

## Advances in Nematology



Prizewinner, Laura Kruitbos and Maurice Moens.

Once again the Linnean Society was the venue for the annual Advances in Nematology meeting on 11 December 2007. On the day before the meeting Ralf Ehlers (Kiel, Germany), one of the keynote speakers, e-mailed to say he was unable to attend because of flu - a great disappointment for the meeting - "sorry Ralf, we didn't have the opportunity to buy you a pint!" Brian Kerry (Rothamsted) stepped in at short notice to give the morning session's opening talk "Plant-parasitic nematodes as components of the soil ecosystem." Brian described some of the work done as part of the collaborative EU funded EcoTrain project. Using coastal sand dunes in Europe as a model system he highlighted some of the mechanisms and the multitrophic interactions that control population densities of plant parasitic nematodes

in nature. The other guest speaker Florian Grundler did make it from Vienna to present "Sex, sugar and cell walls - the interaction of *Heterodera schachtii* with its hosts." This meeting offers a diversity of presentations ranging across the discipline and 2007 was no exception with presentations on many aspects of nematology. As in previous years we had an excellent response for offered papers with thirteen oral presentations and ten posters. Regrettably two of these speakers could not be present, so substitute talks were given by Keith Davies (Rothamsted) and Ernesto San-Blas (Reading). Keith updated the meeting on the progress and development of an in vitro culturing system for *Pasteuria penetrans* and Ernesto presented work from his recently completed PhD on the behavioural ecology of entomopathogenic nematodes. A short AGM (AAB Nematology Group) was held before lunch and members had an opportunity to thank Roma Gwynn who stood down as Group Convenor, a role she has had for the last six years.

Advances in Nematology encourages student participation and it's often their first formal opportunity to present their research. The AAB do offer travel awards for students wishing to attend. A book prize was awarded again this year for the best oral presentation by a student. This year's winner was Laura Kruitbos (Aberdeen) who presented her work on "Coexistence of *Steinernema carpocapsae* and *Heterorhadtis megidis* in sand and peat." Maurice Moens (Merelbeke, Belgium) presented Laura with a copy of *Plant Nematology* (Perry and Moens, 2006) which had been kindly donated by CABI Publishing. This is the only annual forum in the UK for nematologists working on plant-parasitic, free-living and entomopathogenic nematodes. The friendly atmosphere and the relatively recent introduction of guest speakers from throughout the world has enhanced its appeal to nematologists from Europe and the USA making it a truly international event. The 2008 meeting will take place on 16 December at the same venue - so no excuses and put the date in your diary now!

Barbara Pembroke, University of Reading

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The Division of Development and Alumni Relations Office, The University of Manchester. Tel: 0161 275 7230.

## Welcome to New Members

**Elected 11 March 2008**

**Dr Ian Adams**, Molecular Biologist at CSL (Plant Pathogen Assay Development) with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology and virology.

**Dr Beena R Ajithkumar**, Research Associate working on a European funded project 'Molecular, Environmental and Nutritional evaluation of Bambara groundnut for food production in semi-arid Africa and India'. Main objectives of the project are to study the eco-physiological interactions develop SSR markers, linkage based association analysis. Beena has a special interest in cropping and the environment.

**Mr Bas Allema**, PhD Student working on behaviour ecology of ground beetles in rural landscapes with a special interest biological control.

**Miss Sally-Anne Atkin**, Technical Officer - Pea, Bean, Veg Scientist at PGRO Peterborough with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop

improvement and virology.

**Mr Paul Bee**, Agricultural Communications Manager at British Sugar with a special interest in cropping and the environment.

**Ms Amy Bilton**, KPT Associate at Newcastle University with special interests in pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement, cropping and the environment and biological control.

**Mr Geoffrey Bradshaw**, Technical Director of Ag-Venture in Zimbabwe a company that designs, develops and manufactures crop protection spraying equipment. Special interests include cropping and the environment and biological control.

**Mr Neil Byron**, Senior Scientific Officer with the Pesticides Safety Directorate involved in exposure assessment for operators, bystanders and re-entry with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement.

**Dr Stephen Coates**, Senior Scientist (biochemistry and molecular biology specialisms) within a plant research company with a special interest in plant physiology & crop improvement.

**Dr Sam Cook**, Senior Research Scientist working on: behavioural manipulation of pests and natural enemies via semiochemicals; promoting functional biocontrol through habitat management (wheat/oilseed rape systems) with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment and pesticide application.

**Mr Andrew Cragg**, Farmer from Romney Marsh with a special interest in cropping and the environment.

**Dr Thomas Deliopoulos**, Postdoctoral Researcher at Harper Adams University College areas of research Nematology and Plant Pathology with special interests in nematology and biological control

**Ms Anna Evans** Sustainable Energy Consultant using LCA at North Energy Associates with a special interest in cropping and the environment.

