

EUROPEAN WEED RESEARCH SOCIETY**EWRS**

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Picture by Carlos Zaragoza; text by Alicia Cirujeda.

Silene conoidea is a rare weed species in winter cereal in Spain. This picture was taken in the Teruel area, at approximately 900 meters over sea level. In that area, farmers generally cultivate the fields one year out of two; rotate barley with rye and sainfoin (*Onobrychis sativa*) and use herbicide only occasionally. Weed infestations in the area are normally low and very diverse. Other rare species that can be found in these conditions are *Androsace maxima*, *Agrostemma githago*, *Biscutella auriculata*, *Caucalis platycapnos*, *Centaurea cyanus*, *Cerastium perfoliatum*, *Hypocoum procumbens*, *Papaver argemone*, *Roemeria hybrida* and *Vaccaria pyramidata* among others.

This is only one of the many interesting topics that will be discussed during the Workshop of the Working Group Weeds and Biodiversity during their third meeting in Lleida, Spain, on 12 and 13 March 2009.

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BOARD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

A few weeks ago the 5th International Weed Science Congress was held in Vancouver, Canada. I had the opportunity to attend the meeting and with 512 participants from 51 countries it was indeed a truly international meeting. The meeting was very well organised, the scientific programme was very attractive and several donors provided the financial support needed to set up such an event. Indeed the success of the meeting confirmed the need for an international weed science conference in addition to the regional weed science conferences. Several EWRS officers contributed to the scientific programme as session organisers or co-organisers and I would like thank everyone for their contribution to the success of the conference.

An important aspect of an international meeting is to support the participation of graduate students and junior scientists giving them the opportunity to present their research and to begin building up their own scientific networks. The EWRS Board thinks this is one of the best ways we can spend the money of our society and EWRS therefore decided to donate 10,000 EUR for this purpose. Along with the donations from the IWSS and WSSA a total amount of ca. 23,500 EUR was available for supporting students and young scientists. I had the pleasure to chair the Graduate Student and Young Scientist Committee. We received 37 applications from students and young scientists from all over the world. The applications

were assessed on the quality of the research, novelty and contribution to the discipline of weed science. The committee decided to support 29 of the 37 applications and fortunately all 29 awardees were able to obtain the additional funding and attend the meeting.

As the EWRS representative on the Graduate Student and Young Scientist Committee I was a little bit disappointed that only 9 of the 37 applications came from graduate students and junior scientists from European institutes. This may reflect that the number of MSc and PhD students in weed science is lower than, for example, in North America. It may also be a result of lack of information and if this has been the case we have to do a better job in 2012 when the 6th International Weed Science Congress will be held in China.

After 2 years of negotiation the EU Agricultural Ministers agreed on a draft proposal for a new regulation for pesticide registration. The aim is to tighten the use of pesticides across Europe banning pesticides causing unnecessary risks to human health and the environment and to spur research into alternative control methods. The regulation will replace Directive 91/414/EEC. A major change compared to the current regulation is that hazard cut-off criteria to a large extent will replace risk assessments. Later this year the proposal will be discussed in the EU Parliament and it seems likely that it will advocate for a tougher regulation than the one agreed on by the ministers.

The Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD), the authority responsible for pesticide registrations in the UK, concluded in a report published earlier this year that anywhere from 15 to 80% of the active ingredients currently available on the UK market could disappear as a result of the ongoing EU review of active ingredients marketed before the implementation of Directive 91/414 EEC and the new regulation. The 15 and 80% reflect the effects of the original proposal by the EU Commission, which is very similar to the proposal by the EU agricultural ministers, and the original proposal plus the amendments suggested by the EU Parliament during their first reading. In the UK the PSD report and a subsequent impact assessment conducted by ADAS has spurred a fierce debate and the opinions on the consequences for farming range from no significant effects to conventional commercial farming, as it is known today, not being achievable. No other country besides the UK seems to have done any impact assessment on the effects of the changes in EU pesticide registration procedures.

Without going into a detailed discussion of the consequences of the new regulations there is no doubt that farmers in the future will have access to fewer active ingredients including herbicides compared to the current situation. This is already becoming reality today as a result of the ongoing EU review of active ingredients and the new regulation intended to tighten the use of pesticides in the EU will, of course, further add to this development. I find it important that we, as weed scientists, get involved in the discussion about the possible consequences of the new regulation for weed control in our respective countries and provide decision makers with objective and non-biased information. Our role, however, is not only point out the consequences of the regulation but also to be proactive and suggest new solutions and identifying knowledge gaps. In my opinion there is no doubt that with the new regulation and with fewer new active ingredients in the pipeline now than previously the weed control practices of today will have to change but in many cases neither the knowledge nor the technology is yet available. This presents a challenging new scenario to weed science.

Per Kudsk

FINAL REPORT ON THE EWRS NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

A questionnaire concerning the Newsletter lay-out and content has been accessible to EWRS members on the website for about five months. We have had a response rate of approximately 20% (110 members / total of 556 in 2007). Below I will highlight the main trends that emerged from the questionnaire and reply to some of your questions and comments.

1) How often do you read the Newsletter?

One person did not reply and one person said 'never', 73 individuals replied 'always' and 35 'sometimes'.

2) Please rate the Newsletter items according to your level of interest.

Reports from the Working Groups and Conference announcements are the most appreciated items in the Newsletter, whereas the Board should maybe try to write more exciting articles about what is going on in our Society (Table 1).

Table 1: Appreciation level of the Newsletter items

Newsletter item	Appreciation level			Total
	1 (low)	2 (medium)	3 (high)	
President's Message	12	62	34	108
Reports from Board	20	57	30	107
Reports from Working Groups	2	30	76	108
EWRS-member contributions	4	47	56	107
Book reviews	11	47	49	107
PhD thesis abstracts	9	46	52	107
Conference announcements	10	27	70	107
List of upcoming conferences	8	25	71	104

3) Have you ever sent a contribution to the Newsletter?

Of 109 replies to this question, 83 persons said 'No' and 26 said 'Yes'. Most cited reasons for not contributing are 'poor English', 'I have nothing interesting to tell', 'I do not live in Europe', 'I'm not involved in research' and 'I'm too busy'.

4) What additional information would you like to find in the Newsletter?

The most common suggestions are:

- to increase the number of colour photos;
- to have more information from the National Representatives and the Working Groups, including reports from conferences you attended;
- to have information about the 'weed science' situation in other countries also outside Europe (e.g. where do you get your funding from, where are weed scientists allocated, what problems do you encounter in your research, what are your research facilities, what are your research interests, etc.);
- to have some reports about ongoing projects;
- to have news from the industrial sector and from policy making (EU regulations related to weed management);
- to have information on newly emerging weeds and weed management problems and descriptions of weeds.

5) In what format would you prefer to receive the Newsletter?

Most members (85) would be happy to receive the Newsletter by E-mail, 14 would like it to be only downloadable, but 39 persons are happy if it is downloadable from the website, and 7 would like to receive only a paper version.

6) Which role would you like the Newsletter to have (official bulletin, informal communication channel or mixed role)?

The current 'mixed role' of the Newsletter is satisfactory for 82% of the respondents (90 members). Five persons did not express themselves, eight would like to see it as an official bulletin only and 7 would like the Newsletter to be an informal communication channel. However, strangely enough, the group that would like the Newsletter to be an official bulletin only, did not always give a high rating to the reports from the Board and most of them highly appreciated the EWRS member contributions, reviews and conference announcements.

7) What other comments or ideas do you have to improve the Newsletter?

Most of what has been said here actually referred to additional information suggested for the Newsletter. An interesting idea that was given is to make official information (reports from Board and SciCom) accessible by a link in an e-mail alert that can be send to all members.

Evaluations and auto-evaluation

First of all I want to thank all of the members that have replied to this questionnaire. I'm happy that on average you appreciate the Newsletter and that you find the information provided interesting. I was very pleased to hear that there is a great interest in receiving more information about what is going on in our neighbours' laboratories and departments, and that many persons requested more common information about colleagues and weeds from other regions. Therefore, I call upon all EWRS members: please do not think you have nothing to contribute! Tell other weed scientist where you work, what problems you encounter in your laboratory or department, show us your best weed-related pictures! For those of you working in industry, the scientists are looking forward to hear from you! And for all retired weed scientists, please tell us about the evolution weed science has undergone since you started working and ways retired weed scientists remain in touch (apart from hand-weeding your gardens ☺). Let this Newsletter become a lively communication channel between weed scientists. We publish our scientific data in Weed Research and other weed-related scientific journal, but there's more to weed science than publications. To perform innovative research, we should be stimulated by observations not only from ourselves, but also from other weed scientists. We have to look beyond the borders to notice newly arising patterns and problems. The Newsletter can become a stimulating medium for future actions in our Society if we all contribute.

We have decided to publish the Newsletter on-line. It will be directly downloadable from the web-site, also available for non-members. At the same time we will establish a mailing list of members who would like to receive the Newsletter in attachment to the E-mail. Therefore please, if you wish to receive the Newsletter as an attachment to the E-mail alert, send a message to our webmaster, Daniel Cloutier (webmaster@ewrs.org) or to me (newsletter@ewrs.org or moonen@sssup.it).

Thank you very much for your collaboration, now and in the future. And please feel free to send me your suggestions and comments and CONTRIBUTIONS!

Camilla Moonen
EWRS Newsletter editor
newsletter@ewrs.org / moonen@sssup.it

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EWRS-MEMBERS

PROJECT '100 FIELDS FOR BIODIVERSITY' IN GERMANY

By Anne Gärtner, Thomas van Elsen, Thomas Eggers; Uth.Eggers@gmail.com

The project '100 fields for biodiversity' aims at establishing a nationwide conservation field network for wild arable plant species. Through this project, financially supported by the Deutsche Bundestiftung Umwelt (DBU, www.dbu.de), there is a realistic chance of countering the continuous loss of species by implementing a network of conservation fields.

The conservation of typical arable plant communities such as *Caucalido-Adonidetum flammeae*, *Teesdaliao-Arnoseridetum* and *Papaveretum argemones* should be ensured within every ecosystem of Germany with the help of these 'conservation fields'. On these fields, crop management is carried out

without herbicide use and according to the growth preferences of the wild arable plants. The conservation fields should act as future centres for potential re-colonisation of rare species.

The project homepage www.schutzaecker.de provides information about establishing the network of conservation fields and is updated regularly. The website serves for information exchange and for connecting the stakeholders.

Links: www.fibl.org , www.fibl.org/fibl/team/gaertner-anne-christine.php



Adonis aestivalis (Summer Pheasant's Eye)

photo: Thomas van ELSEN

Calcareous field in the northern Eifel (south-western area of Germany) with more than 40 species, e.g. European Venus'Looking Glass (*Legousia speculum-veneris*)

LATINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WEED SCIENCE

By José L. González-Andujar; andujar@cica.es



Dr. José L. González-Andujar, former president of Spanish Weed Science Society, has been elected as President of the Latino-American Association of Weed Science (ALAM) in the last Congress of ALAM celebrated in Ouro Preto (Brasil).

