

UROCYSTIS VERSUS TUBURCINIA

A PROPOSAL for the conservation of the name *Urocystis* Rabenh. has been drawn up by the Plant Pathology Committee of the British Mycological Society (Secretary: G. C. Ainsworth), and forwarded to Dr C. L. Shear, the Secretary of the Special Committee for Fungi, appointed at the International Botanical Congress, Amsterdam, 1935.

The name *Tuburcinia* has precedence, and is the legal name according to the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature.

The Plant Pathology Committee proposed that the name *Urocystis* Rabenh. (1856) be conserved against the name *Tuburcinia* Fr. (1832) for the following reasons:

(i) The name *Urocystis* has been well known to, and in frequent use by, plant pathologists since there has been a science of plant pathology, and should accordingly not be discarded without cogent reasons.

(ii) The disuse of the name *Urocystis* is not dictated by the accession of any new knowledge. It has been known and accepted that *Tuburcinia Orobanches* is a species of *Urocystis* since 1877, when it was renamed *Urocystis Orobanches*. For more than forty years mycologists refrained from transferring the species of *Urocystis* en bloc to *Tuburcinia*, so as not to confuse the literature.

(iii) Since 1887, the generic name *Tuburcinia* Fr. has been used in a rather different sense, as if it were founded on *T. Trientalis* Berk. & Br., a species unknown to Fries. It is still a matter of taxonomic dispute whether species of *Tuburcinia* so used (and none of them are major pathogens) are properly classified in the same genus with the species of the genus *Urocystis*.

It is strongly urged that it is not in the interests of plant pathology that major pathogens such as *U. occulta*, *U. Tritici* and *U. Cepulae* should be dispossessed of a well known and long established generic name that has always been free from any taint of nomenclatural confusion, in order to be given a less known one, the use of which since 1887 is open to suspicion.

(Accepted for publication 31 May 1939)