

International Society for Plant Pathology



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We are present on





Season's greetings

Andrea Masino, Peter Williamson and I send our warm and sunny greetings for the holiday season to all ISPP members and their families and colleagues. As has been the tradition, the ISPP President, Jan Leach, will be sending her New Year's message in the January issue of the ISPP Newsletter. Best wishes for a happy and safe 2019!



Daniel's angels – Collagraph with chine collé and watercolour (D. Hüberli, 2015)

Daniel Hüberli, ISPP Newsletter Editor

Reminder about the ISPP Logo Survey

Have your say about the ISPP logo in this short 90 second. survey. It will close on 15 January 2019. The results from the survey will be published in the February issue of the ISPP Newsletter.

[START NOW](#)

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(Andrea Masino, ISPP Business Manager)

Call from ISPP: A code of ethics for plant health emergencies

The outbreaks of emergent plant diseases or insect pests are significantly increasing at an alarming rate due to climate change, global trade and other reasons. These plant health emergent problems are serious threats to global food security in this 21st century. The role of plant pathologist to address any plant health emergency is paramount. It enables analyses that allow the fullest possible understanding of the emergency and guide a response plan to the outbreak.

It came to our attention that there is a lack of clarity in our plant pathology community on a number of ethical issues related to plant health emergencies. We propose that ISPP develop and publicise a code of ethics to help promote high standards of behaviour and practice whenever we face new plant disease outbreaks.

The code has the following aims:

- to foster ethical conduct
- to support communication and collaboration
- to ensure that decisions are based on the best available evidence

The importance of the Code of Ethics for Researchers in response to emergencies has been discussed and adopted by several professional bodies, science organisations and funding agencies. Efforts by the Science Council of Japan and the Ethics for Researchers adopted by the European Union are two important examples. We propose that the ISPP code of ethics for plant health emergencies sets the following standards of practice.

Alert authorities and colleagues of new outbreaks

Emergence of a new plant disease may be catastrophic if a rapid response is not taken by researchers, authorities or the relevant science organisation. It is a moral obligation of researchers and professional associations to alert the gravity of the emergency to the authorities and other stakeholders. Sharing available information with local and international colleagues may lead to the engagement of a higher number of experts to rapidly tackle the emergency. Social networks such as Twitter, Facebook and an open data sharing internet platforms are useful for on-time sharing of real information, exchange of views and to connect researchers. Engaging relevant stakeholders would expedite development of appropriate strategies and approaches to rapidly mitigate the problem.

Honestly and accurately report information

Ethical scholarly communications or research conduct implies practice of fundamental ethical principles in scientific research. In any plant health emergency, researchers must be critical, honest, transparent and highly responsible for sharing information and research data. The Code of Ethics ensures the highest standard in research and scholarly communications. It safeguards the standard behaviour and practices of the researchers. To the best of their ability, plant health researchers must follow universally acceptable and interdisciplinary code of conducts in sharing and exchanging any information or data. Open science and open data sharing approaches allow transparency and criticisms by peers.

Openly share biomaterial and data

To rapidly mitigate any emergent plant health issue in any region of the world, an open data sharing approach is critical for engaging the global scientific community and securing required funding for needed research. The data sharing enables genetic identification and diagnostics, and sets the stage

for surveillance, epidemiology and rapid response. These approaches would engage the greater global scientific community to address a local serious plant health problem for a rapid solution. Researchers of plant health emergencies should take necessary steps for sharing biomaterial and data with the local and global scientific communities to allow a concerted effort to tackle the problem.

Collaborate with experts on the problem

Engagement or collaboration with the leading experts in any specific plant health related problem is critical for a rapid solution. Plant health related local and international professional organisations should take immediate steps to engage the right experts through organising seminar, symposia, workshop or conference. Collaboration in research with high level experts saves time and resources for the mitigation of any problem in plant health science.

Respect and acknowledge the work of other scientists

It is the responsibility of the researchers to equally consider the ideas of all those who engage with the problem, and acknowledge contributions of any researcher from anywhere. Supporting diversity is crucial for greater scientific outcomes and acceptance of the research-based solution by society as a whole. Another ethical issue is trusting and empowering less experienced researchers and help them to achieve their professional goals and realise their full potential.

