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International Commission for Plant–Bee Relationships Statutes

Article 1. The Organisation shall be called the "International Commission for Plant–Bee Relationships", hereafter to be referred to as "ICPBR".

Article 2. ICPBR is a Scientific Member of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS).

Article 3. The objectives of ICPBR are as follows:

(a) To promote and co-ordinate research in the area of relationships between plants and insects of the superfamily Apoidea, Apiformes (as defined by Michener 2007, *The Bees of the World*, John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, pp953), hereafter referred to as bees. This research shall be concerned with in particular physiological, ecological, ethological, and agronomic aspects of these relationships, with reference to:

- * Insect-pollinated plants
- * Foraging behaviour of bees
- * Effects of pollinators' visits on plants
- * Management and protection of pollinating bees
- * Materials collected by bees on plants
- * Products derived from plants and elaborated by bees

(b) To organize meetings, colloquia or symposia related to the above matter and to publish and disperse their proceedings.

(c) To collaborate closely with national and international institutions interested in the relationships between plants and bees, particularly those whose objectives are to expand scientific knowledge of animal and plant ecology and flora and fauna protection.

Article 4. The headquarters of ICPBR can be contacted through its web site (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/icpbr>) and through the IUBS Secretariat (<http://www.iubs.org/>).

Article 5. Members of ICPBR shall be either active or associate.

Members may be individuals, or national, private, technical, or scientific institutes or organizations interested in the relationships between plants and bees. Each institute or organization may appoint a delegate as a representative to ICPBR.

Active members are institutes, organizations, or individuals whose social statutes or professional activities enable them to participate scientifically or materially in the objectives and programmes of ICPBR.

Associate members are individuals, institutes or organizations who support the objectives and activities of ICPBR, but who are not able to participate directly scientifically or materially in the objectives and programmes of ICPBR.

Article 6. The statutory structure of ICPBR shall be:

- (a) The General Assembly
- (b) The Council
- (c) The Working Groups
- (d) Executive

Article 7. The General Assembly shall consist of all members.

It shall meet in ordinary session at least every five years. The place and date of the meeting will be fixed by the Council. At least two months notice of a meeting will be given to all members.

The General Assembly hears of and decides upon the recommendations of the Council and approves the treasurer's report. It decides upon:

- The recommendations in the Chairman's contained report
- The creation or suppression of Working Groups
- The approval of the internal regulations
- Amendments to the statutes.

No quorum shall be fixed for the meetings of the General Assembly, nor for votes by correspondence, which must be cast within three weeks of the ballot being circulated. Decisions instituted by voting at meetings shall be by simple majority.

When needed, a special meeting of the General Assembly may be called by the Council.

Article 8. The Council shall consist of between 15 and 20 members. It shall conduct the business affairs of ICPBR. It shall report annually and make recommendations to the General Assembly. The report and recommendations shall be published on the ICPBR website. The Council shall produce and be governed by its own internal regulations.

The Council shall elect the Executive officers from within the membership and they shall consist of a Chair, 2 Vice-Chairs, and a Secretary-Treasurer who shall comprise the Executive. The

Chair shall preside at meetings of the Council and represent ICPBR on all matters including any business dealings with institutes or organizations. The Vice-Chairs shall assume the office and duties of the Chair when needed. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have responsibility for the correspondence (including the annual questionnaire required for continuation of membership (see Internal Regulations)), records, and financial affairs of the Council and shall ensure permanent relations with the IUBS, according to the rules set by IUBS.

The Council shall be responsible for asking the membership (General Assembly) to nominate qualified members to serve on Council as and when necessary.

When Council meets in person or by electronic means, the quorum shall consist of one-third of the members. Decisions instituted by voting at Council meetings shall be by simple majority, but in cases of equally divided opinion, the Chair shall have the casting, even a second.

Council members shall be elected for a term of 5 years, but can be re-elected for additional terms.

The Council shall encourage proposals from within Council and from the active membership for the appointment of active members and associate members. Council reserves the right to accept membership in ICPBR.

Article 9. The Working Groups shall be recommended on the initiative of the Council or of a member, with the agreement of the Council, to realize definite programmes according to the objectives reported in Article 3 of these Statutes.

The Working Groups shall conduct themselves freely. Each Working Group is to be represented on Council by an active member who shall also act as group leader. The group leaders shall report the activities of their respective Working Groups to Council who shall include such reports in the annual report (Article 8).

Article 10. The resources of ICPBR shall ensure its administrative functioning and assist the Working Groups to realize their objectives.

These resources shall come from:

- gifts, and various grants from public or private institutions
- sale of publications by ICPBR or Working Groups
- symposia and colloquia fees
- membership subscriptions, if necessary

The Working Groups select their own means of financing their activities.

Article 11. Amendments to the internal regulations of ICPBR shall be drafted by Council and approved by the General Assembly. The internal regulations must be in accordance with these Statutes and with those of the IUBS.

The internal regulations define the activities of the General Assembly, the Council, and the Working Groups and which activities are eligible and worth reporting to the IUBS by the Council.

Article 12. Amendments of the Statutes may be recommended to the General Assembly by the Council or by any member of ICPBR. In the latter instance, the proposal shall be made in writing to the Chairman of the Council, and supported by at least two other members. The Council shall be entitled to inform all members of ICPBR of its opinion as to the proposed amendment. All Commission members should be informed of proposals for the amendment of the Statutes at last two months before they are to be decided upon by the General Assembly.

Article 13. ICPBR can be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of the votes registered at the General Assembly.

In the instance of dissolution, ICPBR's assets shall be conveyed to the IUBS.

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