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## Advances in Nematology Linnean Society, London, 14 December 2010

The Linnean Society, Piccadilly was the venue for our annual "Advances in Nematology" one day conference which took place on the 14 December last year.

The meeting was well supported by our UK Institutes and Universities, with several International delegates from USA, Portugal, France, and Ireland. The invited keynote speakers were Soledad Verdejo-Lucas (IRTA, Barcelona, Spain) and Tom Moens (University of Ghent, Belgium). Soledad presented very interesting data on the use of Mi-resistant tomatoes for the management of root-knot nematodes. Tom, enthusiastically delivered his talk on "Nematodes and Ecosystem

functioning; Does (cryptic) species diversity matter?"

Students are always welcome at this meeting, often it's their first formal opportunity to present their research. A book voucher was the prize for the best student oral presentation, the winner was Ayano Sasaki-Crawley (Rothamsted Research), Ayano gave her talk on the "Behaviour of *Globodera pallida* in the rhizosphere of the trap crop *Solanum sisymbriifolium*". Once again this was a very enjoyable meeting and I'm very pleased to report that everyone did get lunch, thanks to Becky's (Morgan) arrangements with our usual pub!!

-Barbara Pembroke

## Crop Protection in Southern Britain Cambridge, UK, 23-24 February 2011

Forecasting trends and planning for some major challenges in the future were key messages for delegates to take home from the 'Crop Protection in Southern Britain' conference. Organised by the Association of Applied Biologists (AAB) and supported by Bayer CropScience, NIAB TAG and BCPC, the event attracted over 90 delegates - an increase of over 30% on the previous conference. The first-class programme of 43 papers, including 3 invited papers, covered: grass weed and disease control in cereals, crop protection in oilseed rape and other broad-leaved crops and the impact of new legislation on pesticide use and cropping.

The opening session, chaired by John Cussans began with a paper from Dr Stephen Moss, Rothamsted Research, focussed on herbicide resistance in the UK. His paper gave an update on the status of key herbicide resistant weeds since 2005. Black-grass (*Alopecurus myosuroides*) is regarded as one of the most important herbicide resistant weeds in Europe. In 2005,

results from screening assays conducted between 2000 and 2004 revealed that resistance had been found on 2,085 farms in 31 counties in the UK. "It is not unreasonable to suggest that today, there are at least 16,000 farms in the UK with black-grass which is affected by some level of herbicide resistance and this has now spread to some 34 counties. Herbicide resistant grass-weeds now occur widely in all the main arable areas of England," said Dr Moss.

Similar trends are also emerging with Italian rye-grass (*Lolium multiflorum*). In 2005 herbicide resistant rye-grass was found in 324 farms in 28 counties, this has now risen to some 450 farms in 33 counties. Although resistance in rye-grass is not as significant as black-grass, the expectation is that it will continue to develop. Resistance has also been found in wild-oats, common poppy, scentless mayweed and groundsel. "Glasshouse screening assays have revealed resistance to mesosulfuron + iodosulfuron (e.g. Atlantis), the most widely used herbicide