References:

1. Code of Ethics for Researchers. <https://widgets.weforum.org/coe/#code>
2. A code of ethics to get scientists talking. Nature <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-02516-x>
3. Policy statement on data sharing by WHO in the context of public health emergencies. http://www.who.int/ihr/procedures/SPG_data_sharing.pdf
4. Ethics for researchers, European Commission http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/fp7/89888/ethics-for-researchers_en.pdf

Any comments or feedback related to the Code of Ethics can be sent to PPcode@isppweb.org.

Send new names for next edition of List of New Names of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria

The ISPP Subject Matter Committee on the [Taxonomy of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria](#) are collecting papers for their next edition of a Comprehensive List of New Names of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria. If researchers have publications in which they have proposed new names that have not appeared in the [2010](#), [2012](#), or [2014](#) lists of names, they should send electronic copies of the publications to Carolee Bull at ctb14@psu.edu by 1 January 2019 to ensure the inclusion of the names in the newest comprehensive list. Emails about corrections are also welcome.

***Food Security* welcomes two Senior Editors**

Food Security - The Science, Sociology and Economics of Food Production and Access to Food, is an official journal of the ISPP. The journal has been in existence for nearly 10 years, and has achieved an Impact Factor of 2.970, thanks to the efforts of its founder and Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Richard Strange, and of its Editorial Board.

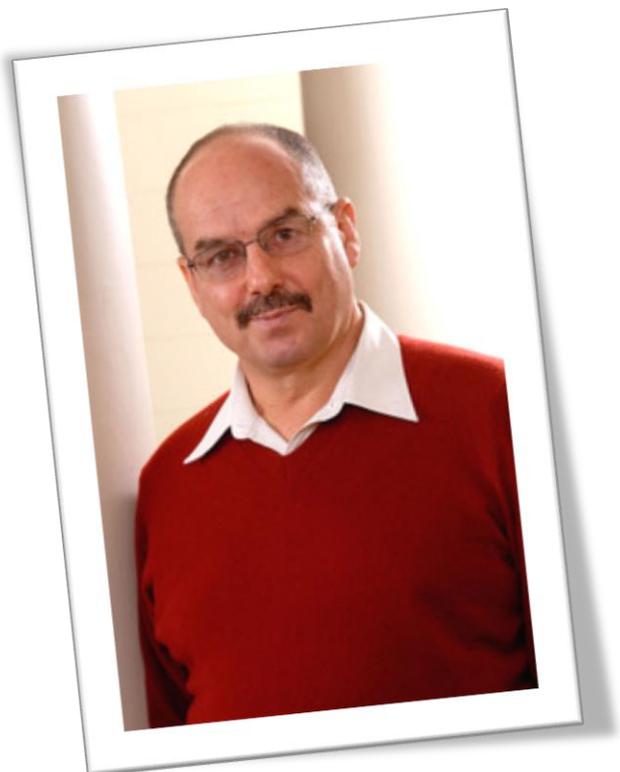
Specifically, the role of Senior Editors in the Editorial Board is critical for the Journal, as they drive its pluridisciplinary themes.

Starting very soon, Prof. Michael Dibley and Prof. Reimund Rötter will respectively take the lead of the Nutrition and of the Agronomy/Abiotic Constraints themes. They will replace respectively Dr. Andy Jones (University of Michigan, Department of Nutritional Sciences, School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, USA, Senior Editor of Nutrition and Sociology) and Dr. Eric Craswell (Fenner School of Environment and Society, College of Medicine, Biology and Environment, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia), whom we gratefully thank for their dedication as Senior Editors.

Michael Dibley and Reimundt Rötter are two world-class scientists, experts, and science managers. Welcome to *Food Security*. Below are two brief introductions to these new Senior Editors of *Food Security*.

Serge Savary, Editor in Chief of *Food Security*

Michael J Dibley is a Professor in Global Public Health Nutrition at the University of Sydney and an established nutritional epidemiologist specialising in maternal and child nutrition. His work in 1987 on the first WHO International Growth Reference established methods for assessing child nutrition using Z scores, which continue to be used in the assessment of child nutrition using anthropometry. He is the co-author of over 200 publications in high impact scientific journals, with an additional six book chapters. His current research interests focus on combining nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions to maximise their impact on maternal and child undernutrition. He is currently the lead investigator on several major research projects, including a community-based cluster randomised controlled trial in Bangladesh to evaluate the impact of “Integrating cash transfers and nutrition promotion on a mobile phone platform” (Australian National Health & Medical Research Council), and a trial in Indonesia assessing the “Effectiveness of an integrated program to reduce maternal and child malnutrition in East Java” (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition).





