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Calystegia sepium (L.) R.Br. (hedge bindweed) in durum wheat in the Network of Excellence ENDURE experiment on Integrated Weed Management at the Interdepartmental Centre for Agri-environmental Research E. Avanzi, (C.I.R.A.A. - Pisa, Italy). This picture demonstrates the importance of identification of perennial problem weeds and the exchange of knowledge regarding their management, as initiated by a Workshop on Perennial Weeds (see this Newsletter for a full report) (Picture and text: Camilla Moonen).

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BOARD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

First of all I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope you had an enjoyable holiday and are ready for 2009.

On October 29 the EWRS General Assembly was held in Frankfurt at the Bayer Crop Sciences research facility (my thanks to Hansjoerg Krähmer for organising the meeting). The minutes of the General Assembly can be found on page 3 in this issue of the Newsletter. Most important point on the agenda was the voting on the EWRS Foundation of the Financial Interests of EWRS. The 2/3-quorum of the total membership was not met during the first ballot earlier in 2008 and therefore a second voting was required. All votes casted were in favour of the proposal and this means that the organisation of the EWRS Foundation is now fully in accordance with the legal requirements for non-profit Foundations.

As you have probably noticed we have not yet collected the EWRS membership fee for 2008 but you should now have received an email or letter from our treasurer asking you to pay the 2008 fee. This will

coincide with the collection of the 2009 fee and I apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause. Last year we introduced the reduced student fee and I hope that you will encourage your graduate student to become members of EWRS and to participate in the scientific activities. Similar to last year you can pay the International Weed Science Society (IWSS) membership fee together with EWRS fee if you are or would like to become a member of IWSS.

Our journal *Weed Research* is doing very well. Although the Journal Impact Factor went down from 2006 to 2007 it is still the highest ranking weed science journal. The number of submissions has gone up significantly since the introduction of the online submission system indicating that many weed scientists consider *Weed Research* to be their first choice for publication. I hope that all of you will continue to submit quality manuscripts to our journal to help maintain our position as the leading weed science journal.

As I mentioned in my last Presidents Message our Working Groups are very active and this year, for example, the Physical and Cultural Weed Control, Weed and Biodiversity and Weed Management in Arid and Semiarid Climates Working Groups will organise open workshops. Some of the workshops look to become huge successes attracting between 50 and 100 participants from all parts of the world and I would like to use this opportunity to thank the members involved in organising the workshops. I know they are working very hard to make the workshops successful.

Looking back 5 to 10 years the situation was quite different. The only major EWRS event at that time was the EWRS Symposium held every third year. In the SciCom and the Board concern has been expressed that the increasing number of open activities with its large number of participants will erode the interest of weed scientists to attend the EWRS Symposium. I think this is a legitimate concern and as a matter of fact the attendance of the recent EWRS Symposia has not been as high as we had hoped. All of us are faced with limited budgets and time constraints and we inevitably have to choose among the many meetings held every year. My feeling is that nowadays scientists choose to attend the more specialised meetings where they can meet fellow scientists working on the same topics as themselves rather than attending a traditional symposium covering all aspects of weed science. If we wish to continue the series of EWRS Symposia I think we have to respond to this change in preferences. One solution could be to reorganise the symposium and install concurrent sessions that could accommodate the activities of the Working Groups to avoid the competition for attendance. Another solution, of course, is to discontinue the series of EWRS Symposia and leave it to the Working Groups to organise the scientific activities of the society. This is an issue which needs to be discussed in more detail in the SciCom and the Board.

On January 13 the European Parliament passed the new EU legislative package on pesticides. Of particular interest is the new regulation concerning the placing of plant production products on the market and the directive to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides.

The proposal for the new regulation adopted by the European Parliament is very similar to the compromise agreed on by the Council of Ministers in June 2008. The new regulation will partly replace risk assessment by hazard-based criteria. Of particular interest is the hazard-based criterion for pesticides considered to be endocrine disrupters as this could potentially removed a large number of pesticides from the European market. For the time being endocrine disrupters have been identified on basis on reproductive and carcinogenic effects but within 4 years the EU Commission has to come up with clear criteria for endocrine disrupters. According to the EU Commission 22 active ingredients, among them 8 herbicides, will fail to fulfil the new criteria; however this number may change when the criteria for endocrine disrupters have been defined. An important feature of the directive for sustainable use of pesticides is that it makes the implementation of IPM mandatory for all Member States by 2014.

The new legislative package will now be send to the Council for Ministers for approval which is considered to be a formality and is expected to enter into force later this year. Then begins the process of implementing the legislation and that will for sure involve a lot of negotiations. Until the

implementation phase has been finalised it is difficult to predict the consequences of the new legislation but there is no doubt that the number of pesticides available in the future will be lower than today. Fewer pesticides and mandatory implementation of IPM present farmers and their advisors with major new challenges. We, as weed scientists, should be ready to contribute to solve these challenges but being able to do so require funding for research within the EU system as well as in the Member States. We all have a major task ahead of us explaining the politicians that strict regulation on pesticides calls for actions to promote the search for new solutions.

Per Kudsk

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MINUTES OF THE 34TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 29 October 2008

Industriepark Hoechst, Frankfurt am Main, Bayer CropScience, Germany

Present: Per KUDSK (chairman), Hansjörg KRÄHMER, Ben POST, Thomas EGGERS, Karl HURLE, Helmut WALTER, Andrej SIMONČIČ.

GA-34.1 Opening (P. KUDSK)

- P. KUDSK welcomed all members. He thanked Hansjörg KRÄHMER and Bayer CropScience for hosting this meeting.

GA-34.2 Report of the Board (P. KUDSK)

- P. KUDSK reviewed the major items of the Minutes of the previous meeting.
- The publication of the *Newsletter* is now, from issue 101 and onwards, only available electronically. P. KUDSK acknowledged the excellent editing work Camilla MOONEN is doing.
- Scientific activities within EWRS are very intensive, like never before. This means that we are allocating more money to the Working Groups than previously.
- The EWRS Board has decided to initiate a stakeholder process to highlight weed science and EWRS in particular. Marco QUADRANTI will take the lead.