**Dr Marcelo Ferreira** Lecturer at UNESP, Brasil with a special interest in pesticide application

**Mr David Feuerhelm** Senior Wheat Breeder at Syngenta Seeds with a special interest in cropping and the environment

**Dr Ruth Finlay**, Principal Technical Manager at HDC with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

**Dr Jean Fitzgerald**, Research Entomologist at East Malling Research with special interests in cropping and the environment and biological control

**Dr Richard Gallois**, Responsible for an agronomic research centre based in New Caledonia with special interests applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

**Mr Al-Sedek Ghazala**, PhD Student at the University of the West of England with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, nematology and plant physiology & crop improvement

**Prof Aijun Gong**, Teacher at the School of Applied Science at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, China

**Mr Graham Gunn**, BSc Student at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

**Ms Lena Haby**, Reseach Assistant at SLU Alnarp with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, pesticide application and particularly plant nutrition

**Dr David Hansson**, Researcher at SLU Alnarp with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment and weed control

**Mr Christopher Holliland**, Special Projects Officer at Brewlab Ltd with a special interest in fermented foods

**Dr John Jones**, Research Scientist at SCRI with a special interest in nematology

**Ms Vanessa King**, Sustainable Agriculture Research Manager (enabling the implementation of sustainability programmes in food supply chains for Unilever raw materials, providing technical assistance and horizon scanning) with special interests in biological control and cropping and the environment

**Prof Robert Klein**, Extension Cropping Systems Specialist at the University of Nebraska with special interests in cropping and the environment and pesticide application

**Mr Eric Lacroix**, Project Director at SOPFIM Canada with special interests in biological control, pesticide application biological insecticides and environmental biology

**Dr Josiane le Corff**, Teacher/Researcher at the Institute National D'Horticulture, Angers, France with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, weeds

(interactions weeds – insects)

**Mr Marcus Linsey**, BSc Student at the University of Nottingham with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

**Mr Ivar Lund**, Scientist at the University of Aarhus, Denmark with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment and pesticide application

**Dr Ron Marshall**, Research Scientist, researching herbicide resistance in broad leaved weed species from the UK with special interests in biological control and cropping and the environment

**Dr Wayne Martindale**, Research Fellow at Sheffield Hallam University with special interests in cropping and the environment, plant physiology & crop improvement and food and beverage innovation

**Mr Oladele Olaniran**, Student at the Department of Agronomy, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria with special interests in biological control and cropping and the environment

**Mr Rafael Olea-Perez**, PhD Student at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne with a special interest in cropping and the environment

**Dr Wilfred Otten**, Senior Lecturer (Biophysics of Soil Ecosystems) at the University of Abertay with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment and mathematical biology

**Dr Severino Pandiella**, Senior Lecturer at the University of Manchester with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, cropping and the environment, plant physiology & crop improvement and functional food bioprocessing

**Dr Hazel Parry**, Ecological Modeller at CSL with special interests in biological control and cropping and the environment

**Dr Roderick Robinson**, Consultant in Pesticide Application and Bracken Management from North Yorkshire

**Mr Hakan Sandin**, Scientist at SLU Alnarp with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control, cropping and the environment, nematology, pesticide application, plant physiology & crop improvement and virology

**Ms Renu Sharma**, Jr Scientist from Delhi, India

**Mr Alec Smith**, Student at the University of Nottingham with special interests in biological control, cropping and the environment, pesticide application and plant physiology & crop improvement

**Dr Peter Spencer-Phillips**, Head of School of Biosciences at the University of the West of England with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology, biological control and nematology

**Ms Katie Stephen**, MRes Student: Environmental impacts of pig production systems, - analysis using LCA at SAC with a special interest in cropping and the environment

**Dr Emma Stevenson**, Lecturer at the School of Psychology & Sports Sciences, Northumbria University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

**Mr Stuart Sutherland**, Agronomy Manager at BASF

**Mr Sven-Erik Svensson**, Lecturer at SLU Alnarp with special interests in biological control and cropping and the environment

**Mr Frederic Van Ex**, PhD Student at Vrije Universiteit Brussels with a special interest in cropping and the environment working in the field of applied plant genetics

**Mr Jose Vazquez Alvarez**, Student with special interests in applied mycology and bacteriology and bioprocess engineering

**Mr Robert Willey**, Managing Director of Househam Sprayers Limited and Spraycare Limited with a special interest in pesticide application

**Mr Charlie Woods**, Scientific Officer at Kirton Research Station with special interests in cropping and the environment and plant physiology & crop improvement

## Deaths

We regret to announce the following death:

**Mr W T Dale** Life member who joined the Association in 1949