

PREFACE

At the 22nd International Geological Congress in New Delhi (1964) the Council of the International Paleontological Union decided to form a subcommittee for the study of the application of biometric methods in Paleontology. The present symposium is a result of the activities of this subcommittee.

It is no accident that several of the contributions are concerned with aspects of Numerical Taxonomy, thus reflecting the current seething interest in the quantification of taxonomic procedures. Other timely topics are discussed, including systems analysis and orientation problems. The field of Paleontology was kept very broad for the purposes of our Symposium and ranges from the quantitative analysis of purely descriptive taxonomic situations through paleoecology and, peripherally, to a sedimentologic question with paleoecologic implications and the subject of the

analysis of orientation data, a matter of considerable importance in the study of many paleoecologic problems.

I am indebted to the contributing authors for the time they have taken to make available their thoughts on new ideas and methods for others and I hope and believe that the Symposium will assist in furthering development in this rapidly widening area of research. I am grateful to Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis for guaranteeing the publication of this volume.

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