GA-34.3 Foundation for the Financial Interests of the EWRS

- Articles revised by the Ad hoc Committee "Constitution & Articles" (T. EGGERS). The procedures in 2008 were as follows:
- **Dutch and English revised versions of the EWRS Foundation Articles 2008:** done by Ben POST & Thomas EGGERS 2008-05-31 \ Peter LUTMAN 2008-07-02;
- **Ratification by the Board:** 2008-06-02...-06-20: agreements of all Board Members with minor comments only;
- **Voting by the Membership:**
 - by written survey: 521 members were addressed with voting forms, mailed by Ben POST on 2008-07-11, but only 155 voting forms were returned. Therefore, the necessary 2/3-quorum, i.e. 347 votes, was not met.
 - Due to the procedure following the resp. rules of the Constitution, a new voting had to be organised. Therefore, the Board decided on its 48th Meeting on September 14, 2008, at Osijek (Croatia) that the new Articles 2008 should be put to voting at the oncoming General Assembly, following the Society's Constitution 2007, Art. XVII & VIII.
- Ratification of the revised Foundation Articles 2008 (A. SIMONČIČ): To ensure maximum participation in the new voting the Secretary sent out on 17 Sept. 2008 by e-mail an invitation to all EWRS Members along with a Proxy Voting Form in order to enable them to pass their votes to the Secretary well before the General Assembly takes place. The result of the voting was as follows: 520 invitations were sent out, 70 proxies were returned before the

GA, and 4 additional votes were cast during the Meeting. **All 74 votes consented to the new Foundation Articles.**

- Following the decision to alter the Foundation Bye-Laws 1976 to the Foundation Articles 2008, B. POST was authorized to contact Notary SMIT in Wageningen, The Netherlands, with the Minutes of the 49th EWRS Board Meeting and the Minutes of this 34th General Assembly, signed by the President and the Secretary, in order to initiate the legal implementation of the Dutch version of the Foundation Articles 2008 according to the Dutch legislation. The **attestation by the notary** SMIT is expected this year or in the beginning of 2009.

GA-34.4 Report from the Scientific Committee (H. KRAEHMER, SciCom Chairman)

- As the Scientific Secretary PB was not present, HK gave short report about activities. He pointed out that due to the high activity level of all Working groups they will probably need some more money in the future.
- The major part of the EWRS budget is devoted to Working Groups. Most of the money is subsidies to graduate students and young scientists to allow them to attend workshops etc.
- All the activities of the Working Groups are listed in the *Newsletter*.
- There is one Working group which has not delivered the annual report.

GA-34.5 Report of the Treasurer (B. POST)

- **Finances of the Society.** The report of the financial activities of EWRS Society and the foundation was presented by B. POST. The administration had been audited by the registered accountant H. WONNINK and the EWRS auditors J.H. SPIJKER and A.J.W. ROTTEVEEL. They found the balance and the financial report to be correct.
- The Annex 1 is correct and to be published in EWRS Newsletter in December 2008. (See Abstract Financial Report 2007 / Budget 2009 prepared for Board meeting);
- Ad Annex 1. Income, Expenditure, balance for 2007
 - The Capital of the Society (Annex 1) on 31 December 2006 was € 5.967;
 - The final result, including the transfer of money to the Foundation, is an apparent decrease in the Society's balance of € -2.511;
 - The Capital of the Society (Annex 1) on 31 December 2007 was € 3.456;
 - Income to the Society was € 70.333;
 - Expenditure of the Society, due to scientific and executive activities, was € 96.132;
 - The result is an excess expenditure of € -25.799;
 - The financial activities of the Society resulted in an interest profit of € 0, but bank costs were € -1.212. Therefore the result of the financial activities of the Society is an excess expenditure of € -1.212.
- Ad Annex 2.
 - The budget for 2009 (Annex 2) for the Working Groups and for other activities has been established according to the proposals by SciCom and Board on 14 September 2008, in Osijek, Croatia.
 - In Annex 1 it is shown that the Executive Committee of the Society has asked financial support from the Foundation of an amount of € 24.500 EURO.
 - The Board of the "Foundation for the financial support of the EWRS" has accepted the proposed balance of the Foundation. The administration and balance of the Foundation has been checked by a registered accountant Mr. WONNINK (KAN accountants, Doorwerth, Netherlands).
 - The capital of the Foundation in 2007 decreased, including the transfer of € 24.500 to the Society, with € 10.981. The Foundation's capital on 31 December 2007 was € 540.489.
- **Membership fees.** The ordinary membership fee is currently 55 € while the student and senior membership fee is 30 EURO. The Treasurer recommended to rise the fee in 2009 to 60 € for Ordinary members but to maintain the student and senior membership fee at 30 EURO. Deadline for the payment of the fee for the 2009 is the end of February.
- The General Assembly agreed to the proposal of the Treasurer.

- From 2010 it will be possible to pay the fee electronically via the EWRS homepage.

GA-34.6 Report of the Membership Officer (B. POST)

- **Membership status.** The EWRS has got 520 Ordinary members, among them 10 Student members and 5 Senior members. We got 13 new members during the 5th IWSS Conference in Vancouver. Of the 520 members 85% are from Europe and former CIS countries while 15% are from the rest of the World.

GA-34.7 Report of the Editor of Weed Research (P. KUDSK)

- Andrea GRAHAM was not present to present the report. Instead of her P. KUDSK gave a short report on *Weed Research* activities.
- The Journal is doing fine. The JIF has increased in recent years although a decrease was observed from 2006 to 2007. The rejection rate is also going up as a result of a significant increase in the number of submissions.
- In her report A. GRAHAM pointed out the problem of reviewers. It seems to become increasingly difficult to find fellow researchers who are willing to review papers.

GA-34.8 Any other Business (P. KUDSK)

- Nothing.

GA-34.9 Next general Assembly (P. KUDSK)

- The 35th General Meeting will be Sunday 25th Oct. 2009 in Volterra (Italy).

GA-34.10 Closing (P. KUDSK)

Minutes taken and compiled by Andrej SIMONČIČ, Secretary

Approved by Per KUDSK, President & Chairman

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SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

REPORT OF THE 49TH EWRS SciCOM MEETING

Saturday 13 September 2008

Osijek (Croatia)

J.J. Strossmeyer University, Technology Development Center, Conference Room

CHAIRPERSON: Hansjoerg Kraehmer

INVITED: Gabriela Kazinczi, Ben Post, Marco Quadranti, Jukka Salonen, Andrej Simončić, Edita Štefanić.

PRESENT: Paolo Bärberi, Christian Bohren, Baerbel Gerowitt, Paul Hatcher, Hansjoerg Kraehmer, Per Kudsk, Bo Melander, Marco Quadranti, Ilse Rasmussen, Baruch Rubin, Jens Streibig.

EXCUSED: Lammert Bastiaans, Svend Christensen, Ben Post, Francesco Tei, Anne Thompson, Maurizio Vurro.

49.1 Opening

- P. Kudsk welcomed Ilse Ankjær Rasmussen, new SciCom member, and Hansjoerg Kraehmer, new EWRS vice-president and SciCom chairman. H.J. Kraehmer gave a PPT presentation on his background and proposed activities for the Society.
- The minutes of the 48th SciCom meeting, Hamar (NO), 16 June 2007, were approved.
- H.J. Kraehmer congratulated on Baruch Rubin for his election as new IWSS President for the 2009-2012 term. B. Rubin illustrated his view on IWSS and its relationships with EWRS. He will launch a new IWSS webpage and improve communication and links with regional organisation (including EWRS). The next IWSS congress will take place in China in 2012. B. Rubin would like to broaden

the IWSS Board as to make it more international. An idea is to organise the IWSS general assembly in conjunction with major events taking place in the different continents (e.g. in Europe during the 15th EWRS Symposium in July 2010). Reinforcement of the links between IWSS and EWRS is demonstrated by the fact that P. Kudsk, the EWRS President, has been invited to lead the Conference Scientific Programme Committee for China 2012.

