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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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is accompanied by a questionnaire of 11 questions, each asking for the relevant figures for 1980, 1985 and 1990. The first four questions ask about funding and expenditure, and the next four are devoted to manpower levels involved in systematics. Question 9 asks about the time students spend studying systematic biology, and question 10 the age distribution of staff teaching systematic biology. This questionnaire has gone to five national museums, 16 local authority/regional museums, nine university museums, two national botanic gardens, two regional botanic gardens, six university botanic gardens, and 35 universities. Questions 2 and 6 ask, *inter alia*, for figures of expenditure and manpower related to 'curation'. The return date for the questionnaire was 14th October 1991.

I believe it is important that members of BCG note the emphasis on the need for 'hard facts', and that the

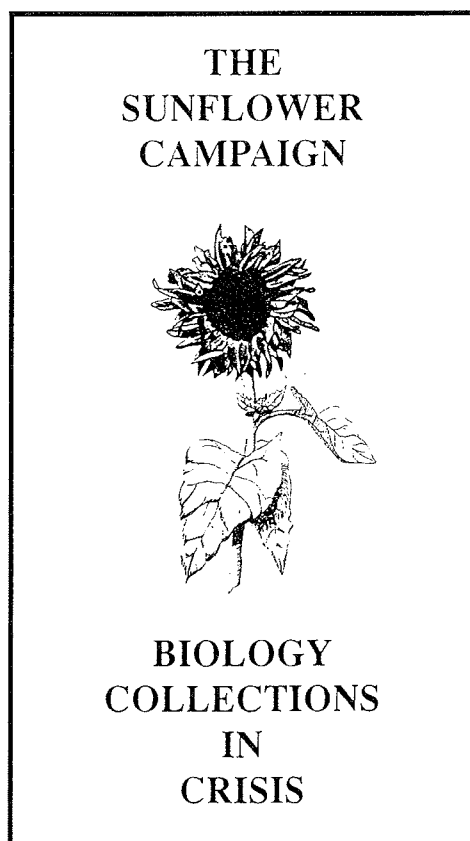
BCG should be gathering the relevant information on systematic biological research in those museums not covered by the sub-committee survey. Research in this context should be interpreted in its broadest sense and would include biological recording, which is very relevant to systematic biology. We should also be gathering numeric data to support the importance of biological collections, such as number of researcher visits and research loans made.

The part of the questionnaire dealing with expenditure on systematic biology research is enclosed with this newsletter. Would all members ensure that a return is completed for their museum and send it to the address below.

Charles Pettitt

The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

BCG Campaigns 1991-2



Sunflower 2

The revamped Sunflower leaflet is now available to all those in need of sticks with which to beat governing bodies. The sentiments of the leaflet are similar to the original, but there is more reference to our relevance in the 'Green Decade', and suggestions as to what governing bodies and local businesses should do if they want to help. In addition the leaflet has improved illustrations and is printed in two colours (topical green and sunflower yellow - our adjectives so do not ask your printers for them!).

Bundles of about 250 leaflets can be obtained from:
Alec Coles
Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery
Borough Road
Sunderland
Tyne and Wear SR1 1PP

Please enclose a cheque for £2.50 to cover postage. Any overseas orders will be invoiced separately, but please note that the content of the leaflet is UK-biased.

Alec Coles
Tyne and Wear Museum Service
Sunderland Museum