr. Quisumbing published monographs of several genera of Philippine Orchidaceae, his primary interest. His other major contributions to Philippine flora are the monographs on Philippine Piperaceae (1930), and the Medicinal Plants of the Philippines (1951). He published 137 scientific papers, mainly on Philippine flora, and was the sole author of most of them. The rest he co-authored with Oakes Ames, Elmer D. Merrill, and some Filipino botanists. Dr. Quisumbing was truly entitled to the distinct honors of a National Scientist and an Academician. [Jose Vera Santos, Institute of Biology, College of Science, University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines.]

Walter Robyns (1901–1986), second president of I.A.P.T., Belgian taxonomist and student of the flora of Central Africa, died at Ukkel, Belgium on 27 December 1986. Frans Hubert Edouard Arthur Robyns, born at Aalst (Limburg, Belgium) on 25 May 1901 was one of the outstanding taxonomists working on the tropical flora of especially the former Belgian Congo (now Zaire) as well as a gifted administrator and organizer of botanical research. He studied at the University of Leuven (Louvain) where he obtained the degree of Dr. Sci. in 1923. He was associated with the Jardin botanique de l'État (later: . . . National) from 1923 until his death: as assistant from 1923–1928, as curator 1928–1931, director 1931–1966, and, in retirement, as honorary director from 1966 until his death. Robyns was president of I.A.P.T. from 1954–1959, a period of rapid growth of the Association, a growth strongly stimulated by him, especially with respect to its formal and legal organization. He was also longtime professor of botany at the Catholic University of Leuven and an active member of various Belgian academies and professional societies. Robyns was a highly productive plant taxonomist with a predilection for the grasses. His *Flore agrostologique du Congo belge et du Ruanda-Urundi* brought him definitively on the track of the study of the flora of the former Belgian colonies following in the footsteps of his predecessor and pioneer botanist of the study of the Congolese flora, E. A. J. De Wildeman (1866–1947). Another major African flora by Robyns (later with R. Tournay) was his *Flore des spermatophytes du Parc National Albert* (1948–1955). The most important effort by Robyns, the *Flore du Congo belge et du Ruanda-Urundi*, came about as a cooperative project between the Jardin botanique de l'État and INEAC (Institut national pour l'étude agronomique du Congo belge). A large group of taxonomists oriented towards the Congolese flora was built up for that purpose at the Jardin botanique. Under the directorship of Robyns the Jardin botanique became a botanical institution which ranks among the first establishment of its kind in the world, with a very rich herbarium and library. Also under his general direction the *Flore générale de Belgique* was started, as well as several other cooperative flora projects. During the long years of his retirement Robyns was mainly active in the two scientific national academies of which he was a member. Many of his older colleagues will remember him as a forceful and dynamic personality, always oriented toward the promotion of his science, perhaps not always undisputed, but impressive in his dedication to our common cause. [F.A.S.]

R. Gordon Wasson (1898–1986), a pioneer in the field of ethnomycology and for 26 years an Associate in Botany in the Botanical Museum of Harvard University, died on 23 December 1986 at the home of his daughter in Binghamton, New York. He was 88 years of age. Born in Montana in 1898, he was a retired vice-president of J. P. Morgan & Co. Previously he had had military service in World War I and had been financial journalist in France for the *Herald Tribune*. He served as a trustee of Barnard College and on the Visiting Committee to the Slavic Department at Harvard. In 1972 he was President of the Society for Economic Botany. In 1982 he received an honorary doctorate from Bridgeport College and the following year Yale University awarded him the Addison Emery Verrill Medal in recognition of his research into the role of mind-altering fungi in the development of civilization in the Old and New worlds. An accomplished linguist, he travelled widely in both hemispheres in his ethnomycological investigations; particularly noteworthy are his intensive studies of the use and significance of the sacred hallucinogenic mushrooms, still an integral part of the culture of Indians of

southern Mexico. A prolific writer, he published many papers in technical journals and seven scholarly books.

With his wife, Valentina P. Wasson, M.D., who died in 1958, he published a two-volume work entitled *Russia, Mushrooms and History* which won the Sarah Gildersleeve Fife Memorial Award as one of "the most beautiful and scholarly books thus far produced in this century."

In 1983, Wasson donated his personal library of 8000 volumes and papers—the only ethnomycological library in the world—together with his many native artifacts, prints, paintings, photographs, and correspondence to the Botanical Museum of Harvard University. The gift, officially called *The Tina & Gordon Wasson Ethnomycological Collection*, includes a fund set up in the Museum for research and publication in ethnomycology. [Richard Evans Schultes, Jeffrey Professor of Biology and Director (Emeritus), Botanical Museum of Harvard University, Cambridge MA 02138, U.S.A.]

ADDENDUM

Assignment of Numbers to Overlooked Conservation Proposals

Dr. Jan Leussink, who prepares the general indices for *Taxon*, pointed out that I failed to assign sequential numbers to proposals to conserve generic names in P. G. Parkinson's paper (*Taxon* 36: 81–87. 1987). I apologize to all concerned for this oversight. The numbers, in parentheses, start from the last number assigned to proposals already in press for August:

- (885) 3877 *Mucuna* Scopoli, p. 84;
- (886) 3667 *Erinacea* Link, p. 85;
- (887) 3166 *Kalanchoe* A. P. de Candolle, p. 86;
- (888) 9371 *Liabum* Cassini, p. 86;
- (889) 7242 *Lophanthus* Benthham, p. 86;
- (890) 8114 *Oftia* Boquillon, p. 86;
- (891) 111 *Phragmites* Trinius, p. 87;
- (892) 9561 *Tolpis* Gaertner, p. 87.

Dan H. Nicolson, *Nomenclature Editor*

ISBN 0040-0262

Dates of Publication of the four issues of volume 35:

Issue	Pages	Dates
1 (Feb.)	1–[224]	27 February 1986
2 (May)	225–468	29 May 1986
3 (Aug.)	469–646	14 August 1986
4 (Nov.)	647–[994]	11 December 1986