

# SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

## INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY (INSTITUTO DE BIOLOGÍA)\*

Casa del Lago, Chapultepec, México, D. F.  
Director: Prof. Isaac Ochoterena

The Institute of Biology of the National University of Mexico was established in 1929, upon the transfer to the University of the Department of Biologic Studies. Prof. I. Ochoterena has been its Director ever since.

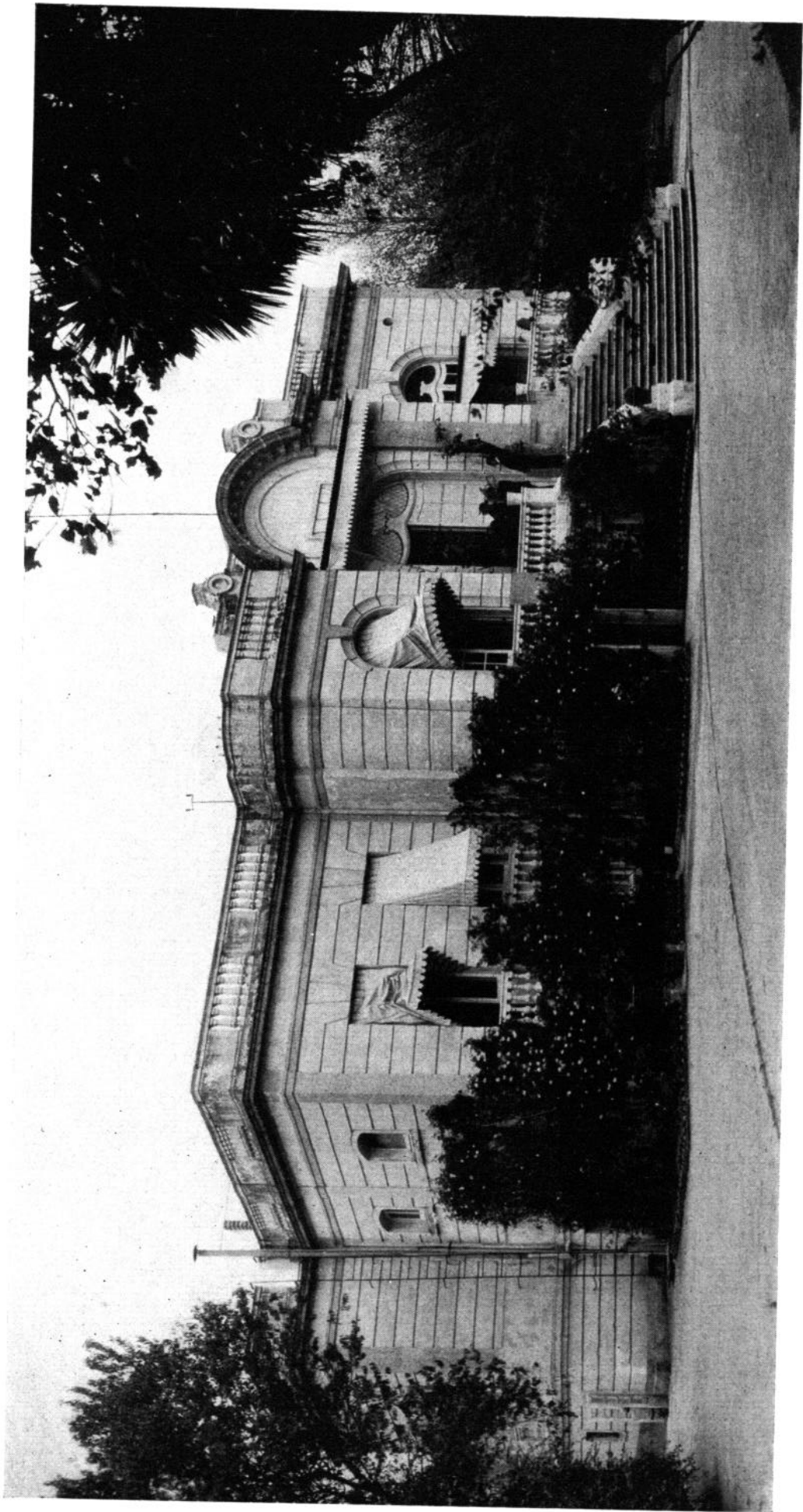
At present the Institute, which has a staff of some 38 persons, includes the departments of Botany, Zoology, and Biology, the Library, and the National Museum of Natural History. The subdivisions include Histology, Biologic Chemistry, Bacteriology, Mycology, Phanerogams, Histo-Physiology, Hydrobiology, Helminthology, Entomology, Herpetology, Mastozoology and Comparative Anatomy. The Museum possesses excellent collections in zoology, mineralogy and paleontology, botany, comparative anatomy, and teratology.

Since its inception, the Institute has published the *Anales del Instituto de Biología*, usually four times a year, and papers by members have also appeared in other journals. A total of 324 papers appeared from 1930-1937. The library has 20,000 volumes; the Botany division has 3,067 volumes and a file of 13,000 bibliographic references on Mexican plants. The Institute maintains scientific relations with 837 similar institutions and societies, and receives 533 exchanges.

Among the outstanding work done by the Institute has been that in parasitology, entomology, helminthology, and botany. In the scientific section of the Herbarium, 36,500 Mexican plants have been classified, and the historical section has some 2,000 specimens, the work of previous botanists, including parts of the collections of Vicente Cervantes (expedition of Charles III), Lagasca (1776-1839), Bustamante and Septiem (1790-1844), Peñafiel (1834-1922), Villada (1843-1906), Altamirano (1848-1908), and many others. Studies on Mexican fungi, yeasts, lichens, and cacti have been made by members of the Institute. The Histobiology section has published a series of papers on Neurological studies, and another on Teratology; other sections have analyzed medicinal plants, mineral waters, Mexican foods. The Institute has tried for the last ten years to arouse popular interest in entomology, with the publication of informational leaflets, lectures, and exhibits, and the work has resulted in the sending in of numerous specimens, and in several scientific papers. Snakes and spiders are also studied.

The budget of the Institute amounts to about \$150,800 pesos yearly.

\* One of a series of papers describing the principal scientific institutions in Latin America.



Institute of Biology of the National University of Mexico



Histology Laboratory



Main library