49.2 2nd International Symposium "Intractable Weeds and Plant Invaders", Osijek (HR), 14-18 September 2008

- Edita Štefanić presented the latest news about the Symposium. Forty-six oral presentations and 36 posters are expected. The Symposium will last for four days and includes an excursion + wine tasting on Wednesday at a National Park site. A total of 6000 € has been allocated by EWRS to support young scientists and invited speakers. Additional sponsors are the local government, U.S. companies, etc. A workshop of the "ragweed discussion group" (with participants coming straightaway from a meeting held in Budapest the week before) will take place just before the conference.

49.3 Perennial weeds workshop, Wageningen (NL), 10-12 November 2008

- I. Rasmussen and J. Salonen gave the latest news about the workshop. Twenty-five people (mostly from Northern Europe) have registered and this is considered to be the optimal size for this kind of event. However, the maximum number of participants has been set at 40. The workshop will be a joint action between the EWRS and the Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists (NJF, www.njf.nu). Most of the EWRS budget will be used to cover costs of logistics. *Elymus repens*, *Sonchus* spp., *Rumex* spp. and *Cirsium arvense* will be the main weeds treated.
- B. Rubin asked why perennial weeds relevant to the South were not included and suggested that a session on perennial weeds could be organised at the next workshop of the WG Weed Management in Arid and Semi-arid environments scheduled in Santorini (GR) on May 2009.

49.4 12th EWRS International Symposium on Aquatic Weeds, Jyväskylä (FI), 24-28 August 2009

- C. Bohren and J. Salonen introduced the conference history and topic. P. Bärberi said that it has been clarified with Arnold Pieterse (one of the non-EWRS organisers) that the EWRS will only support young scientists and not expenses related to the logistics, secretariat work or meetings of the scientific programme committee.

49.5 15th EWRS Symposium, Kaposvar (HU), 12-15 July 2010

- G. Kazinczi communicated to SciCom that it was necessary to change the symposium venue from Keszthely to Kaposvar, also due to her forthcoming move to the University located in the latter city. The new venue has better facilities, including a larger auditorium, good and cheap accommodation and the possibility to host everyone in the same place. SciCom appreciated these news and said to G. Kazinczi that it is not necessary to make another formal bid but just to circulate the updated info on the logistics.
- The need to invite one or two keynote speakers (e.g. from the world of industry and/or policy-making) was solicited by SciCom. All SciCom members are invited to propose the names and contact details of suitable candidates to the Scientific Secretary by 15 November 2008.
- The deadlines for the next Symposium have been fixed:
- 30 November 2008: decision on keynote speakers. Estimate of publication cost of Book of Abstracts in Hungary. It was suggested to retrieve the standard EWRS yellow format (used until Papendal 2002) for publishing the symposium proceedings.
- 15 December 2008: 1st circular draft with call for papers (including information for people requiring visa to enter Hungary).
- 15 September 2009: deadline for submitting short abstracts (from authors to LoCom). Publication of the call for junior scientists subsidy on the EWRS Newsletter (September issue).
- 30 September 2009: circulation of abstracts by e-mail (from LoCom to SciCom).

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- 24 October 2009: decision on paper acceptance/rejection, definition of sessions and detailed programme (at the 51st SciCom meeting in Volterra, IT).
- 15 November 2009: communication of paper acceptance/rejection, allocation to session and names/contact details of session organisers (from LoCom to authors).
- 15 January 2010: submission of abstracts (from authors to session organisers) and early bird registration (at reduced cost). Submission of applications for junior scientists subsidy.
- 15 January 2010: release of 2nd circular, including detailed programme (by LoCom).
- 15 January-1 March 2010: paper revision process (by session organisers).
- 15 March 2010: electronic submission of final version of one-page text abstracts (from authors to session organisers).
- 31 March 2010: delivery of final version of abstracts for Book of Abstracts (from session organisers to LoCom) and final registration (at standard cost). Authors (at least one per paper) not registering by that date will have their paper deleted from the Book of Abstract. Registration (at standard cost) will still be possible from 1 April 2010 to the symposium date but without publication of abstract. Communication of results of junior scientists subsidy call to the awardees.
- 12 to 15 July 2010: 15th EWRS Symposium at Kaposvar (HU). On 11 July 2010 at the symposium venue the WG Education and Training will organise a workshop on "How to write a paper for a scientific journal". The workshop will be free for EWRS Members. The teachers will be Jon Marshall (Editor-in-Chief of Weed Research) and Jens C. Streibig (Professor, University of Copenhagen, DK). This workshop will be mentioned in the first circular.

49.6 Feedback from the 5th IWSC, Vancouver (CA), 23-27 June 2008

- SciCom discussed on the EWRS involvement and recognition at the latest IWSC. Once more, common discontent arised from SciCom when observing that the EWRS contribution to the IWSC was downplayed. J. Salonen observed that the EWRS was not visible sufficiently. However, B. Rubin pointed out that there is a continuously increasing recognition of EWRS in IWSS. The present position of B. Rubin as concurrent IWSS President and EWRS SciCom members should help improve this situation.
- It was stressed that the EWRS must do more to profile young scientists participation at IWSS congresses. In fact, few applications were received from Europe.

49.7 WG activities (from July 2007 onwards)

- All WG reports 2007-08 were sent to the Scientific Secretary and the EWRS Treasurer except that of the WG Site-specific Weed Management. As such, following Art. XII of the EWRS Constitution, the continuation of this WG is to be considered sub-judice and its budget is frozen until the WG report is submitted to SciCom and approved. Hopefully, this problem should be solved as soon as possible.
- A better coordination between WG coordinators and Ben Post was solicited. The EWRS Treasurer will provide detailed expenditure for the different WGs to the Board in conjunction with the submission of WG reports.
- Given the continuous uncertainty on the rules related to use of the EWRS extra money allocated to WGs upon request, P. Bàrberi has been asked to produce a document with draft rules to be discussed and approved by the Board. These rules will apply to all events (workshops, symposia, etc.) which foresee the direct involvement of one or more WGs from 2009 onwards, except the major EWRS Symposia, for which specific rules are already in place. Exceptions can be accepted only for those events scheduled in 2009 for which specific agreements between a WG coordinator and LoCom have already been negotiated.
- The year 2009 will see another round of EWRS elections for different positions. It has been suggested to produce a short PPT presentation illustrating the main tasks associated to each position, using the standard EWRS template. These presentations, upon approval, will be uploaded to the EWRS website. This should hopefully encourage potential candidates to get into the game. These presentations will be prepared by: P. Bàrberi (position: scientific secretary), P. Kudsk (position: vice-president), B. Post (positions: treasurer and membership officer), A. Simončić (position: secretary).

