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The initial part of our collection was established in 1953-1955, during my research stay at the Department of Plant Biology, the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Stanford, California. The first samples were then collected during numerous trips in the western part of the USA; the field assistance of Dr. W.M. Hiesey, Dr. M.A. Nobs and Dr. A. Milner is gratefully acknowledged. Later on, further samples were collected in the southern part of the USA and in Europe. On the whole, the initial part of our collection comprised more than a hundred clonal cultures (collection numbers: 6552-6863 and 7000-7022). Some part of this material was eliminated in the meantime; only the clones kept for a longer time were included in the list presented in the last part of the volume. On the other hand, all later samples were listed, no exception being made for those that perished before reaching a suitable developmental stage.

The main bulk of the collection was built up in 1966-1980. In 1966, we received from Dr. J.W. McClure, Oxford, 80 aseptic cultures that were used in his biochemical study. In 1968, 40 cultures were obtained from Dr. H.L. Clark, New Orleans. In 1973, 200 population samples were taken in the wild together with the material destined for clonal cultures during a trip through the Middle West and the western part of the USA made together with Prof. Dr. K. Urbanska-Worytkiewicz; in 1978, 150 analogous samples were collected in the eastern part of the USA. In addition, 50 samples were brought from various trips in Europe and Africa.

Our collection, however, would have never grown so large, had not numerous acquaintances, friends, colleagues and, last but not least, my own parents agreed to collect the duckweeds during their various travels. Considerable amount of material was provided by H.I. Astin, South Yarra, Victoria, Australia; A. Gigon, Egg, Switzerland; D. Goepfert, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; S.L. Haslam, Cambridge, Great Britain; L. Hume, London, Ontario, Canada; F. Klötzli, Wallisellen, Switzerland; E. and M. Landolt-Stadler, Zürich, Switzerland; R.M. Lowden, Santiago, Dominican Republic; F.D. Ott, Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A.; M.T. Pedersen, Mburucuya, Argentina; R.A. Stanley, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.; S.S. Tillet, Barquisimeto, Venezuela. The kind help of scientists from all over the world who, not knowing us personally, promptly sent us the live material on request, deserves a very special mention. This collaboration proved to be very fruitful, more than 1000 samples being gathered.

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