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DEPOSITION OF NEW SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF FUNGI IN MYCOBANK

To: Journal Editors

Dear Colleagues

In order to place fungal nomenclature on a sound basis and take advantage of online databases, the International Mycological Association (IMA), which constitutes the IUBS Section for General Mycology, has assumed responsibility for MycoBank. At present around 1,400 new scientific names for fungi are introduced each year, dispersed through a multitude of scientific journals, and a timely method of co-ordinating information on these names has become essential.

MycoBank was initiated by the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures of the Royal Academy of Science of The Netherlands in 2004. It is a database in which all newly described fungi and new names of fungi can be deposited and stored along with key nomenclatural and descriptive material. Each name is checked against a nomenclatural database (Index Fungorum) and is given a unique reference number. Several leading mycological journals (e.g. *Fungal Diversity*, *Mycological Research*, *Mycotaxon*, *Studies in Mycology*) have made the prior deposition of new names in MycoBank a requirement for publication. The deposition numbers are cited when names are published in the journals in a parallel manner to the way GenBank numbers are used. As with GenBank, MycoBank will never apply any form of censorship.

MycoBank has been enthusiastically embraced by mycologists and, while the process is voluntary at present, proposals to make it mandatory after the next International Mycological and International Botanical Congresses in 2010–2011 are in process.

In the interests of scientific communication, the International Mycological Association would like you to consider making the deposition of new names of fungi in MycoBank a requirement for acceptance for publication in the journal you edit.

Thank you for your attention

Pedro W Crous
President, IMA

The IMA would value feedback, both positive and negative, if you have any concerns that could be addressed.

For further information on MycoBank (www.MycoBank.org) and the members of its Scientific Advisory Board, consult the IMA website (www.IMA-mycology.org).