Reimund P. Rötter holds the Chair of Tropical Plant Production and Agrosystems Modelling (TROPAGS) at the Department of Crop Sciences at Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany. He is an agronomist and agricultural systems modeller with >25 years work experience in Africa, Asia and Europe. After he received his PhD (on the simulation of maize production in Kenya) from the University of Trier in 1993, he joined Wageningen UR/Netherlands

and worked in various research and research management positions developing and applying agrosystems modelling approaches to agronomic and environmental problems at different scales, both in the tropics and in temperate regions. From 2007-15 he served as a professor in Finland focusing on issues around climate change and agriculture. From 2012 to 2016 he co-coordinated the crop modelling component and was member of the Leadership Team of the knowledge hub FACCE MACSUR (www.macsur.eu).

His current research interests lie in understanding and finding solutions to the multi-faceted challenges of achieving food security in a changing climate under increasingly limited resource availability for the major plant production systems in the tropics. He is an internationally recognised expert in the fields of land use and agro-ecosystems analysis and modelling and a leading authority in the agricultural system modelling community, having over 150 peer-reviewed publications. He keeps close collaborative ties with, among others, AgMIP (www.agmip.org), various international agricultural research centers/programmes, and with universities and national agricultural research systems around the globe (see also, <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/research/539218.html>).

New edible cricket species discovered in Kenya

Researchers at the [International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology](#) (icipe) in Nairobi, Kenya, have discovered a new, previously undescribed edible cricket with great promise for mass production for human consumption and inclusion as an alternative protein ingredient in animal feeds. The species, which was collected and reared for experimental purposes at the Centre's campus, has been named *Scapsipedus icipe* Hugel & Tanga nov. sp., and its discovery has been reported in a paper published recently in [Zootaxa journal](#).



The cricket was discovered by icipe's insect for food and feed programme that is implementing the following projects: GREENINSECT, funded by the Danish International Development Agency; ILIPA supported by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, WOTRO Science for Global Development (NWO-WOTRO); ENTONUTRI, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic

Cooperation and Development (BMZ/GIZ); and INSFEED, supported by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

"*Scapsipedus icipe* is widely farmed across Kenya. However, until now its true scientific information was unavailable, and it was erroneously mistaken for a different cricket species known as *Acheta domesticus* L.," notes *icipe* scientist, Dr Tanga Mbi, who found the insect as part of his postdoctoral research.

He adds: "Our study highlights the species' habitat, molecular and morphological characterisation, acoustic behaviour, including male's call and courtship song, current distribution in Kenya and nutritional profile of the cricket species. This knowledge is important as it will enable the development of proper, more effective rearing techniques, and ultimately the effective incorporation of the species as a component in food and feed."

Scapsipedus icipe, which is commonly found around the buildings and fields, is characterised by a distinctive yellow band between the eyes and differs from other species within the genus *Scapsipedus* by a characteristic call and territorial nature of its males.

"Through GREEINSECT, over the past three years we have conducted research on the potential of farming of edible insects as an important contribution to nutritious food now and in the future," says Nanna Roos, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, which is leading the initiative at the university.

She adds: "We have tested indigenous Kenyan cricket species to investigate their potential to become 'mini-livestock' for mass production for feed and food. Therefore, the discovery of *Scapsipedus icipe* is exciting and important, not just because it is a new species to science, but because the species already has demonstrated great potential large-scale farming."

The researchers aim to conduct further studies on *Scapsipedus icipe* towards its incorporation into insects for food and feed initiatives in Kenya. So far, studies being conducted at *icipe* by a doctoral student, expected to be published soon, have established the best rearing conditions under different temperatures for *Scapsipedus icipe*. The Centre is also advancing research on the nutritional quality and safety of *Scapsipedus icipe*.

(*icipe* Press Release, 20 November 2018)

Report on ASPP Workshop on invasive pests, 4-5 November 2018, Alexandria, Egypt

The Arab Society for Plant Protection (ASPP) organised a workshop entitled "Detection, Epidemiology and Management of Invasive Pests that Threatens Strategic Agricultural Crops in the Arab Region" during 4-5 November 2018 at Helnan Palestine Hotel, Alexandria, Egypt. Around 200 scientists from academic institutions and agriculture research centers in Egypt in addition to several Arab countries (Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan) participated in this event. The workshop was opened by a statement presented by Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jboory, ASPP President, followed by a statement by Dr. Ahmed El-Heneidy on behalf of the Workshop Organising Committee. The workshop program included six sessions that centered around the following topics: 1. New directions in the management of invasive pests, 2. Impact of climate change on insect fauna and pathogens in the

Arab region, 3. New invasive viral and bacterial diseases in the Arab region, 4. Economically important soil-borne diseases in the Arab region, 5. New technologies in pest management, 6. Economically important insect pests and their management in the Arab region. During this workshop, 18 presentations were made followed by discussion of the different topics. The workshop was partially sponsored by BASF.

