CYANONEWS

March 1986

CYANONEWS is intended to provide cyanobacteriologists with a forum for rapid, informal communication, unavailable through journals. It relies entirely on news provided by its readers. Please send news, requests, publications, comments, etc. to the address below. DEADLINE for the next issue is JULY 1, 1986. If you wish to be included in the mailing list, send your name, address, telephone number, and a brief description of your research interests to:

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The MIDWEST REGIONAL NITROGEN FIXATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE will be held July 28-29, 1986 in Ames, Iowa, U.S. The topics covered will be biochemistry, physiology, and genetics of nitrogen fixation. Although intended to be largely a regional conference, participation of others is welcome. Deadline June 1, 1986. Contact Jay Peterson, Dept. of Botany, Iowa State University Ames, Iowa 50011 USA, (515) 294-3522.

The 2ND ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON CYANOBACTERIAL GENETICS will be held... When? Where? Two years ago, at the first annual workshop it was decided to continue the event in 1986 (skipping 1985 owing to the International Symposium on Photosynthetic Prokaryotes). Bob Haselkorn hoped to organize the workshop again, but his daughter is getting married in August and Margot was firm: only one Haselkorn extravaganza per summer. THEREFORE, the workshop is in need of another home. Is anyone out there able to put it together this year? If so, please contact me (J.E.), to avoid the theoretical possibility of multiple workshops. Bob Haselkorn is available for any advice, financial or otherwise: Bob Haselkorn, Dept. of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology, 313 Cummings Life Sci. Center, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, (312) 962-1069.

Tony Walsby made the suggestion that he act as U.K. CLEARING HOUSE FOR CYANONEWS, receiving all copies bound for U.K. cyanobacteriologists and mailing them out at local rates. In addition to cutting mailing costs substantially, local outposts can only increase intercommunication, which is the primary purpose of this newsletter. Any volunteers outside of U.K.? (A breakdown by country of cyanobacteriologist respondents is included at the end of this issue).

The name of the CORRESPONDENT for each item in this newsletter is capitalized, so you know who to write to for reprints or whatever. The CORRESPONDENT'S ADDRESS appears in the DIRECTORY of Cyanobacteriologists at the END OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

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TINEKE BURGER-WIERSMA reports the isolation of a filamentous prochlorophyte, a prokaryote containing chlorophylls a and b and lacking phycobilin pigments. The freshwater species can easily be grown in a mineral medium. A paper describing the strain and its pigments has been and another is in preparation describing the morphology, ultrastructure, physiology, and ecology of this organism.

BRUCE McFADDEN has succeeded in transforming Anacystis nidulans 6301 with pBR322 or pCH1 (a derivative of a plasmid native to Anacystis nidulans R2. Expression of ribulose bisphosphate carboxylase is greatly amplified in pBR322 transformants. These results will appear in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. in March or April.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF G.E. FOGG

G.E. Fogg, a botanist who performed the first sustained experimental investigations on cyanobacteria and made notable contributions to our knowledge on nitrogen fixation and heterocysts, has retired after a career spanning 45 years. His first publication (Fogg 1941) was a scholarly review of early literature on gas vacuoles, and his second (Fogg 1942) described perhaps the first rigorous demonstration of nitrogen fixation by an axenic cyanobacterial culture. This was followed by his classic papers on the production of heterocysts in which he established their inverse correlation with cell nitrogen content (Fogg 1944), inhibition of their formation by ammonium and other nitrogenous substances (Fogg 1949), and their developmental cytology, including accumulation of arginine reserves (Fogg 1951). In 1961 he moved from University College London to form the Westfield school of cyanobacteriologists whose studies culminated in the first isolation of heterocysts and the suggestion that they were the site of nitrogen fixation (Fay, Stewart, Walsby & Fogg 1968). His move to the Chair of Marine Biology at the University College of North Wales waw the expansion of his interest in phytoplankton, including picoplanktonic cyanobacteria, the topic of his Review Lecture at the Royal Society of London on 13 February 1986.

Tony Walsby

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This space is reserved for notices of job opportunities, requests by respondents for strains or information, etc.

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