

PREFACE

The International Symposium on Chemistry in Evolution and Systematics was sponsored by IUPAC with help from the Université Louis Pasteur and French Industry and was held at the Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France, 3–8 July 1972. The Symposium, which was organised under the auspices of the IUPAC Commission on Chemotaxonomy, covered five main subject areas: The Chemistry of Geographical Races, Comparative Biosynthetic Pathways, Insect–Plant Co-evolution, Molecular Evolution in Plants, and Fossil Chemistry. In addition two special plenary lectures were given by Professors V. H. Heywood and S. Fox to open and close the Symposium. This order has been followed here.

All the major plenary lectures are included in this presentation and I am sure that all those who read them will be struck by the wide variety of topics dealt with at this extremely successful meeting. The enthusiasm of all those who participated, both in attendance at lectures and in lively discussion coupled with the high quality of the shorter contributed papers certainly pointed to the need for further symposia of this type. One should recognize, therefore, that this collection of papers merely represents the first of many in which problems of evolution and systematics are discussed from a chemical point of view.

All participants will agree that we are extremely grateful to Professor G. Ourisson and his collaborators at the Université Louis Pasteur and to Dr. J. B. Harborne of the University of Reading for having borne the main burden in organizing this Symposium.

In preparing this collection for publication I personally wish to thank all the authors for their care in the preparation of their manuscripts, Professor B. C. L. Weedon for his courteous and wise guidance and the Publishers for their efficient handling of production.

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