

U.S. NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM HAWAIIAN TERRESTRIAL BIOLOGY PROJECT

REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 20-23, 1967

The purpose of this meeting was to set up a task force, plan out the organization, and prepare background data for a detailed, long term, comprehensive investigation of the endemic and invading biotas of the Hawaiian Islands. This major undertaking is concerned with one of the most critical biotas in the world—critical because of the exceptionally high endemism and the rapidity with which it is disappearing before the onslaught of man and introduced species of animals and plants.

The Planning Committee was concerned with the following primary matters: (1) Criteria for the selection of high priority projects; (2) Plant and animal groups most urgently in need of study; (3) Invasive organisms which are most seriously affecting the native life of the islands; (4) Native communities and habitats which call for prompt investigation; (5) Development of lists and bibliographies and other source materials for efficient research reference; (6) Personnel organization of the projects; (7) Other, related projects pertaining to Hawaiian biology; (8) Facilities already available and still needed for conducting the research; and (9) Budgetary requirements.

The meetings were held at the B. P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu, where Dr. Roland Force, the Director, made excellent facilities available and arranged for a rather large number of invited participants in the discussions. A day was set aside for consultations with authorities at the top administrative levels, visited in their offices by members of the Planning Committee. The following schedule for the conferences was followed:

Monday, March 20:

9:00-12:00. Executive meeting of the Planning Committee.

1:30-5:00. Meeting with small group of selected local biologists.

Tuesday, March 21:

9:00-12:00. Meeting with approximately 15 local biologists concerned with Hawaiian terrestrial biology.

1:30-5:00. Meeting with land managers of state, federal, and private lands.

Wednesday, March 22: Visits by individuals and groups from the Planning Committee to top authorities.

Thursday, March 23: First meeting of proposed task force to discuss the organization of a project proposal.

The members of the Planning Committee present at the meetings were Dr. Sherwin Carlquist (Professor of Botany, Claremont Graduate School, California), Dr. Richard S. Cowan (Director, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, U.S. National Museum), Dr. F. R. Fosberg (Special Advisor for Tropical Biology, Smithsonian Institution), Dr. Herman T. Spieth (Professor of Zoology and Chairman, University of California, Davis), Dr. Robert S. Usinger (Department of Entomology, University of California, Berkeley). Dr. Theodore H. Hubbell (Director, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) was invited, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Systematics and Biogeography, to serve as Co-Chairman of the Planning Committee meeting together with Dr. W. H. Wagner, Jr. (Director, Botanical Gardens, University of Michigan) who had already been named by the USNC/IBP as Director of the Hawaii Project.

The following persons participated in the conferences: (a) Local biologists—Gladys E. Baker, Andrew J. Berger, George W. Gillett, D. Elmo Hardy, Charles H. Lamoureux, Helmuth Leith, A. C. Smith, J. Linsley Gressitt, Joshio Kondo, Russell Strandtman, Alvin K. Chock, Maxwell Doty, Karl Yoshimoto. (b) Representatives of Land Management agencies—Robert E. Nelson (Forestry Research Center); Gene Kreidler (Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife); Daniel J. Tobin, Jr. (U.S. National Park, Hawaii); Winstead Banko (U.S. National Park, Hawaii); Michio Takata (Director, Division of Fish and Game);