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Preface

In 1976 the First Herbette Symposium of the Science Faculty of the University of Lausanne in Switzerland was held on the theme "The Species Concept in Hymenomycetes". At the conclusion of this meeting the participants expressed their interest in a second symposium along similar lines of organisation, but dealing with the genus concepts in mycology.

Since these days, the Swiss Mycological Society was founded, and the project of the second symposium took shape. It was proposed that the Society collaborated at the symposium, and when the Herbette Foundation of the University of Lausanne agreed to participate financially, the project could be realized.

Since 1976 two major new taxonomic tools became available, advanced computer techniques for phenetic and cladistic analyses, and the molecular techniques working directly with DNA. It is therefore not surprising that the general approach to taxonomy is quite different in the two symposia. The prevailing feeling was that cladistics can contribute significantly, and that DNA-techniques are very promising. It became quite clear that molecular biologists must cooperate with competent taxonomists, or their results will remain heavily underexploited, and competent "low-technology taxonomists" must turn their attention to molecular techniques, or their results will be to vulnerable and open to serious questioning and considerable correction from more advanced fields of taxonomy. Please discover the meeting on these grounds...

A technical note: Due to considerable organisational and technical difficulties editing took a very long time. I deeply regret the important delay and I also deplore the impossibility to reproduce the discussions that followed the presentation of the papers.

H. Cléménçon
December 1993.