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TYPE-LOCALITIES

I would like to draw attention to the following summary (in English) of a Dutch publication by Mr. L. J. M. Butot (dated 1977). The summary appeared in the duplicated newsletter of the Dutch Malacological Society (no. 181) - it runs as follows:

'Nature Conservation and type localities. An attentive nature conservation officer, although not a malacologist,

happened to have a vague knowledge of the scientific importance of the Kaaskenswater near Zierikzee. When this brackish water lake was threatened by town expansion, he notified his provincial officer. This latter official, not being aware of type-localities and their scientific importance, requested further information. It soon became clear that taxonomists are usually not represented in conservation bodies and that the first line authorities as a rule do not know about the existence and importance of type localities; neither do they know about the presence of type localities in their regions. Nature conservation officers cannot be blamed for ignorance as regards type localities which is a purely systematic topic. It is the scientific responsibility of museum directors to inform conservation bodies about the location of type localities in the county. Their staffs can know in particular about those localities where the urgency of conservation surpasses the general importance of type localities. This is the case when types have been lost, or when only syntypes of allopatric origin are present.

Non-taxonomists should not try to solve problems in this respect, because of nomenclatorial and taxonomic consequences; non-taxonomists should not designate type localities by selecting lecto and neotypes".

Conservationists (environmentalists) as a rule do not realise the importance of type-localities and it is up to taxonomists to ensure that such sites are made known to the appropriate authorities.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

The draft third edition of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature is now available for comment by zoologists. Copies may be obtained (price £2.50 surface mail, £5.00 air mail) together with copies of the paper explaining the major changes proposed (price 50p) from the Publications Officer, International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD.