

EUROPEAN WEED RESEARCH SOCIETY**EWRS**

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Autonomous vehicle with machine vision-controlled grid-dosing sprayer system. The system only sprays in grids of 0.1 m x 0.1 m where weed seedlings are present in the inter-row area (Photo: Dept. of Agricultural Engineering, University of Aarhus, Denmark; text: Per Kudsk).

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BOARD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

A month ago the EWRS Scientific Committee (SciCom) and EWRS Board of the Society met for the annual meetings in Osijek in Croatia. The meeting was organised in conjunction with the 2. International Symposium on Intractable Weeds and Plant Invaders. First of all I would like to thank the local symposium organisers Profs. Edita Stefanic and Ivan Stefanic for housing the EWRS SciCom and Board of the Society meetings and taking care of the all practical arrangements. We all enjoyed our visit to Osijek very much.

EWRS now has 14 working groups and all groups are very active organising joint experiments, symposia or workshops. It is a great pleasure for me to watch how the level of activity in the working groups continues to increase from year to year. The working groups are the place where members can become actively involved in EWRS activities and active working groups are an important, if not the most important, reason for the existence of EWRS. Hence, I strongly encourage everyone to contact the working group leaders if you are interested in taking part in the activities of a specific working group.

As a result of the increased activity of the working groups the requests for budgets have never been higher than in Osijek. For example, next year 3 working groups will organise open symposia while others will meet to discuss the outcomes of their joint experiments. In recent years working groups have also involved themselves in the organisation of non-EWRS Symposia. An example is the 2. International Symposium on Intractable Weeds and Plant Invaders where 3 working groups (Invasive Plants, Biological Control of Weeds and Weed Management in Arid and Semi-arid Environments) each organised

a session in the symposium. Next year working groups will likewise contribute to the scientific programme of the 12th International Symposium on Aquatic Weeds in Finland. As all the budget requests of the working groups were well-justified they were approved by the EWRS Board of the Society. Fortunately, part of the extra expenses for working groups could be compensated by savings for printing and posting the EWRS Newsletter that is now only available on-line.

An important agenda point during the EWRS Board of the Society meeting was the voting on the EWRS Foundation of the Financial Interests of EWRS. Unfortunately, the 2/3-quorum of the total membership was not met. The Board of the Society therefore decided to put the new Articles to voting at the oncoming General Assembly. You have all received an invitation for the General Assembly in Frankfurt on 29 October. If you will not attend the General Assembly I strongly urge you to fill in the attached voting form and return it to the EWRS Secretary Andrej Simoncic.

The EWRS Board of the Society decided to increase the 2009 membership fee for ordinary members from 55 to 60 EUR following 2 years with no increase in the fee. The student fee will stay at 30 EUR. Next year a web-based membership system will be up and running where you can pay your membership fee by credit card. This is a further initiative intended to reduce the administrative burdens within EWRS.

A last point on the agenda of the EWRS Board of the Society meeting was a discussion on initiating a stakeholder process to increase the awareness of EWRS and weed science as a discipline. Our past president Marco Quadranti has agreed to take on that duty that will also involve the National Representatives. You will learn about that initiative later.

Per Kudsk



Figure 1. The EWRS Board in action (Osijek, Croatia, 14 September 2008)
(Pictures by Marco Quadranti)

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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE 'MANAGING PARASITIC WEEDS: INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND PRACTICE'

Masseria Santa Lucia - Ostuni - Brindisi, Italy
September 21- 26, 2008

By Maurizio Vurro and Jonathan Gressel, Conference organizers; maurizio.vurro@ispa.cnr.it

Parasitic plants are of economic importance because they reduce crop yield and quality. The parasite removes water, minerals and photosynthates from the crop which reduces the host's ability to grow and compete. Crops parasitized usually grow slower and, dependent on the severity of infestation, biomass production is lowered.

The main principles of controlling parasitic weeds had focussed on varying levels of host tolerance, on reducing soil seed bank, preventing seed set and inhibiting spread from infested to non-infested areas because there had been no methods of control near the time of attachment. So far the effectiveness of conventional control methods is limited due to numerous factors, including: lack of simple, cost-effective modes of control, lack of appropriate information to provide to inadequate agricultural extension services, scant funds for agricultural inputs, and the complex nature of the parasites, which reproduce prolifically, have tiny but long-lived seeds, and are difficult to detect until irreversible damage to the crop has been done.

There was an urgent need to re-evaluate novel integrated control programmes in the light of recent basic research successes in understanding the enemy and the ability to use transgenics to move genes among species. 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.

Thus, a group of experts using "advanced approaches" to parasitic weed management having backgrounds in the different aspects of biotechnologies (molecular biology, genetics, new technologies, biochemistry, plant physiology, host-parasite interactions) has been invited to the OECD Conference, in order to give highly qualified and advanced presentations, followed by long periods of discussions. The group has discussed how new ideas, new approaches, new solutions, or new methodologies coming from different fields of application are beginning to and may further be used in the field as the science progresses. They have described and discussed how each technology should be integrated with others to synergistically effect control, that will be more resilient, while reducing weed seed banks so that susceptible crops can be part of a rotation. A further aim of the conference was to create a network of new recruits and experienced scientists that could have, find or create new opportunities to collaborate in this field of science that requires a "global" collaborative approach. Unfortunately, although this field of research has a worldwide resonance, there are not so many possibilities for researchers to have permanent global network, or to have joint collaborative projects. And this seems to be one of the main obstacles in finding global solutions. In this perspective, links have also been created with scientists working with many other host-parasite interactions, or with symbiotic interactions. This because parasitic weeds can interact, for example, with the host plants using the same root signals used by plants to attract their symbiotic organisms, such as rhizobia or arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi; mechanisms of plant resistance can have common pathways with phytopathogenic fungi; molecular approaches can have the same procedures as the study of other plant species.

This is why this special kind of small conference has been proposed and organized, with a restricted number of top scientists working on many different aspects of plant parasitisms, or even in close related

fields, that can share their ideas and expertise, and bring solution from the theory to the practice, from the lab to the field.

The conference was possible thank to the main sponsorship of the OECD - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Co-Operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management For Sustainable Agricultural Systems. A special thank goes to the EWRS - European Weed Research Society, that has also supported the organization of the conference.

The Conference was held in September 2008 and was nicely located in the Hotel Masseria Santa Lucia, near Ostuni, the so called "white city", a historical village facing the Adriatic Sea in the Apulia Region, in the South of Italy. The warm and friendly atmosphere has allowed the group to spend the whole period of the conference all together, then extending the scientific discussions outside the scheduled times and even in the free time. A very wide and interactive programme was organized, which has considered the most advanced research on the different aspects of parasitism and approaches for its management. In table 1 (next page) is the list of the presentations given at the conference. A special issue of Pest Management Science, that will be produced in a few weeks, will contain all the articles prepared by the invited speakers.



Figure 2. Participant of the Conference 'Managing parasitic weeds; integrating science and practice'.

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Table 1. Participants and the title of the presentation they have given at the OECD Conference 'Managing parasitic weeds: integrating science and practice'.

| Name | Surname | Title of Presentation |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| Ervin | Balzas | Molecules in communication |
| Harro J. | Bouwmeester | Regulation of strigolactone biosynthesis in host plants by in- and external signals |
| Tatsiana | Charnikhova | Maize germination stimulants characterization and quantification |
| Consuelo M. | De Moraes | Host location by parasitic plants |
| Jonathan | Gressel | Potential biotech solutions for parasitic plant management |
| Maria J. | Harrison | The arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis: development and function of the arbuscule/cortical cell interface |
| Sarah | Hearne | Looking for unconventional sources of resistance to Striga |
| Joseph | Hershenhorn | Chemical control of broomrape: an overview |
| Tony | Hooper | New genetic opportunities from legume intercrops for controlling parasitic weeds |
| Daniel M. | Joel | Is seed 'conditioning' essential for Orobanche germination? |
| Jianxiong | Li | Resistance genes against <i>S. gesnerioides</i> parasitism in cowpea |
| Juan Antonio | Lopez Raez | Unravelling the strigolactone biosynthetic pathway: nutrient deficiency and ABA regulation |
| David | Lynn | Molecular approaches to Striga and Orobanche control |
| Giles | Oldroyd | Decoding calcium oscillations during symbiosis signalling |
| Chris | Parker | The current status of Orobanche and Striga problems worldwide |
| Alexandro | Perez de Luque | Nanotechnology for parasitic plants control: development of smart delivery systems |
| Brian | Rector | Engineering weeds to control themselves: Transposon-vectored female sterility |
| Diego | Rubiales | Integration of traditional and novel technologies for Orobanche crenata control in grain and forage legumes |
| David C. | Sands | Selection for amino acid excretion by biocontrol fungi for enhancement of virulence |
| Julie | Scholes | Genomic approaches to understanding host resistance and Striga virulence |
| Maurizio | Vurro | Natural metabolites for parasitic plant management |
| Alan K. | Watson | Targeting the power of <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> on Striga |
| James H. | Westwood | Host-parasite translocation of RNA |
| John I. | Yoder | Early host recognition in emiparasitic plants |
| Koichi | Yoneyama | Strigolactones; structure, activity, and regulation of production |
| Binne | Zwanenburg | Interplay of specific molecules and parasitic weeds: understanding of the important role of molecular communication in the life cycle of parasitic weeds as a way to an effective control of weed pests |

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MEETING OF THE WG GERMINATION AND EARLY GROWTH

By Ilse A. Rasmussen; WG coordinator; ilsea.rasmussen@agrsci.dk

The WG had a meeting on 15-16 September 2008 in Perugia, Italy, hosted by Francesco Tei and Federica Graziani at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Perugia. The meeting was attended by 15 members (Figure 3). The first day was spent on discussion of the common experiment carried out by the WG. Some members are starting to prepare a manuscript on the common experiment. Their ideas were discussed, and all participants in the experiment presented their results from 2008. On the second day, the meeting participants presented results of their own research, and the presentations were discussed in the group. All participants were encouraged to submit abstract for the EWRS symposium 2010 in Hungary in order to facilitate the possibility to have a session on the subject of our WG. In addition, possibilities to apply for funding for new common experiments or other collaborative research were discussed.



Figure 3. Participants of the WG 'Germination and Early Growth' meeting, Perugia, Italy.

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REVIEWS

MANAGING WILD RADISH AND OTHER BRASSICACEOUS WEEDS IN AUSTRALIAN CROPPING SYSTEMS

Book presentation by Aik Cheam, principal author of the book; acheam@agric.wa.gov.au

This publication brings together the latest research information on brassicaceous weeds, some of Australia's worst broadleaf crop weeds. Closely related to a wide range of cultivated vegetables (eg cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli), major brassicaceous weeds in Australia include wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), charlock (*Sinapis arvensis*), turnip weed (*Rapistrum rugosum*), wild turnip (*Brassica tournifortii*) and Indian hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium orientale*).

The decision to write this book was prompted by the mounting cases of herbicide resistance in brassicaceous weeds and the problems they are causing in broadleaf crops owing to the lack of control options.

The book is the result of years of research by Dr Aik Cheam, Australia's leading authority on brassicaceous weed management and a long-time member of the EWRS. Although this book presents weed management systems from an Australian perspective, many of the management tactics discussed are relevant outside Australia. It discusses management tactics within an integrated weed management framework that focuses on the various parts of the weed lifecycle and keeps pressure on the weed seedbank.

What's inside?

Background

Describes the origins, distribution and impacts of brassicaceous weeds in Australia's cropping systems.

Herbicide resistance

Presents the basics of herbicide resistance, crucial for managing brassicaceous weed populations that are resistant to one or more herbicide groups, or at risk of becoming resistant.

Agronomy

Discusses agronomic practices used to maximise the benefits of the specific weed management tactic employed.

Tactics

Provides detailed information on available weed management tactics (chemical and non-chemical) and trial results from across Australia.

Implementing IWM

Describes the development of an integrated management plan for brassicaceous weeds and their practical implementation on farms in Western Australia and New South Wales.

You can request your free hard copy by email (acheam@agric.wa.gov.au) or download a free electronic copy from www.weedscrc.org.au/projects/project_2_2_3_3.html.



Managing wild radish and other brassicaceous weeds in Australian cropping systems. A.H. Cheam, A.M. Storrie, E.A. Koetz, D.J. Holding, A.J. Bowcher and J.A. Barker. 2008. p. 100. Published by CRC for Australian Weed Management ISBN: 978-1-920932-62-6 (free)

www.weedscrc.org.au/projects/project_2_2_3_3.html

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CALL FOR CONFERENCES

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)

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 and second 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.

The Programme

The programme will alternate oral presentations with poster sessions. A field visit is planned to an organic vegetable producer, to an organic wheat and bread producer of an ancient wheat variety and either a conventional olive or vineyard farm in the surroundings of Zaragoza. For more details on the programme, please download the second circular from the website: www.ewrs.org/pwc

Following our workshop on Thursday (12th March), a workshop of the EWRS Working Group on Weeds and Biodiversity will take place in Lleida (Lérida), 150 km away from Zaragoza in the direction of Barcelona. You are invited to take the opportunity and participate in both Working Groups' workshops (see next announcement in this Newsletter).

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.

Accommodation and meals

Participants in the workshop will have lunch at the Campus restaurant. Accommodations will be in Zaragoza, and a list of recommended hotels in the city centre is provided below. The central location of the hotels will encourage meeting after the official programme. We hope that informal discussions will continue while enjoying some 'tapas' in many of the bars of the old city. The estimated cost of the registration will be approximately 150 €. Non-EWRS members will be charged an extra fee corresponding to a year membership-fee (55 € in 2008). The registration fee will cover the costs for the meeting's booklet, facilities, excursion, lunches (Monday to Wednesday) and dinner on Tuesday, following the excursion. We recommend staying at one of the hotels in the city centre as we will provide transport to the Campus (see second circular for list of hotels and indicative prices).

Pre-registration and call for papers

Please complete the pre-registration form at www.ewrs.org/pwc/2008 before September 30th 2008 (starting August 15th). At the same time, you must fill the form to indicate if you want to do one or several presentations. For each presentation, you will have to provide an abstract (min 250 - max 500 words) which includes a clear definition of the objectives and of the methodology along with some results. You will also have to specify whether you prefer to do a poster or an oral presentation. Pre-registration and abstract submission will be acknowledged.

We are looking for colleagues to chair some of the workshop's session. Please contact Bo Melander directly (bo.melander@agrsci.dk) to offer your services.

Important dates and deadlines (please take note):

- 30 September 2008. Deadline for pre-registration and provisional abstracts submission (on-line only, through the web site).
- 15 November 2008. Third Circular containing final scientific programme, detailed information on venue, accommodation, travel, presentation facilities, etc., provisional list of participants.
- 15 December 2008: Deadline for payment of workshop fee.
- 15 January 2009: Deadline for submission of final abstracts and optional full papers for the Proceedings.

I hope to see many of you in Spain next year.

Bo Melander (bo.melander@agrsci.dk).

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.

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The Programme

Oral sessions and concomitant poster sessions will be organized on the following themes:

- Session 1. Land use, field margins, or farming systems: what matters most for arable biodiversity?
- Session 2. The role of weeds as bio-indicators of sustainability.
- Session 3. Functional biodiversity; the role of seed predators in regulating arable weeds.

Abstracts

The abstract (250-500 words) must include the following:

1. Rationale or justification for the research
2. Objectives
3. A brief description of methods used
4. Results
5. Conclusions

We cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions in the published abstract. It is the author's responsibility to proofread the final abstract.

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.

Important dates and deadlines

Registration and abstract submission are online at www.ewrs.org/biodiversity from 1 October until 30 November 2008. Please indicate

- whether you are a student
- whether you are an EWRS member
- whether you prefer to present a poster or an oral presentation

We will take your preference into account, but cannot guarantee oral presentations in all cases.

Registration fee is € 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.

- 30 November 2008: Deadline for registration, payments and abstract submission.
- 15 January 2009: Third Circular, containing final programme, updated information on accommodation and travel, list of participants.

You can download the Second 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

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EWRS HERBICIDE RESISTANCE WORKING GROUP

19-20 May 2009
Ghent, Belgium

A meeting of this working group is planned for May 2009 at Ghent University, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Belgium. The meeting would start at about 3.00 pm on Tuesday 19 May 2009 and end early afternoon at about 15.30 on Wednesday 20 May 2009.

The 61st International Symposium on Crop Protection takes place at Ghent on Tuesday 19 May, with the Herbology (weed related) platform session in the morning and posters straight after lunch. We would hope that at least some people would register to attend the Symposium, but that would not be essential.

The website for the 2009 conference is not yet available but details for 2008 are at http://www.iscp.ugent.be/call_for_papers.php (In 2008, registration was 65 Euros, lunch 24 Euros and Banquet 55 Euros).

This arrangement would allow many people to attend and stay just one night (if not attending the symposium) or two nights if they were. A big advantage of linking the EWRS HRWG meeting with the Ghent Symposium is ease of arrangements - accommodation details will be on Ghent Symposium website, and include a range from modest, spartan but cheap rooms with lots of character (old nunnery) to more expensive Ibis hotels (two in Ghent). Transport links are good – Ghent is only 30 minutes from both Brussels station and airport. Ghent is also a very nice city to visit. See http://www.iscp.ugent.be/tourist_info.php

If you are interested in attending the Working Group Meeting please contact Robert Bulcke (Robert.Bulcke@UGent.be) or Els Mechant (Els.Mechant@UGent.be). This is not a binding commitment but it will be useful to get a better idea of the numbers who might attend.

Anne Thompson

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

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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.

The programme

Contribution and participation from researchers and industry and all relevant people involved in weedy and non-weedy parasitic plants from all over the world is encouraged. The programme will consist of oral presentations and posters. Oral presentations will be invited or selected from preliminary submitted abstracts.

Topics will include but are not limited to the following:

- Evolution and phylogeny of parasitic plants
- Parasite biochemistry and physiology (including molecular biology)
- Floral biology
- Ecology and population biology of parasitic species
- Host-parasite communication (including germination stimulation, haustorial induction, etc.)
- Host and non-host responses to parasitism
- Parasitic weed management
- Regulation and Phytosanitation
- Economics

Venue

The Conference will be held in the Pinebay Resort Hotel in Kusadasi, Turkey. Detailed information can be found on the following website: www.pinebay.com.

For scientific queries contact Ahmet Uludag at secretary@ippsturkey.com and queries on accommodation 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.

12TH EWRS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON 'AQUATIC WEEDS'

Jyväskylä, Finland
24 – 28 August 2009

The 12th International Symposium on 'Aquatic Weeds' will be held in Jyväskylä, Finland, from 24 to 28 August 2009. The symposium is organised by the EWRS Working Group on Invasive Plants, together with the Working Group on Macrophytes of the International Society on Limnology (SIL), and the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE).

The purpose of the symposium is bringing together people who are involved in research, management, extension and practical uses of aquatic plants, in order to exchange results, experiences, and information.

The target group consists of researchers, policy makers, and consultants involved in relationships between aquatic vegetation and the structure, functioning and diversity of aquatic ecosystems. The main topic of the symposium is 'Aquatic invasions and their relation to environmental changes'.

Other topics of the symposium are:

- Biology of aquatic plants.
- Indicator value of aquatic plants.
- Management of aquatic vegetation in fresh as well as brackish waters.
- Impact of invasive aquatic plant species on wetland functions.
- Practical uses of aquatic plants.
- Aquatic plants as biological quality elements of the EU water framework directive

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 website:

<http://www.environment.fi/syke/aw09>.

The EWRS will provide a limited number of grants to make it possible for young scientists to present a paper at the symposium. These grants will include the registration fee and partially cover travelling and hotel/living costs.

Looking forward to meeting you in Jyväskylä!

Seppo Hellsten (Chairman Organising Committee)

Christian Bohren (Chairman Scientific Committee)

Arnold Pieterse (Conference coordinator)

XIIITH 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 contact Dr J. Gasquez, UMR Biologie et Gestion des Adventices, BP86510, 21065 Dijon Cedex, France. E-mail : gasquez@dijon.inra.fr;

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

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ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS CONFERENCES

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

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=wwshowconflist

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PESTS IN AGRICULTURE

22 – 23 October 2008

Montpellier SupAgro, France

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/

EWRS-WORKSHOP ON WEEDS AND BIODIVERSITY

12-13 March 2009

Lleida, Spain

www.ewrs.org/biodiversity/workshop_2009.asp

SEAMLESS – FINAL CONFERENCE

10-12 March 2009

Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands

www.seamless-ip.org

61TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CROP PROTECTION

19 May 2009

Ghent, Belgium

Pieter.Spanoghe@ugent.be

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4TH INTERNATIONAL PLANT DORMANCY SYMPOSIUM

8-11 June
Fargo, North Dakota, USA
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
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.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS

2-6 November 2009
Fuzhou, China
www.icbi2009.org

CANADIAN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

24-26 November 2009
Charlottetown, Canada
J. Ivany; IvanyJ@agr.gc.ca

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EDITORIAL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

**Deadline for contributions to be published in the following Newsletter issue:
1 January 2009**

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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Figure 4. The EWRS SciCom in action (Osijek, Croatia, 13 September 2008) (Pictures by Paolo Bàrberi) [Back to Content](#)

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