(Khaled Makkouk, ISPP Vice President - Subject Matter Committees)

Data sharing and other open science practices: An interview with Sophien Kamoun

Recently, [OpenPlantPathology](#) interviewed Professor Sophien Kamoun, a senior scientist and professor of biology with the Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich, UK. Sophien is known for his prolific Tweeting but, more importantly, for his work with oomycetes #notafungus, effectors, genomics and evolution. Prof. Kamoun is well recognised for his efforts to champion data sharing and other open science practices. Recently he was one of the leading scientists who founded Open Wheat Blast, an initiative with the main goal of providing genomic data and analysis related to wheat blast with open access. The collaborative efforts by several teams allowed to rapidly confirm the source of wheat blast in Bangladesh in early 2016. Here is the [interview on open science](#) with Prof. Kamoun.



(OpenPlantPathology, 14 November 2018)

Report on IX International Symposium on Soil and Substrate Disinfestation, September 2018, Crete, Greece

Over 140 scientists and accompanying persons from 22 countries around the globe came to Heraklion, Crete, Greece to attend the IX International Symposium on Soil and Substrate Disinfestation between 9-13 September 2018.

We are a scientific group with a long lasting history of actions and important contributions towards solving soil disinfestation problems from the years of the late Prof. Van Ashe until today. These contributions have been achieved by the participation of a diverse group of scientists from USA, Canada, Martinique, Australia, China, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Turkey, Israel, South Africa, Morocco, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, France, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. Participants from China, USA and Greece were the most represented.

The symposium was opened by Prof. J Katan from Rehovot, Israel, who gave the opening lecture on the milestones and future expectations of soil disinfestation after forty-five years of soil

disinfestation symposia (1973-2018), followed by Giovanna Gilardi, Italy, on emerging soilborne pathogens and trends in their management. All [sessions](#) and [abstracts](#) for presentations and posters are available on the symposium website.

The primary aim of this International Symposium was to promote and highlight current world research developments and application activities related to soil and substrate disinfestation by providing the podium to several invited lectures along with oral presentations, a poster session and a round table discussion on the future of soil disinfestation in the European regulatory climate.

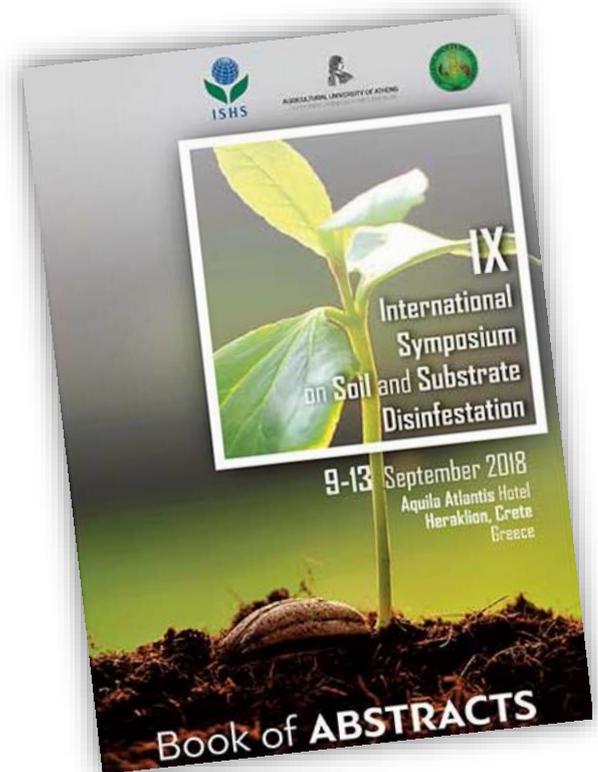
During the round table discussion, the clear message from the scientific community meetings was that the use of chemical soil disinfestation is still a very important tool needed to maintain a financially sustainable production of intensive crops in Europe and in the rest of the world. It was also outlined that the EU registration system, according to the Regulation EC 1107/2009, is over complex and conservative; the system should become more pragmatic and risk based; the regulators should come in touch with the real agricultural world; and the scientific community should express their evaluation independently from political pressure.

