

# Topic: Binomial System of Nomenclature

## ICBN

B.Sc. Botany Hons. II  
Paper: III Group: B

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## Preamble of ICBN 1983

- Botany requires a precise and simple system of nomenclature used by Botanists in all countries, dealing, on the one hand, with the terms which denote the ranks of taxonomic groups or units, and on the other hand with the scientific names which are applied to the individual taxonomic groups of plants. The purpose of giving a name to a taxonomic group is not to indicate its character or history, but to supply a means of referring it and to indicate its taxonomic rank. The code aims at the provision of a stable method of naming taxonomic groups, avoiding and rejecting the use of names which may cause error or ambiguity or throw science into confusion. It avoids the useless creation of names.

- The Principles form the basis of the system of Botanical Nomenclature.
- The detailed provisions are divided into Rules and Recommendations. Examples are added to the rules and the recommendations to illustrate them.
- The object of the Rules is to put the nomenclature of the past into order and to provide for that of the future, names contrary to a rule cannot be maintained.
- The Recommendations deal with subsidiary points, their object being to bring about greater uniformity and clearness, especially in future nomenclature, names contrary to a recommendation cannot, on that account, be rejected, but they are not examples to be followed.
- The provisions regulating the modification of this code from its last decisions.

- The Rules and Recommendations apply to all organisms treated as plants (except Bacteria), whether fossil or non-fossil. Nomenclature of Bacteria is governed by the ICNB. Special provisions are needed for certain groups of plants. The International Code of Nomenclature of cultivated plants (1980) was adopted by the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants; provisions for the names of hybrids appear in Appendix I.
- The only proper reason for changing a name is either a more profound knowledge of the facts resulting from adequate taxonomic study or the necessity of giving up nomenclature that is contrary to the rules.
- In the absence of a relevant rule or where the consequences of rules are doubtful, established custom is followed.
- This edition of the code supersedes all previous editions.