Weed Science Latino-America Association (ALAM) was formed in 1971. ALAM is an international society promoting weed research and management. It is open to everyone who has an interest in weed research and related topics in Latino-America. Its members come from official, commercial, university and independent research organizations and are spread from Mexico to Chile, including Spain and Portugal.

Information about the Society may be obtained at <http://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/ALAM/index.htm>

The last ALAM congress (XVIII Congress) was held May 4-8, 2008 in Ouro Preto (Brasil) and was attended by 550 participants, presenting 530 communications and posters, during the event Dr. José L. Gonzalez-Andujar, former president of Spanish Weed Science Society, has been elected as President of the Latino-American Association of Weed Science (ALAM).

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REVIEWS

PHD THESIS SUMMARY

Cover crop-based ecological weed management: exploration and optimization

Marjolein Kruidhof, PhD thesis, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands. 156 pp.;
marjolein.kruidhof@ucr.edu

Keywords: organic farming, ecologically-based weed management, cover crops, green manure, allelopathy, *Secale cereale*, *Brassica napus*, *Medicago sativa*

In organic farming systems, weed control is recognized as one of the main production-related bottlenecks. System-oriented approaches for ecological weed management are needed and cover crops may form an important component of such an approach. Inclusion of cover crops in crop rotations introduces two important mechanisms through which the development of weed populations may be hampered. In late summer and autumn the successful introduction of cover crops can prevent growth and seed production of weeds through competition. In springtime, cover crop residues incorporated in the upper layer of the soil may suppress or retard weed development and growth due to, among others, allelopathic effects. The main focus of research was put on the weed suppressive effect of cover crop residue material in spring and particularly on identifying management options to maximize this effect. To better appreciate the potential of cover crop residue material the investigations were focused on three aspects, namely allelochemicals in the cover crop, the residence time of the residue-mediated inhibitory potential in the soil and the variability in inhibitory effects on receptor plants. The study was conducted with representatives of three plant families: *Secale cereale* L. (winter rye), *Brassica napus* L. (winter oilseed rape) and *Medicago sativa* L. (lucerne). Mechanical injuring of field grown cover crops enhanced the allelopathic activity per unit biomass. However, this increase was often just sufficient to compensate for loss of plant material resulting from damaging, implying the limited practical significance of damaging. Different options for pre-treatment and incorporation of cover crop residue material were compared and these were found to influence the size and persistence of an inhibitory effect on seedling emergence. Results were found to be cover crop specific. With regard to species' sensitivity our results suggest that for inhibition of a receptor plant not just seed size is important. Only if the time course of sensitivity of the receptor plant matches with the time course of residue-mediated inhibitory potential, significant reductions in seedling establishment can be expected. In light of this, it was postulated that variation in synchronicity of receptor species' sensitivity and potential residue effects may well explain the large degree of variation often noted in field studies of allelopathy.

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CALL FOR CONFERENCES

WORKSHOP EWRS WG GERMINATION & EARLY GROWTH

15-16 September 2008
Perugia, Italy,

The Working Group on Weed Seed Germination & Early Growth would like to invite you to attend a working group workshop to be held in Italy on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 September 2008, at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Perugia, Italy.

The aim of the meeting will be:

- to discuss our experiences with the 2008 common WG experiment;

- to plan future WG activities for 2008-09;
- to discuss the results from the 2006 experiment and the publication plans;
- to be introduced to the work of other working group members.

Final registration for participation in the meeting should be as soon as possible and at latest by the **31st July 2008**. Please let us both (ilsea.rasmussen@agrsci.dk and ftei@unipg.it) know:

- whether you will participate in this meeting,
- which hotel you prefer,
- what will be your approximate arrival and departure dates and times,
- whether you are a junior scientist, e.g. PhD-student,
- whether you are an EWRS-member.

For those of you who have already pre-registered before 1st July, please just confirm your participation and add any details, which may be missing.

The EWRS Germination & Early Growth WG is contributing funds to help participants attend this meeting, therefore EWRS-members attending will receive a refund for part of their expenses.

EWRS will pay the meals during the workshop for all participants who are members. In addition, depending on approval by the board of EWRS and depending on the number of participants, documented travel expenses above approximately € 200 will be refunded by the EWRS. For young scientists, e.g. PhD-students, an amount to cover the cheapest accommodation will also be refunded. If the student is not an EWRS-member, an amount equal to the fee to EWRS will be deducted from the subsidy, and the student will be enrolled in EWRS.

If you are not already an EWRS-member, signing up as a member of the EWRS before the workshop will allow you to benefit from the sponsorship for this workshop. In addition, you will receive "Weed Research"!

Provisional program:

14th September 2008

Arrival & dinner (venue and time to be decided)

15th September 2008

- 1) Welcome to Perugia (Francesco Tei)
- 2) Introduction to the working group (Ilse A. Rasmussen)
- 3) Brief outline of the common experiment (Ilse A. Rasmussen)
- 4) Presentation of results from 2006 experiment
 - a. Data analysis with the disturbance model (Jack Dekker)
 - b. Emergence before and after disturbance for each country (Kirsten Tørresen)
- 5) Discussion of publication plans (Jack Dekker, others?)
- 6) Share feedback on 2008 common experiment and presentation of preliminary results from each participating group (All)
- 7) Discussion of continuation of experiment (Ilse A. Rasmussen)

16th September 2008

- 1) Other working group activities (Ilse A. Rasmussen)
- 2) Possible funding (Paul Neve).
- 3) Future plans (Ilse A. Rasmussen)
- 4) Short offered presentations/updates on research activities of WG participants (max. 15 minutes each).
 - a. Agnieszka Stokłosa: "Influence of light and temperature on Avena fatua and Bromus secalinus germination".
 - b. Kirsten S. Tørresen: "Germination and dormancy of volunteer spring turnip rape"
 - c. Paul Neve: Emergence simulation model for crops & weeds.
 - d. Donato Loddo: Model for weed emergence in maize using soil temperature and moisture.
 - e. Jose Urbano: "Study of emergence of Chenopodium album in southern Spain during 3 years".

- f. Jose Dorado: Predicting weed emergence in maize crops under two contrasting climatic conditions.
 - g. Anna Bochenek: Hydrotime analysis of *Centaurea cyanus* seed dormancy relief and induction.
 - h. Edite Sousa: Weed emergence in maize crops.
 - i. Federica Graziani: "Weed population dynamics in maize crop characterized by high and low weed density"
- 5) Closing of meeting and goodbye
 - 6) End around 15:00

Provisional costs

Dinner on arrival on the evening of 14th and on the evening of the 15th and all meals during the meeting are estimated at € 110 per person (approx. € 30 per evening meal, €25 meals + coffee per day during the meeting). In addition there will be accommodation (see practical info) and your transport costs to and from Italy to consider.

Best wishes,
Ilse A. Rasmussen, University of Aarhus, Denmark.
Francesco Tei, University of Perugia, Italy

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2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 'INTRACTABLE WEEDS AND PLANT INVADERS'

Osijek, Croatia
14 – 18 September 2008

It is our great pleasure to invite you to attend the 2nd International Symposium 'Intractable Weeds and Plant Invaders' that will be held in Osijek, Croatia, at the J.J. Strossmayer University, Faculty of Agriculture, from 14 to 18 September 2008. The Symposium will be organized by EWRS working groups Invasive plants, Biological Control of Weeds and Weed Management in Arid and Semi-arid Climates together with the local organizers: J.J. Strossmayer University in Osijek - Faculty of Agriculture - Dept. of Plant Protection and Technology Development Center.

A wide variety of topics will be covered during the Symposium:

- Invasive plants: biology and ecology
- Impact: agriculture, biodiversity, human health, environmental hygiene, environmental and economic aspect, regulatory framework
- Control measures: chemical control, biological control, mechanical control, control of invasive weeds in arid and semiarid environment, herbicide resistant (invasive) weeds
- Methods: standardization, quality control, statistics, techniques and information technology

The Symposium website will provide you with general information on the conference and details on registration, accommodation and abstract submission. Information on the Symposium will be updated from time to time and will appear regularly on the Symposium web site:

www.tera.hr/ewrs-osijek-2008

Looking forward to meeting you in Osijek!
Edita Stefanic
estefanic@pfos.hr

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MANAGING PARASITIC WEEDS: INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND PRACTICE

21 - 26 September 2008

Ostuni, Italy

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and European Weed Research Society (EWRS) organise together the international conference 'Managing parasitic weeds: integrating science and practice'. Parasitic plants (e.g. Striga - witchweeds and Orobanche - broomrapes) severely constrain Mediterranean and Tropical agriculture, affecting major crops, yet the efficacy of available means to control had been minimal. Control strategies had centred on agronomic practices and the use of herbicides, although success has been marginal. There is, thus, an urgent need to re-evaluate novel integrated control programmes in the light of recent basic research successes in understanding the enemy. There are also many other aspects such as their origin and evolution from non parasitic plants, their population structures, their evolutionary pathways towards becoming crop parasites, their molecular biology, the structure, function and development of the haustorium, their ecology, the physiology of parasitism, that are becoming of great help in developing new integrated and effective control strategies. A group of experts using "advanced approaches" to parasitic weed management having backgrounds in the different aspects of biotechnologies will be expected to give highly qualified and advanced lectures, followed by long periods of discussions. A further aim of the conference is to create a network of young and experienced scientists that could have, find or create new opportunities to collaborate in this field of science that requires a "global" collaborative approach.

Location: Grand Hotel Masseria Santa Lucia, Ostuni, near Bari <http://www.masseriasantalucia.it/>.

Programme

The conference will be organized to have in each day one main theme with some lectures. Many lecturers of high and internationally recognized scientific level have been invited. Several specific workshops or round tables will also be organized during the Conference. Time will be reserved for short presentations and poster sessions by the other participants.

Costs/Awards

The costs for the whole conference, based on a single or shared double room occupancy, full board, excursion, bag, scientific material, and shuttle bus to airport on days of arrival and departure, will be 1,000 or 1,200 Euro, respectively. There is no additional registration fee for attending the Conference, that is not open to the public. Beside the list of the invited speakers, only a limited number of attendees could be admitted. To be invited, interested scientists and students are requested to contact Maurizio Vurro by e-mail. Limited support is available from the EWRS (European Weed Research Society), for a few young European scientists interested to the Conference. These funds are limited and will cover only a limited part of the required fee. To apply for this partial support please send a C.V., publications list, and a short statement about why you wish to attend. All participants must be accommodated at the Grand Hotel Masseria Santa Lucia. For further Information and the application Form: <http://www.ewrs.org/ewrs-pw.htm>

Invited lecturers

Fen BEED, Benin; Harro BOUWMEESTER, The Netherlands; Consuelo DE MORAES, USA; Philippe DELAVAUULT, France; Jonathan GRESSEL, Israel; Maria HARRISON, USA; Sarah HEARNE, UK; Daniel JOEL, Israel; Ralf KALDENHOFF, USA; Francisco MACÍAS, Spain; Giles OLDROYD, USA; Alejandro PÉREZ DE LUQUE, Spain; John PICKETT, USA; Malcolm PRESS, UK; Brian RECTOR, France; Diego RUBIALES, Spain; David SANDS, USA; Julie SCHOLLES, UK; Michael TIMKO, USA; Maurizio VURRO, Italy; Alan WATSON, Canada; James WESTWOOD, USA; John YODER, USA; Koichi YONEYAMA, Japan; Binne ZWANENBURG, The Netherlands.

Organisers

Maurizio Vurro, Institute of Science of Food Production, Bari, Italy: maurizio.vurro@ispa.cnr.it

Jonathan Gressel, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel: jonathan.gressel@weizmann.ac.il

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ENDURE SYMPOSIUM – DIVERSIFYING CROP PROTECTION

12 – 15 October 2008

La Grande Motte, Montpellier, France

ENDURE

ENDURE, European Network for the Durable Exploitation of Crop Protection Strategies, is a Network of Excellence (NoE) funded by the European Union under the Framework 6 programme. The purpose of ENDURE is **a durable restructuring of European research and development** in order to improve understanding of the biology of crop-pest interactions, combining analytical and system-based approaches, to encourage collaboration between biologists, agronomists, economists and sociologists in designing innovative approaches to crop protection. The knowledge generated will be transferred to all stakeholders: industry, policy makers, extension services, farmers and general public. More information on ENDURE can be found on the website:

www.endure-network.eu/international_conference_2008

The European Weed Research Society is present in the Network as part of the Crop Protection Network, and many of its members are involved in the various sub-activities carried out within ENDURE related to weed management.

The ENDURE Symposium aims to enhance knowledge transfer related to sustainable crop protection between the Network and the wider scientific community involved in these topics. It is structured in plenary sessions and specialised sessions evolving around three main thematic: 1) Implementation: applying existing tactics & strategies, 2) Innovation: building innovative strategies for tomorrow, and 3) Impact and governance: assessing progress toward sustainable development

Plenary sessions

- Global challenges of crop protection and food safety in the larger context of sustainable and ecological agriculture.
- Perspectives of a variety of stakeholder groups.

Specialised sessions

Specialised sessions will be devoted to various aspects of the durable exploitation of crop protection strategies for sustainable agriculture.

1) Implementation: applying existing tactics & strategies

- Specific tactics (monitoring pesticides, plant genetic resistance, biocontrol agents, semiochemicals and push-pull strategies, crop management, pest prevention and prophylaxy...)
- Implementing IPM strategies (combination of tactics)
- Boosters, barriers (biological, ecological, socio-economics...)

2) Innovation: building innovative strategies for tomorrow

- Basic knowledge (pesticide resistance, populations genetics, plant resistance genes, resistance mechanisms, plant-pest interactions...)
- Holistic and large-scale approaches (community ecology, agroecosystems, landscape ecology, invasive-emerging pests and diseases...)
- Innovative technologies (robotics, nanotechnologies, precision agriculture...)
- Innovation tools (diagnostic, modelling, decision support systems...)

3) Impact and governance: assessing progress toward sustainable development

- Surveillance of pest incidence
- Historical evolutions
- Eco-toxicology
- Environmental assessment
- Life-cycle assessment
- Socio-economic driving forces (public policies, regulations, long-term economics)
- Societal assessment (public, farmers, governance...)

Conference booking

The deadline for submission of abstracts has passed but you can still book to participate to the conference. The deadline for early-bird registration is 31 July 2008, but registration can still take place after this date. For information regarding the scientific programme, please contact: confEndure2008@cirad.fr



The Venue

The venue of the Conference will be the Congress Palace at the seaside resort of La Grande Motte. La Grande Motte is 20 km from Montpellier, on the edge of the famous Camargue wetlands park, and is most easily served by the Montpellier airport and TGV station. In mid October, one can expect mild weather (max/min 70/50°F; 21/10°C) with sunshine and a below-average chance of rain.



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EWRS-WORKSHOP ON PERENNIAL WEEDS

10 - 12 November 2008

Wageningen, The Netherlands

Rationale

Perennials are identified as an upcoming and increasing weed problem in European agriculture. This is however not yet reflected in the current weed research agenda. Work is going on, but often the activities are modest and very scattered. To be better able to appreciate what has been established, what is going on and what still needs to be done the EWRS (European Weed Research Society), in collaboration with the NJF (Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists), is organizing a 3-day workshop on this topic. Main objectives of the meeting are:

- To identify and detail the perennial weed problem
- To update our current understanding of the biology and ecology of perennial weeds
- To make an inventory of current control options and management strategies
- To inform one another on ongoing research projects
- To discuss future research needs and prospects for collaboration

Workshop venue

The meeting will be held from November 10 – 12, 2008 in the WICC in Wageningen. The kick off will be on Monday afternoon to allow participants to travel to Wageningen on Monday-morning. Likewise, the meeting will close early Wednesday-afternoon. Various sessions with oral and (depending on the number of contributors) poster presentations will be held. A limit is set to the number of participants, as 40 is the maximum number we can accommodate.

Registration and abstracts

Registration for the workshop is possible until July 15. Registration for the workshop is possible by sending an e-mail to henriette.drenth@wur.nl. For those who are interested in giving a presentation, an abstract with a maximum length of one A4-page should be included. Attendance of the workshop is free of charge and includes lunch (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and diner (Monday and Tuesday).

For attendees from abroad, you will have to arrange your own accommodation at WICC. This can be done through internet at www.wicc.nl. On the home page click on **Contact** and select **Room reservation request**. Fill in the required details and the days you want to make your reservation for. Under **Name congress** fill in: Perennial weed workshop. Prices are € 75,- for a single room per night, including breakfast. For a double room € 98,50 is charged.

On behalf of the organizing committee,
Lammert Bastiaans (lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl)

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THE FUTURE OF WEED RESEARCH IN THE UK

19 November 2008

Home Grown Cereals Authority, London

This one-day conference will consider future needs for weed research and training of weed specialists from the points of view of industry, funding bodies and research organisations themselves, through presentations by a range of invited speakers and discussions.

The number of weed scientists active in research in the UK is in decline. Concerns are being raised by some funders and agronomists about the consequent capacity of the research community to address the key issues for practical weed management e.g. increased numbers and persistence of invasive species, continuing development of resistance to herbicide treatment and climate change. This conference/workshop will identify the key areas for research on weeds within the UK context in the next 5-10 years and consider what steps could be taken to address the decline in capacity for weed research and enable researchers in the UK to respond to these challenges.

Invited speakers will set the context for the future of weed research from a number of user group perspectives. Discussion will form a major part of the conference. Full details of this conference are available from the AAB web-site:

www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=184&basket=wwsshowconflist

8TH WORKSHOP OF THE EWRS WORKING GROUP PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL WEED CONTROL

9-11 March 2009

Zaragoza, Spain

I am pleased to announce that we will have our 8th workshop on Physical and Cultural Weed Control on 9-11 March 2009 in Zaragoza Spain. So those of you interested in this event are very much welcomed, and I hope that you will forward this invitation to others who you think would be interested in the workshop. This announcement is a summary of the first circular that can be downloaded directly from our web page: (www.ewrs.org/pwc).

Aim

As usual, the aim of the workshop is to create a forum where people involved in research in physical and cultural weed control can come together and exchange results and experiences, and establish new contacts and networks. The workshop aims to be informal and so stimulate as much discussion as possible among participants. Similar to past workshops, we will include plenary scientific sessions with oral and poster presentations, parallel round-table discussions, if possible a keynote theme presented by one or two invited speakers, an excursion to different sites in the area and a final plenary session (reports on round-table discussions, directions for the future, etc.). Posters will be briefly introduced by session chairs in plenum in addition to the regular poster sessions. A booklet with one-page abstracts of all scientific contributions will be available at the workshop. The abstracts and optionally also full papers

of all scientific contributions, both oral and poster papers, will appear in a proceeding, which will be published on the working group's web page for downloading.

Venue

The Workshop meetings will take place at the Campus of Aula Dei, located 17 km from the centre of Zaragoza where you will have your accommodation. Zaragoza, a 2000-year-old city with 700.000 inhabitants, is architecturally very interesting, especially from its Moorish period. The city is located between Madrid and Barcelona, approximately 300 km from each. It is serviced directly by a few airlines and there are fast and frequent trains from Madrid and Barcelona. Zaragoza is located next to the Ebro River, which defines the landscape of the 'Ebro valley', an important agricultural region. This is an area of large contrasts between the irrigated valley and the arid surroundings with little vegetation. The venue's central location offers an excellent opportunity for you to spend some extra days visiting the two major cities of Spain, Barcelona and Madrid, with all their interesting attractions.

Several institutions are located on the Aula Dei Campus: The Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria (CITA) (a regional Research Centre in Food and Agriculture), a delegation of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) (the main Research Institution of Spain), the Plant Protection Service and different laboratories of the Agriculture Department of Aragón and the Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza (IAMZ), the latter is providing the facilities for our meeting. The local organisers are Alicia Cirujeda & Carlos Zaragoza (Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria (CITA), Zaragoza, Spain), Joaquín Aibar (Escuela Politécnica Superior de Huesca, University of Zaragoza, Spain), and Sonsoles Fernández-Cavada (Centro de Protección Vegetal, Diputación General de Aragón, Zaragoza, Spain).

Please express your interest in the workshop by registration on the web site (available starting the first week of March at www.ewrs.org/pwc/). Suggestions concerning the scientific programme: sessions, topics, keynote themes, round-tables, chairperson volunteers, etc. should be send directly to me.

I hope to see as many of you in Spain next year.
Bo Melander (bo.melander@agrsci.dk).

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3RD WORKSHOP OF THE EWRS WORKING GROUP WEEDS AND BIODIVERSITY

12-13 March 2009
Lleida, Spain

We are pleased to announce the 3rd meeting of the working group 'Weeds and biodiversity', which will be held in Lleida, Spain, 12 and 13 March 2009. The meeting immediately follows the workshop of the working group 'Physical and mechanical weed control' in Zaragoza and we invite all to participate in both (see previous page in this Newsletter).

Aim

The aim of the meeting is to bring together people who are involved in research, extension or the evaluation and preparation of environmental schemes with regard to the conservation of biodiversity in and services provided by agro-ecosystems. The purpose is to exchange results, experiences, and information, establish networks, and stimulate discussions. New information on the meeting will be posted on our web site: http://www.ewrs.org/biodiversity/workshop_2009.asp We will build on the themes identified during the successful 2nd meeting of the working group in Salem, 2007, and invite you to contribute to the following categories:

- 1) cropping systems and plant biodiversity
- 2) field margins and plant biodiversity
- 3) functional biodiversity and seed predation
- 4) quantifying biodiversity, bio-indicators
- 5) (inter)national environmental schemes and agro-environmental politics
- 6) other; this is to stimulate contribution from other topics then the ones mentioned above.

Venue

The Workshop meeting will take place on the Campus of ETSEA (Escola Tècnica Superior d'Enginyeria Agrària; <http://www.etsea.udl.es>) of the Universitat de Lleida, located approximately 4 km from the city centre. The estimated cost of registration will be € 90 for EWRS members and € 120 for non-members. Students will receive a 50% reduction in registration fee. The registration fee will cover the costs for the proceedings, lunches (Thursday and Friday), tea, coffee and light snacks during break.

Important dates and deadlines

- 30th May 2008: Expression of interest in the workshop by sending an e-mail to Paula Westerman (paula.westerman@ewrs.org). Indicate if you would like to present, and if so and if possible, provide a preliminary title. Indicate whether you are a student or not.
- 30th September 2008: Second Circular with indications for registration and submission of short abstracts
- 30th November 2008: Third Circular
- 15th December 2008: Deadline for payment of workshop fee

You can download the First Circular with more detailed information from: <http://www.ewrs.org/ewrs-wb.htm> and please check this page also for updated information about the Workshop.

We look forward to receiving your contributions and hope you will be able to join us in Lleida!

Local organizers: Paula Westerman, Barbara Baraibar & Jordi Recasens

EWRS working group: Bärbel Gerowitt, Paolo Bàrberi

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SEAMLESS – FINAL CONFERENCE

10 – 12 March 2009

Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands

The conference 'Integrated Assessment of Agriculture and Sustainable Development: Setting the Agenda for Science and Policy' is the final event of SEAMLESS (funded by the European Commission under Framework Programme 6), in which an operational modelling framework is developed. This framework serves two purposes: 1. to support ex-ante assessments of agricultural, environmental and rural development policies and innovations; 2. to facilitate linkage of model components for theoretical and applied studies. The SEAMLESS project (2005-2009) is unique in its attempt to provide a modelling framework for the agricultural sector across the full range of scales, from field to global level, to facilitate the analysis of impacts of policies on the economic, environmental and social dimensions of agriculture. In this conference, its outcomes and lessons learned will be discussed in the context of other international initiatives and a joint research agenda will be defined. For more information please consult: <http://www.eaae2008.be/>

Scope of the event

The conference aims to i) present the status of scientific approaches to assess agricultural systems and sustainable development, and ii) set the agenda for future research in this domain. Alternative methods and modelling approaches, applications and policy support options will be evaluated, compared and good practices defined. Focus is on the linkage and integration of models as a method for improving natural resource use planning, policy making and policy implementation in agriculture. More specifically, the conference will:

- Identify key challenges for modelling to support policy on agriculture and sustainable development;

- Present scientific progress and challenges related to integrated assessment, such as scaling, component-based modelling at field, farm, regional, market and global level, assessing environmental, economic, social and institutional aspects and interdisciplinarity;
- Present applications of modelling tools to assess and evaluate impacts of agricultural innovations and policies;
- Present the use and relevance of integrative modelling frameworks (use and users, testing and disseminating).

The conference will be structured to arrive at clear research and policy recommendations. Selected papers will be reviewed for publication in a special issue of a journal and a book.

Target group and topic areas

The event targets participants from agricultural, environmental, economic, social and information technology sciences. Contributions may address methodological or theoretical issues, applications or dissemination and participatory aspects. Applications may relate to for instance agro-technical innovations, agricultural policy reforms, agri-environmental policies, natural resource management, climate change, bio-based economy (incl. bio-fuels), rural development and trade liberalization.

Important dates

- October 1, 2008 Closure for abstract submission (2 pages)
- December 1, 2008 Notification of acceptance of contributions
- December 20, 2008 Final registration of participants
- January 1, 2009 Final programme
- March 10 – 12, 2009 Conference
- March 30, 2009 Submission of full papers for special issue and book

4TH INTERNATIONAL PLANT DORMANCY SYMPOSIUM.

8 - 11 June 2009
Fargo, North Dakota, USA

This symposium is the fourth in a series following those in Oregon USA, 1995; in France, 1999; and in The Netherlands, 2004. Its goal is to bring together experts and stakeholders in a forum for exchange of information on dormancy in plants, development of collaborations, and sharing of ideas on plant dormancy mechanisms in vegetative buds, seeds, and other meristems from a variety of experimental plant systems ranging from agronomic, horticultural, and tree crops to model plants and weeds. For detailed information go to www.plantdormancy.com /><http://www.plantdormancy.com>.

Mike Foley, Chair of the 4th International Plant Dormancy Symposium
USDA-ARS, Bioscience Research Lab
Fargo, ND USA

10TH WORLD CONGRESS ON PARASITIC PLANTS

8-12 June 2009
Kusadasi, Turkey

The 10th world congress on parasitic plants will be organized in Kusadasi, Turkey on 8-12 June 2009. Local host and organizing committees have already been established. Further information can be found in conference website: www.ippsturkey.com.

For scientific queries contact Ahmet Uludag at secretary@ippsturkey.com and queries on accomodation can be directed to Deniz Yanar Servi at info@ippsturkey.com. This is a congress of International Parasitic Plant Society will be organized with support Ege University and Ministry of Agriculture of Turkey.

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XIII TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEED BIOLOGY

8 -10 September 2009
Dijon, France

The XIIIth International Conference on Weed Biology is organised by the working group on Biology, Ecology and Systematics of Weeds from AFPP – COLUMA with the participation of the European Weed Research Society and the UMR INRA-ENESAD-UB Biologie et Gestion des Adventices.

Provisional Scientific Programme

Five main topics are introduced by invited lectures, offered papers and posters:

- Gene flows; spread and management of invasive species
- Interaction between organisms; ecology of weed communities
- Herbicide resistances; management strategies
- Alternative methods; integrated weed management
- Plant communities in landscapes

The official languages will be French and English with a simultaneous translation during the sessions. Abstracts must be submitted no later than **15 December 2008**. In order to submit a paper or a poster, sign up in the Conference web site and send an abstract according to the guidelines for an abstract submission. After the deadline the organizers will send you the confirmation of your submission and the type of your presentation. Abstracts should not exceed 600 words. They will be printed in the abstract conference book. The full texts and the abstracts will be recorded on the Proceeding CD. After the Conference the Proceedings will also be uploaded to the BGA web site.

For any information:

Dr J. Gasquez

UMR Biologie et Gestion des Adventices

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France

Fax : +33 (0)3 69 32 62

E-mail : gasquez@dijon.inra.fr

Conference web site: <http://www2.dijon.inra.fr/bga/conference2009>

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS CONFERENCES

The following list of conferences has been proposed by the Association of Applied Biologists:

10-12 September:

Resource Capture by Crops: Integrated Approaches: University of Nottingham at Sutton Bonington, UK

15 October

Traceability and Tracking in the Food Chain. Central Science Laboratory, York, UK. **Call for Papers deadline 16th May**

12-13 November

Effects of Climate Change on Plants: Implications for Agriculture. Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, UK

19 November

The Future of Weed Research in the UK. HGCA, London, UK

25 November

Pollution from Pesticides - Point Source versus Diffuse. Harper Adams University College, Newport, UK

3 December

Residue Reduction through Biocontrol. Peterborough, UK

More information can be found on the following website:

www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=184&basket=wwsshowconflist

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

1ST INTERNATIONAL RAGWEED CONFERENCE

10-13 September
Budapest, Hungary

LKiss@nki.hu; <http://www.nki.hu/ragweed/>

EWRS-MEETING OF WORKING GROUP GERMINATION AND EARLY GROWTH

15-16 September 2008
Perugia, Italy

ilsea.rasmussen@agrsci.dk; <http://www.ewrs.org/GEGWG/index.html>

2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 'INTRACTABLE WEEDS AND PLANT INVADERS'

14 – 18 September 2008
Osijek, Croatia

www://tera.hr/ewrs-osijek-2008

ENDURE SYMPOSIUM – DIVERSIFYING CROP PROTECTION

12 – 15 October 2008
La Grande Motte, Montpellier, France

<http://www.endure-network.eu/>

8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PESTS IN AGRICULTURE

22 – 23 October 2008
Montpellier SupAgro, France

<http://www.afpp.net>

EWRS-WORKSHOP ON PERENNIAL WEEDS

10-12 November 2008
Wageningen, The Netherlands

lammert.bastiaans@wur.nl

THE FUTURE OF WEED RESEARCH IN THE UK

19 November 2008
HGCA, London, UK

www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=184&basket=wwshowconflist

EWRS-WORKSHOP ON PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL WEED CONTROL

9-11 March 2009
Zaragoza, Spain

www.ewrs.org/pwc/

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12-13 March 2009
Lleida, Spain

http://www.ewrs.org/biodiversity/workshop_2009.asp

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10-12 March 2009
Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands

4TH INTERNATIONAL PLANT DORMANCY SYMPOSIUM

8-11 June
Fargo, North Dakota, USA
www.plantdormancy.com/ > <http://www.plantdormancy.com>

10TH WORLD CONGRESS ON PARASITIC PLANTS

8-12 June 2009
Kusadasi, Turkey
www.ippsturkey.com

10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF ALIEN PLANT INVASIONS (EMAPI)

23-27 August 2009
Stellenbosch, South Africa.
D. Richardson; rich@sun.ac.za

XIII TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEED BIOLOGY

8 -10 September 2009
Dijon, France
<http://www2.dijon.inra.fr/bga/conference2009>

IOBC/WPRS WORKING GROUP, PESTICIDES AND BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS

07-09 October 2009
Dubrovnik, Croatia
B. Baric; Baric@agr.hr.

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EDITORIAL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

**Deadline for contributions to be published in the following Newsletter issue:
1 October 2008**

Photographic images

It is possible to include photographic material. Photographs can be processed and scanned. Pictures can be sent as negatives, positives (slides with and without frames) and as original pictures. The easiest to handle are digital pictures, which can be reproduced of a higher quality within the Newsletter. Please make sure that these images are taken at no less than 300 dpi otherwise the picture quality drops.

Questions

If you have any problems in writing or formatting your article, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'll be happy to assist you. As Technical Editor of the Newsletter, I prepare the final layout of the Newsletter prior to publishing. You can contact me by sending an E-mail to newsletter@ewrs.org / moonen@sssup.it or by calling me at +39 050 883567. I'm looking forward to receiving your contributions.

Camilla Moonen.

CHARGES FOR ADVERTISING MATERIAL IN THE NEWSLETTER

Advertisements in the Newsletter

The rate for an advertisement in all four editions of a year is € 400,00 / year / page. Reductions can be negotiated with the Newsletter editor for half page adverts. Maximum 4 pages of adverts in each issue.

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