



**NatSCA**

Natural Sciences Collections Association

<http://www.natsca.org>

## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

---

Title: NFBR and BCG

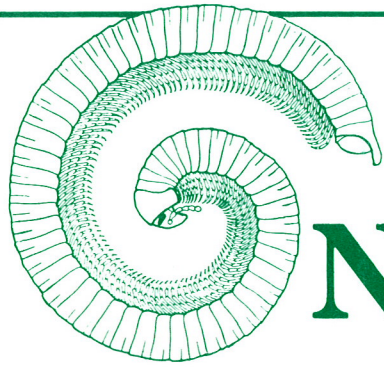
Author(s): Stansfield, G.

Source: Stansfield, G. (1986). NFBR and BCG. *Biology Curators Group Newsletter, Vol 4 No 5*, 106.

URL: <http://www.natsca.org/article/1214>

---

NatSCA supports open access publication as part of its mission is to promote and support natural science collections. NatSCA uses the Creative Commons Attribution License (CCAL) <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/> for all works we publish. Under CCAL authors retain ownership of the copyright for their article, but authors allow anyone to download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, and/or copy articles in NatSCA publications, so long as the original authors and source are cited.



# NEWSLETTER



Vol 4 No 5

## NFBR and BCG

The National Federation for Biological Recording was formally launched on April 15th at a conference held in Cambridge. The founding of the Federation may be seen as a direct result of the initiatives of the Biology Curators Group and follows directly from the BCG Seminar 'Biological Recording and the use of Site Based Biological Information' which took place in Leicester in September 1984. At this seminar an ad hoc group was set up to investigate ways of improving the situation for biological recording at a national and local level. The ad hoc group organised the Biological Recording Forum at Chelsea College in London in April 1985 which in turn set up a steering committee with a brief to prepare a draft constitution to be presented to an inaugural meeting of a properly constituted new organisation in 1986.

At a meeting in Cambridge attended by 80 delegates drawn from museums, the Nature Conservancy Council, the Natural Environment Research Council and the voluntary Nature Conservation Movement the draft constitution was adopted and a Council elected.

The Federation represents the concern of many scientists, conservationists, and amateur naturalists that the importance of biological recording is not sufficiently recognised and that funding and co-ordination are urgently needed. The Federation seeks to involve the many agencies active in biological recording and, in doing so, to help improve their effectiveness in gathering, managing and disseminating biological records. The immediate aim of the Federation will be to improve awareness of the importance of biological recording in all organisations concerned with the environment and to raise funds to support its work.

Some members may feel that this has taken the initiative away from BCG. The fact is, that museums are only one of a number of agencies active in biological recording and that any attempt to improve coordination at a national

level must have the support of all the agencies involved. It is the ambitious hope of the Federation that it will be able to persuade Government of the need for a properly organised and funded nationwide network of Biological Record Centres. One possibility might be for biological recording to be made a statutory function of Local Authorities and for Biological Record Centres to operate in a similar way to the Record Offices and their handling of local history archives. If this were to come about one would hope that museums would be given this responsibility as one of the few institutions which need such data for both research and interpretation and that their present work in this field would be recognised and formalised. There is still an important role for BCG in this but it might be that museums now need to share their expertise with other agencies through the medium of the Forum.

The Council of the Federation is made up of the following members. G. Stansfield (Chairman of Executive and Council), P.T. Harding (Secretary of Executive and Council), D.A. Roberts (Treasurer and member of Executive), L.S. Way (Publicity Secretary and member of Executive), C.J.T. Copp (Council and Executive), H.R. Arnold, Mrs. P.J. Copson, Dr. R. Earll, I.M. Evans, Dr. M. Game, E. Greenwood, G. Halfpenny, Dr. A.G. Irwin, Dr. F.H. Perring, C.W. Plant, J. Riggall, and G. Walley.

Since the inaugural meeting the Executive Committee has met twice and the Council once. There have also been two meetings of the Linnean Society's Biological Survey Working Group on which several Council members are represented.

Membership application forms (membership fee £5) and order forms for the Conference Proceedings will be circulated shortly. It is very much hoped that many BCG members and museums will join the new Federation.

Geoff Stansfield