- WG Biological Control of Weeds (P. Hatcher). A provisional additional budget of 2000 € has been asked should the WG be involved in (co)organising a session at the Aquatic weeds symposium scheduled in August 2009 in Finland (to be confirmed).
- WG Crop-Weed Interactions (L. Bastiaans). No extra budget is needed for 2009.
- WG Education and Training (J. Streibig). A course on R (probably in eastern Europe) will be organised next year. As such, an extra budget of 5000 € is needed. The coordinator will make an inquiry on the WSSA course on writing scientific papers in weed science: the idea is to organise a similar course in conjunction with the next symposium in Kaposvar (July 2010). J. Streibig and J. Marshall will be the people involved (see point 49.5). B. Rubin suggested to involve WSSA in the organisation of this event. B. Gerowitt suggested to provide an opportunity for subsidised students to meet the Weed Research Editorial Board during the next EWRS Symposium.
- WG Germination and Early Growth (I. Rasmussen). No extra budget is needed for 2009.
- WG Herbicide Resistance (A. Thompson). This WG will organise a meeting at the Ghent (BE) conference in May 2009. As such, an extra budget of 2500 € is needed.
- WG Invasive Plants (C. Bohren). A ring trial on *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* has started, with the intention to include other species later on. An extra budget of 5000 € is needed (3000 € for a WG workshop +2000 € for the WG involvement in the Aquatic weeds symposium in Finland). P. Kudsk reminded that the EWRS does not directly fund research through WG activities. H.J. Kraehmer suggested to seek for industry support for activities on invasive plants.
- WG Optimisation of Herbicide Dose (P. Kudsk). A 2nd joint experiment (on *Lolium multiflorum*) is under way. An additional budget of 5000 € is needed to organise the WG workshop initially planned in 2008.
- WG Parasitic Weeds (M. Vurro). An extra budget of 2500 € is needed for the organisation of a session at the parasitic plants conference scheduled in Turkey in June 2009.
- WG Physical and Cultural Weed Control (B. Melander). An extra budget of 5000 € is needed for the WG workshop scheduled in Zaragoza (March 2009). SciCom reminded that no money can be granted to WG for explicit costs related to secretariat work or printing the book of abstract/proceedings. However, an exception will be made for this workshop since such an agreement with LoCom has already been stipulated. In the future, these costs must be incorporated in the workshop fee.
- WG Weed Management in Arid and Semi-arid environments (B. Rubin). The next WG meeting will take place in Santorini (GR) on 12-15 May 2009, co-organised with G. Economou (LoCom). An extra budget of 5000 € is needed.
- WG Weed Management Systems in Vegetables (F. Tei). No extra budget is needed for 2009.
- WG Weeds & Biodiversity (B. Gerowitt). The coordinator complained that the announcement of the Vancouver workshop associated with the 5th IWSC was far too late. Besides this, there was no recognition for the WG effort in co-organising the Vancouver workshop. An extra budget of 3000 € is needed for the next WG workshop (Lleida, ES, March 2009).
- P. Kudsk pointed out the risk of inflation of WG workshop/symposia and the consequent increasing costs for the society. B. Melander and C. Bohren replied that through WG workshops it is possible to attract people with various expertise (e.g. engineers, practitioners) who will never attend the EWRS major symposium. B. Gerowitt questioned the importance of the WG meetings held in conjunction with major EWRS symposia. SciCom reminded that the main function of these meetings is not their scientific content but to attract new people to WG activities. SciCom reminded to all WG coordinators that all WG workshops should aim at break-even and actively seek to attract new EWRS members.

49.8 NoE ENDURE

- P. Kudsk and P. Bàrberi synthesised the weed-related activities foreseen in the NoE as well as the potential EWRS involvement. SciCom could lobby for an FP7 call on weeds, either through ENDURE or the national FP7 representatives. P. Kudsk will circulate a draft and ask for suggestions.
- P. Bàrberi presented the web-based two-track system for facilitating knowledge exchange between ENDURE and EWRS. The two-track system can be used interactively by WG coordinators who have the opportunity to fill in a short description of the WG, produce a list of experts with relevant

contact details and include a link to the WG website, thus using the system to popularise their WG. This should not imply too much work. However, some people raised the point that they cannot disclose the e-mail contacts of WG members for reasons of privacy and to prevent spamming. P. Bàrberi reminded that it is totally left to WG coordinators whether or not they want to be involved (wholly or partially) in this activity.

49.9 Proposal of a new initiative on Integrated Weed Management

- B. Melander reported on an ENDURE sub-activity on IWM, which has generated interest in creating a pan-European group on this topic. As such, he wanted to explore whether or not EWRS would be keen to support this, e.g. through funding an initial workshop. P. Kudsk replied that he would very much like EWRS to play a role in this (e.g. as a support to policy development), but he does not think another workshop would help. After discussion, SciCom decided that EWRS will rather try to support IWM through the FP7 lobbying action mentioned at point 49.8.

49.10 European atlas of weed severity and resistance occurrence

- H.J. Kraehmer manifested his willingness to start an activity aimed to map weeds, their severity and the occurrence of herbicide-resistant biotypes at European scale, possibly backed by EWRS. It is first necessary to exchange ideas and information on existing and future activities on weed mapping. P. Kudsk asked what would be the role of the Herbicide Resistance WG in this action. H.J. Kraehmer will inquiry this with A. Thompson, Martin Schulte (Syngenta), Peter Zwerger et al. C. Bohren suggested to expand this activity to invasive plants colonising agroecosystems. J. Salonen reminded that backing of this initiative could also be sought from the Nordic Baltic Resistance Action Group (NORBARAG), which is now up and running and coordinated by P. Kudsk.

49.11 Industry-sponsored prize for outstanding research by young scientists

H.J. Kraehmer explained his proposal to set up an industry-sponsored prize to be awarded to outstanding weed research produced by young scientists in conjunction with the EWRS main symposia. The amount of the prize will be of around 1000 €, and the topics will not be restricted to chemical weed control. M. Quadranti said that it is important to define the details beforehand. In any case, the awarding committee must be independent of company business.

49.12 Any other issues

- None.

49.13 Next meetings

- FinCom meeting (if needed) and other preparatory meetings: Thursday 22 October or Friday 23 October (morning). Details to be arranged.
- 50th SciCom meeting (ordinary). Volterra (IT), Friday 23 October 2009 (afternoon).
- 51st SciCom meeting (dedicated to finalising the scientific programme of the 15th EWRS Symposium). Volterra (IT), Saturday 24 October 2009 (whole day).
- 49th Board meeting: Volterra (IT), Sunday 25 October 2009 (whole day).
- 35th General Assembly: Volterra (IT), Sunday 25 October 2009 (after the Board meeting).



Report compiled by Paolo Bàrberi
EWRS Scientific Secretary

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REPORT ON A WORKSHOP ON PERENNIAL WEEDS

10-12 November 2008
Wageningen, The Netherlands



Figure 1. Participants of the Workshop on perennial Weeds, Wageningen, The Netherlands, 10-12 November 2008

Perennial weeds are recognized as a severe and increasing problem in European agriculture. Therefore, an initiative was taken to organize a workshop with the aim of identifying the problem species, to understand their biology and ecology and to make an inventory of current control options and management strategies. Moreover, information on ongoing research projects and discussion on collaborative research projects were the driving forces of the workshop held in Wageningen.

In the first session, the most frequent and troublesome weed species were in focus. It became evident that there are some species which are common for all North European countries which were represented in the workshop. *Elymus repens*, *Cirsium arvense* and *Sonchus arvensis* are frequently found both from the fields and research agenda. In addition, considering grassland production, *Rumex* spp., *Elymus repens* and *Taraxacum* spp. were identified as most noxious species. Changes in cropping rotations and management practices (e.g. reduced tillage) were recognised as obvious reasons for the success of perennial weed species.

This session was followed by a session on current control and management. A wide variety of options, varying from thermal and mechanical control to cover crop suppression were presented. Among others, timing, treatment frequency and cutting depth were found important factors for the success of the curative measures. Bo Melander introduced a new technology for removal of vegetative reproductive organs for which he probably found inspiration on a nice and warm tropical beach during a recent summer holiday.

In the sessions on Tuesday, the life-cycle and the biology and ecology of perennial weed species were discussed. Seeds and vegetative reproductive organs offer most species at least two ways for spread and survival. Nevertheless realizing a good weed establishment for experimental purposes, either through seed or vegetative organs, was reported to be a challenging exercise with very variable results. How important both pathways are under field conditions was estimated using genetic characterization of patches. The huge genetic diversity suggests that for *C. arvense* the reproductive pathway might be

more important than commonly assumed. Despite the more complicated life-cycle of perennial weed species, it became obvious that some of the basic questions remain largely the same. Attention was given to establishment, growth, development and competitive ability of the weeds, as influenced by root fragment size. Interestingly, this research was largely inspired on research on willow cuttings. Also dormancy was identified as an important factor and studied at various levels of detail. Particularly in the Nordic countries the relation between dormancy and the effectiveness of mechanical weed control was investigated.

In between, a guided tour through the historical centre of Wageningen was made. Apart from the interesting history of the place the one-hour-walk provided the participants with fresh air and new inspiration.

The workshop had one session dedicated to experimental aspects, where various methods to design experiments and measure biomass, root mass etc were discussed. However, during most of the other sessions, experimental aspects were also often touched upon. E.g. how to best establish uniform stands from seeds or root fragments, how to cope with non-uniform stands, how to use results from experiments with newly planted root fragments when implementing on fields with well established stands (e.g. *Cirsium arvense* with 2 m root system). Another question was whether we as researchers should focus on short term results, within the year/season, or on longer-term results, in the whole system.

The workshop was organized as a collaborative effort by the EWRS, the NJF (Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists, www.njf.nu) and Wageningen University (www.wur.nl). The workshop was hosted by Lammert Bastiaans and Henriette Drenth. The open call among the members of both societies resulted in an optimal number of participants (25) who conjured up a real workshop atmosphere with short presentations and intensive discussions. The Book of Abstracts is available as a pdf file on the EWRS web-site (www.ewrs.org).



Figure 2. The organising committee with from left to right: Lammert Bastiaans, Ilse A. Rasmussen Rommie van der Weide and Jukka Salonen.

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MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

NOTES ON A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE 'THE FUTURE OF WEED RESEARCH IN THE UK'

19th November 2008

Organised by the Association of Applied Biology
The Home Grown Cereals Authority, London, UK

Notes by Bob Froud-Williams, r.j.froud-williams@reading.ac.uk

Following a long-term decline in investment in Weed Science Research in the UK resulting in a progressively older age profile of weed researchers, a conference was organised by Ken Davies and Nigel Boatman to assess the current situation and draw attention to the needs and concerns of the agricultural and horticultural industries. More than forty delegates attended the conference ensuring a 'full-house' representative of both public and private sector interests. A total of 17 presentations were given in three sessions.

Session 1 The Current Situation

Stephen Moss (Rothamsted Research) gave the first presentation concerning the age profile of weed scientists who are members of EWRS, the average age of which in the UK is 54.

Current research in England and Wales was presented by James Clarke (ADAS Boxworth) and in Scotland by Pete Ianetta (SCRI). James identified current work in four areas, herbicide options including minor crops, herbicide resistance management, problem weeds and enhancing biodiversity. Pete emphasised objectives of identifying traits that encourage crop-weed co-existence and optimisation of productivity and biological diversity with minimum inputs.

Bob Froud-Williams (University of Reading) outlined the declining status of Weed Science as a taught discipline in UK universities, but indicated that emphasis was increasingly on environmental issues and invasive alien species with greater provision at post-graduate level.

Session 2 Future Requirements

A farmer perspective was provided by Julian Hasler representing NFU, and highlighting communication and knowledge transfer issues as essential. He emphasised that farmers would not tolerate weeds for reasons of yield loss and harvest implications. He considered integrated weed control options too complex, and indicated that most farmers favour an insurance approach.

Weed management from an agronomist viewpoint was presented by Jim Orson (TAG) and Mark Ballingall (SAC) in relation to southern and northern Britain respectively. Jim considered that the main challenges facing the industry were herbicide revocation, a diminishing armoury, increased cost and complexity and lack of new modes of action. Additional constraints were resistance notably to ALS herbicides and contamination of water. Revision of EU 91/414 could render production uneconomic. Likewise Mark drew attention to the loss of actives particularly in the context of grass-weed control, notably annual meadow grass and bromes. Additional concerns were raised concerning lack of actives in grass and potatoes and water contamination.

On behalf of the agri-chemical industry Anne Thompson (DOW AgroSciences) reported that fewer patent applications were being made than previously such that product introductions had declined considerably. Regulatory requirements were now based on hazard rather than risk. Desirable herbicide requirements of residual activity, soil mobility and low soil adsorption were not compatible with environmental needs.

Conversely, Gareth Davies (Garden Organic) envisaged a more optimistic future for organic weed management based on a farm specific system approach with rotation integral to the system which is pro-active and practically orientated towards prevention of weed build-up.

Research on biological control was presented by Djami Djeddour (CABI UK) who provided an overview of the various approaches and emphasised the potential for biological management of aquatic and riparian species, with an exciting possibility of a biological release programme for control of Japanese Knotweed.

Aquatic weed control was addressed by Jonathan Newman (CEH) who indicated that there is a greater number of aquatic weed species, the productivity and survivorship of which is increasing due to increased eutrophication and warmer winters respectively. As a consequence there was an increased flood risk and implications for amenity and biodiversity. Tighter regulations and product withdrawals have resulted in fewer herbicide solutions and the range of control options is severely limited..

The conservation interest and requirements of arable flora was discussed by Kate Still (Plant life) who identified gaps in our knowledge concerning the rare arable flora, notably the ecological response to environmental factors. The nature of seed longevity was considered a key management tool.

Further positive roles of weeds in the agricultural ecosystem was considered by Nigel Boatman (CSL) who conceded that although weeds are competitive, they provide a food resource for other organisms and have a role in the functioning of the agro-ecosystem. He outlined the dependence of certain invertebrates on weed species and the relationship between weed control and the decline of farmland birds.

Invasive aliens were discussed by Ken Davies (Ex-SAC) in the context of climate change and changing cropping practices. Ken highlighted the increased occurrence of *Amaranthus* species and spring-germinating grass-weeds. Further consideration was devoted to invasives in riparian and other non-crop situations.

Session 3 The Way Forward

On behalf of PSD, Ingrid Den Hoed outlined the regulatory role of PSD in the context of herbicide registration and the need to address the risk of herbicide resistance. She expressed concern as to the ability to manage resistance development with fewer active substances following re-registration requirements after revision of 91/414.

Grower research needs were addressed by Graham Jellis (HGCA, now part of the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board). Weed Management was ranked 6th most important by levy payers and HGCA supported projects amounted to 5% of total. Priority areas for research were: 'Prepare for the future', 'Minimise adverse impacts' and 'Improved farmland biodiversity'.

Finally but not least, Cathy Knott (Independent) reminded the audience that horticulture was the most important minor sector, representing 22% of UK production value. Failure to control weeds as a result of herbicide losses could render some crops uneconomic to produce. She considered that future research needs were a gap analysis, baseline survey data of weed floras in horticultural crops, cost-effective reliable and novel non-chemical approaches, bio-technology traits for herbicide tolerance and control of invasive aliens in relation to climate change.

In conclusion, although Weed Research is still well represented in the UK it would appear fragmented as no single organization exists to direct research priorities. The isolated nature of individual research programmes has led to a loss of cohesion while the increasing age of those weed scientists remaining active is a cause for concern.

Bob Froud-Williams
Past Best Before Date EWRS-President

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REVIEWS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE XII INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF WEEDS

Book review by Paul Hatcher, co-editor of the book and coordinator of the EWRS Working Group on Biological Control of Weeds; p.e.hatcher@reading.ac.uk

In 2007 the International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds, which occurs every 4 years, returned to Europe (the first time since the 7th symposium in Rome 1988), and the proceedings have just been published by CABI. This volume contains 103 papers (each refereed by two of the editors) usually between 4 and 8 pages long, and a large number of abstracts, organised into themes on:

- 1) Ecology and modelling in biological control of weeds;
 - 2) Benefit/risk – cost analysis;
 - 3) Target and agent selection;
 - 4) Pre-release specificity and efficacy testing;
 - 5) Regulations and public awareness;
 - 6) Evolutionary processes;
 - 7) Opportunities and constraints for the biological control of weeds in Europe;
 - 8) Release activities and post-release evaluations;
 - 9) Management specifics, integration, restoration and implementation.
- Section 7 was sponsored by the EWRS and organised by the Biocontrol Working Group.

This symposium traditionally considers almost exclusively classical biocontrol, but there are also a couple of papers on mycoherbicides. Along with many papers on specific biocontrol projects, there are several very useful more general keynote papers including DiTomaso's 'Integration of biological control into weed management strategies', Vurro & Evans' 'Opportunities and constraints for the biological control of weeds in Europe' and McFadyen's 'Return on investment: determining the economic impact of biological control programmes'.

I have found the Proceedings from this Symposium to be very useful over the years. As much of the research on weed biological control is otherwise hidden away in the grey literature these volumes provide a handy snapshot of classical weed biological control activity at any one time. However, the proceedings of many of the previous symposia have been difficult for those who did not attend the symposium to obtain. Thus, it is commendable that CABI have made these Proceedings generally available, and with the current feeble state of Sterling the price for this attractive volume should be more reasonable for those who work in Dollars or Euros. Although, as one of the editors I am not unbiased, I think this volume should be on the bookshelves of all interested in weed biocontrol, and in the libraries of all institutions carrying out weed research. Then, when you hear the comment 'Weed biocontrol? That doesn't work, does it?' as I did recently, you have a handy volume to refer them to!



Proceedings of the XII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds. La Grande Motte, France, 22-27 April 2007. Eds MH Julien, R Sforza, MC Bon, HC Evans, PE Hatcher, HL Hinz & BG Rector. CAB International, Wallingford, UK, 2008. h/b 300 x 210 mm, xxii + 744 pp. £75 www.cabi.org

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SPECIAL ISSUE OF PEST MANAGEMENT SCIENCE - PARASITIC WEEDS

Pest Management Science is publishing a special issue on Parasitic Weeds in early 2009. This issue consists of peer-reviewed research papers and reviews arising from the September 2008 OECD and EWRS-sponsored conference 'Managing parasitic weeds: integrating science and practice'. Parasitic plants severely constrain agriculture, affecting major crops and leading to serious food shortages for the world's poorest peoples, yet the efficacy of available means to control has been minimal. This issue aims to address this pressing problem, with cutting-edge papers on all aspects of parasitic weed biology and control.

Papers will cover the current global status of infestation, molecular biology of plant-weed interactions and control methods, breeding and engineering resistance into crops, and the latest agronomic, chemical and biological control methods and their integration. The issue is edited by Jonathan Gressel at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, and Maurizio Vurro at the National Research Council in Italy.

More information and the Table of Contents is available from maurizio.vurro@ispa.cnr.it

Single print copies of this exciting issue are available for sale to readers for 85 US\$ + p&p – a 50% discount on the standard issue price. There will be a limited print run, so please order by Monday, 16 February to avoid disappointment. To order, email cs-journals@wiley.co.uk or phone +44 1243 843335.

PHD THESIS SUMMARY (1)

Spatial patchiness of broadleaved weeds in cereals and simulated patch spraying

Therese W. Berge, 2008. Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Therese.Berge@bioforsk.no,

The objective was to obtain knowledge useful for patch spraying broad-leaved weeds in cereals. Data was collected in rain-fed cereal fields in SE Norway (normal crop row spacing 0.125 m). Thesis included simulations of real-time on/off patch spraying to assess correctness in spray decisions for varying sizes of the management unit (MU; unit to be sprayed or not), herbicide reduction during patch spraying, evaluation of an previously developed object-oriented image analysis program ("WeedFinder") and a field experiment to explore weed growth and yield loss when a weed population has a patchy spatial distribution.

A threshold model for broad-leaved weeds in Norwegian spring cereals (Fykse 1991) was used to translate weed densities in mapped quadrats (0.25 m², grid 1.5 m x 2 m) into on/off spray decisions per quadrat. Original values of the Fykse-model and +/-25% modifications of the original values were tested. Quadrats simulated weed infestation level as predicted through automatic image analysis of digital images. Increasing the simulated 'boom width' and the 'distance between images' in the driving direction', 3.75-632 m² large MUs were simulated. Spray decision per MU was based upon one 'image'. The simulated mean herbicide reductions, 42-64%, depended on level of threshold model and fields included. Generally, the smaller the MU, the more likely the potential herbicide reduction (i.e. the true reduction due to the actual weed infestation level) would be simulated for the individual field trials. On average, however, the simulated herbicide reductions would not depend on the size of the MU, but on the potential reduction. This could seem somewhat unexpected, but occurred at the expense of increased proportion of wrong spray decisions when MU increased. 'Mapping error' (decision 'not spray' for subareas above the threshold) and 'spraying error' (decision 'spray' for subareas below the threshold) constituted about 50% each of the 'total error', i.e. the sum of wrong spray decisions. The smallest simulated total error, 6%, occurred for the smallest simulated MU, 3.75 m². MUs less than about 10 m² caused less than about 10% total error. Maximal total error was confined to about only 20%.

"WeedFinder" overestimated true low values of number of broad-leaved individuals m² and weed cover (proportion of image covered by weeds, %) and underestimated true high values. Surprisingly much of "WeedFinder"s very low precision curbed down when the Fykse-model was employed to translate the outputs of "WeedFinder" into spray decisions, which is a likely way "WeedFinder" will be applied in practical patch spraying. Mean success rates (i.e. spray decision by use of "WeedFinder" equals true decision) were 65-90%, depending on level and criteria of the threshold model and classification method used. Present version of "WeedFinder" is not sufficiently robust for field use due to variability in 'mapping error', here defined as true decision for image equals 'spray', but determined as 'not spray'.

When a model weed (*Brassica ssp. oleifera* (DC.) Metzg. - spring turnip rape) was seeded 1-2 days after the crop (spring wheat - *Triticum aestivum* L.) in 6.25 m² plots, weeds in patches were on average 47% lighter and 10% shorter than randomly dispersed weeds. The average yield losses (compared to hand-weeded controls) of the plots were 16% (patchy distribution) versus 36% (random distribution). Weed density, relative time of emergence and the spatial weed distribution were all important to the attained weed size and the crop yield. Possible practical implications are that spatial weed pattern within MUs should be taken into account to improve predictions of yield loss models and decisions rules for patch spraying.

PHD THESIS SUMMARY (2)

Plant invasions in Hungary, with especial regard to the herbaceous invasive species of western Transdanubia

Balogh, L., 2007. Pécs University, Pécs, Hungary; bala_lajka@hotmail.com

In Hungarian, with summary in English, 130 pp. + LXXIII app.

Copies of this thesis can be requested from the author. This thesis gives an account of the results achieved in the past ten years from the author's almost two-decade-long studies on invasive plants in Hungary. The aim was to contribute to the success of the scientific aim and followed practice, wishing to preserve the diversity of flora and vegetation in Hungary, but at least to stop their decrease. The new research results in the dissertation contributing to the knowledge on invasive plants in Hungary are:

- 1) Compiling the bibliography of the Hungarian literature on plant invasions published between 1963 and 2006 (more than 900 items);
- 2) Preparing a quadrilingual dictionary of the adventive and the closely related synanthropic, ruderal and the more recent invasion-ecology terms in Greek/Latin, English, German and Hungarian language (about 300 items), and proposals for the use of certain terms in Hungarian;
- 3) Compiling the critical list of neophytes in Hungary, with classification according to their success (713 neophytes, of which 71 are invasive, 76 naturalized and 566 casual neophytes); including proposals for some fifty new Hungarian plant names;
- 4) Identifying the characteristic traits of the most successful invasive neophytes based on the analysis of their list in Hungary;
- 5) Clarifying the taxonomy of the species *Fallopia* sectio *Reynoutria* occurring in Hungary;
- 6) Compiling the taxonomic keys of certain genera including invasive species in Hungary (*Fallopia*, *Helianthus*, *Phytolacca*, *Mimulus*);
- 7) Reporting three adventive species new to Hungary (*Fallopia* × *bohemica*, *Mimulus guttatus*, *Nuphar advena*) and one (*Sisyrinchium bermudiana*) new to Burgenland (Austria);
- 8) Preparing small biological monographs on various invasive taxa (with a considerable share of own results) for a Hungarian plant invasion handbook, helping, among others professional-civil groups involved in the control (*Fallopia* sectio *Reynoutria*, *Helianthus* spp., *Humulus japonicus*, *Impatiens glandulifera*, *M. guttatus*, *Phytolacca americana*, *Ph. esculenta*);
- 9) Mapping the geographical distribution of invasive species in the region of Őrség Landscape-protection Area and in other parts of Middle Western Hungary;
- 10) Determining the impact of certain invasive species (*Fallopia* × *bohemica*, *Helianthus tuberosus*) on the invaded plant communities in Western Hungary.

CALL FOR CONFERENCES

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. More information can be downloaded directly from our web page: www.ewrs.org/pwc. Registration has been closed but those who are interested, please contact the organising committee: Alicia Cirujeda (alicia.cirujeda@ewrs.org) or Carlos Zaragoza (carlos.zaragoza@ewrs.org)

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. More information and the thors circular can be downloaded form our website: <http://www.ewrs.org/biodiversity/activities.asp>. Registration in now closed but those who are interested, please contact the organising committee: paula.westerman@ewrs.org; barbara.baraibar@ewrs.org.

Local organizers: Paula Westerman, Barbara Baraibar & Jordi Recasens
EWRS working group: Bärbel Gerowitt, Paolo Bàrberi

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/>

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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

- 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 now available: www.iscp.ugent.be. There, one may find all details concerning registration [2009 fees are: registration 65 euro (before May 10, 2009) or 75 euro (after May 10, 2009), lunch 24 euro and banquet 55 euro], abstract submission and accommodation. The deadline for the submission of abstracts, concerning resistance or any other weed related topic, is January 31, 2009.

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 are at the Ghent Symposium

website, and include a range from modest, spartan but cheap rooms with lots of character (old nunnery: Monasterium PoortAckere) to more expensive hotels such as Ibis (two in Ghent), Novotel, Holiday Inn... Transport links are good – Ghent is only 30 and 45 minutes from Brussels station and airport respectively. Ghent is also a very nice city to visit. See: 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.

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.

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

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Two new sessions on parasitic plants have been added:

- Breeding for parasitic plant control
- *Orobanche cumana*

Breeding for parasitic plant control will include papers related to breeding. It can be either crop resistant to parasitic plant or crop resistant to herbicide or other control agents used to control parasitic plant. The *Orobanche cumana* session will focus on mainly genomics and races of the pest. New races of *Orobanche cumana* need to be clarified. However, other papers related to *O. cumana* will be considered in this special session. *O. cumana* is main problem in sunflowers. Sometimes it is classified as *O. cernua*.

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.

2ND ENDURE SUMMER SCHOOL 'MODELLING APPROACHES TO SUPPORT IPM'

Volterra, Italy
15-20 June 2009

Presentation

This summer school for PhD students is part of the Education activities (SA 1.2) envisaged in the EU-FP6 Network of Excellence ENDURE (European Network for the Durable Exploitation of Crop Protection Strategies). ENDURE is an initiative to reshape European research and development on pesticide use in crops for the implementation of sustainable pest control strategies. It was selected for funding by the European Commission in response to call FP6, Food Quality and Safety.

The purpose of the ENDURE Network of Excellence (NoE) is a durable restructuring of European research and development work on the use of plant protection products. The NoE should aim to reduce the use of these chemicals by including both fundamental research to deepen our understanding of the biology, ecology, behaviour and underlying genetics of the crop-pest system, and appropriate applied work (i.e. new and innovative technologies) to ensure that results are translated into practice. The network should include the expertise and knowledge available in the new Member States, and its restructuring should extend to projects already under way. It would be desirable to include in the network those working in or for INCO target countries whose agricultural products are exported to Europe. The NoE should establish itself as a world leader for the development and implementation of durable pest control strategies, and should become recognised as the first point of reference in Europe not only for scientists but also for legislators and users. Click [here](#) to link to the ENDURE main website.

The Summer School will take place at [SIAF](#), an International School of Advanced Education recently established by the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna of Pisa and the Foundation of the Cassa di Risparmio di Volterra. SIAF is located at Volterra (60 km SE of Pisa), in the heart of Tuscany countryside.



Aims and rationale

The objective of the summer school is to give an overview to all students of a wide range of modelling approaches and their pros and cons that can be applied to develop or test innovative IPM strategies, and to allow students to work with experts of some of these models on a case study in order to widen their view on modelling approaches for IPM.

The summer school is organised by Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna of Pisa, in collaboration with modelling experts from all over Europe.

Programme

The summer school programme will include (1) lectures given by internationally-renowned experts belonging to ENDURE partners, (2) team work to facilitate active participation of the selected PhD students and their interaction with the lecturers and (3) opportunities during the whole week for students to discuss individually with the lecturers about their PhD project or related questions.

The type of transversal themes that will be treated by expert lecturers from all over Europe are:

- 1) Overview of various modelling approaches for testing and development of innovative IMP strategies
- 2) Technical aspects of modelling
- 3) The relation with the end-users of the model; participatory development

Three modelling applications will be presented and in case studies students will work on one of the case studies. They will be assigned to the case study groups based on their PhD project:

- spatially explicit modelling for development of innovative IPM strategies
- modelling of weed community response to cropping system management
- multi-pest models

Application and Deadlines

Who can apply

The summer school is directed to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 PhD students. Participation in the summer school is not restricted to PhD students directly linked to ENDURE partners. Applications from developing countries are welcome. The PhD students applying for this course are expected to be enrolled in a PhD programme whose topic evolves around crop protection and who apply modelling to test or develop IMP strategies.

Selection criteria

Interested students are requested to register to this website and complete the online application procedure. Applications must include:

- Filled application form
(http://www.endure-network.eu/summer_school_2009/registration).
- Short CV (max two A4 pages, Times New Roman 12 pt)
- Summary of PhD Project (max one A4 page, Times New Roman 12 pt)
- A motivation letter (max one A4 page, Times New Roman 12 pt)
- A support letter from their supervisor(s)

Deadlines

- **1 March 2009: closing date for receipt of online applications**
- 3 March 2009: notification of acceptance to applicants (via e-mail and this website)
- 11 March 2009: Selected students have to communicate formally their acceptance to participate and send a proposal for their travel plan (at endure.summerschool@sssup.it).
- 14 June 2009: Arrival at Pisa Airport of all students
- 15 - 20 June 2009: Summer school

Costs

ENDURE will cover most of the costs related to participation in the summer school:

- APEX Flight or International Transportation to/from Pisa (<http://www.pisa-airport.com/>)
- Local transportation provided by SSSUP (Pisa airport to/from SIAF Volterra)
- Meals and accommodation at the venue
- Selected students are requested to send their travel plan to endure.summerschool@sssup.it by 11 March 2009. Flight tickets will be directly provided by the Summer School organisers, the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy, taking into account the travel plan suggested by the students.
- NOT included are: travel costs to/from airport at student's home country/country of departure; costs for visa, any other cost which is not mentioned above.

Requests of information must be sent to endure.summerschool@sssup.it

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)

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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 February 2009**. 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>

WEED SCIENCE AND BIODIVERSITY IN A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

10-13 November 2009
Lisbon, Portugal

Nowadays there is a tendency for more diverse systems that are sustainable in terms of resource conservation. Successful ecosystems include life at all levels in the food web. Weeds are primary producers within farming systems, with the role of supporting biodiversity: providing food for herbivores, cover, reproduction sites and structure within habitats. Weed flora has changed in past centuries all over Europe. Reduction in abundance of host plants may affect associated phytophagen insects and other taxa such as farmland birds and mammals. Most countries now are adopting and encouraging agronomic practices based on land conservation, integrated pest management, precision agriculture and also organic farming to cope with biodiversity. The development of these technologies requires close collaboration between weed scientists, entomologists and phytopathologists and is responsibility of Weed Research Societies to organize meetings and workshops to accomplished the incertitude and look for the solution of agronomic problems considering the sustainability of agro ecosystems while preserving biodiversity. The symposium will provide a forum for scientists to present their work on a broad range of weed science topics in the form of oral presentations and posters. A scientific excursion is planned for the second day of the Congress and participants are invited to enjoy sightseeing in the Lisbon region, after the meeting.

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Executive Scientific Committee

Edite Sousa and Maria dos Santos: cherbologia2009@isa.utl.pt

DPPF – Secção de Fitoecologia e Herbologia; Instituto Superior de Agronomia Tapada da Ajuda, 1349-017 Lisboa

Registration

To be registered at the Congress, participants will have to fill in the Registration Form at the Congress web page at <http://www.mundiconvenius.pt/2009/herbologia/>

For any doubt, participants are requested to contact the Executive Secretariat: CongressoHerbologia.09@mundiconvenius.pt

Registration fees	Until March 15, 2009	After March. 15, 2009
Normal	300€	350€
Member of SEMh or ALAM	250€	300€
Students	100€	125€
Honorary members (2 persons)	400€	400€
Daily pass	100€	125€

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS CONFERENCES

More information can be found on the following website:

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

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

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

WEED SCIENCE AND BIODIVERSITY IN A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

10-13 November 2009
Lisbon, Portugal
<http://www.mundiconvenius.pt/2009/herbologia/cherbologia2009@isa.utl.pt>

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 April 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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