A high-quality program during the one-day technical visit was also organised to the famous vegetable and ornamentals growing region of Ierapetra during 12 September. The excursion included a short visit of Plastika Kritis industry in Heraklion, followed by a visit to a leading vegetable rootstock and plantlets nursery of Agris company, and the seed company Rijk Zwaan. Typical agricultural production glasshouses for high quality vegetables were also visited. Finally, Ierapetra plastic houses were inspected of at the stage of soil solarisation.

Special thanks are due to our sponsors which included Plastika Kritis, Certis-Efthymiadis, Corteva, Rijk Zwaan, Agris, Alfa, P.K. Petropoulos, and Agrotipos, who helped the organisers to cover many expenses not covered by registration costs.

Proposals for the next symposium, SD2022, will be submitted to ISHS in due time.

Emeritus Professor Eleftherios (Eris) Tjamos, Convener
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Greece. tjamatika@gmail.com



Forest health defenders: empowering citizens to protect forests through research contributions – session at IUFRO XXV World Congress

A special session on “Forest health defenders: empowering citizens to protect forests through research contributions” organised by Joey Hulbert, Michelle Cleary and Steve Pawson will be part of the [International Union of Forest Research Organizations \(IUFRO\) XXV World Congress](#) during 29 September to 5 October 2019 in Curitiba, Brazil.

Citizen science is a term for research that involves nonscientists. Many programs exist to monitor invasive forests pests. These programs raise awareness and empower participants to make observations and critical decisions. Public engagement has exceptional value for amplifying the opportunities of early detection, but because people are the primary drivers of invasions, initiatives and investments that increase awareness and education are also critical. The objectives of this session are to showcase the diverse methods of public engagement and provide evidence for the merit of involving the public in research to defend forest health.

Presentation content can vary as long as it encompasses some discussion of non-scientist engagement. Abstracts for both posters and oral presentations will be accepted. Authors are limited to a maximum of two abstracts as presenting author. Abstract submission deadline is 31 December 2018. Registration and payment deadline is 31 May 2019.

Please contact Joey at joey.hulbert@fabi.up.ac.za if you have questions about the session.

RNA interference mechanisms and applications in plant pathology

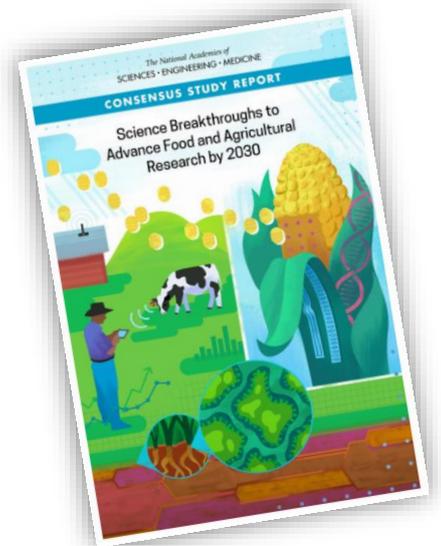
A review by Cristina Rosa, Yen-Wen Kuo, Hada Wuriyanghan, and Bryce W. Falk titled "RNA interference mechanisms and applications in plant pathology" was published in 2018 by *Annual Review of Phytopathology* (vol. 56, pp. 581–610). The abstract is as follows: -

The origin of RNA interference (RNAi), the cell sentinel system widely shared among eukaryotes that recognizes RNAs and specifically degrades or prevents their translation in cells, is suggested to predate the last eukaryote common ancestor (138). Of particular relevance to plant pathology is that in plants, but also in some fungi, insects, and lower eukaryotes, RNAi is a primary and effective antiviral defense, and recent studies have revealed that small RNAs (sRNAs) involved in RNAi play important roles in other plant diseases, including those caused by cellular plant pathogens. Because of this, and because RNAi can be manipulated to interfere with the expression of endogenous genes in an intra- or interspecific manner, RNAi has been used as a tool in studies of gene function but also for plant protection. Here, we review the discovery of RNAi, canonical mechanisms, experimental and translational applications, and new RNA-based technologies of importance to plant pathology.

[Read paper.](#)

Science Breakthroughs to Advance Food and Agricultural Research by 2030 - New report from the US National Academy of Sciences

For nearly a century, scientific advances have fueled progress in U.S. agriculture to enable American producers to deliver safe and abundant food domestically and provide a trade surplus in bulk and high-value agricultural commodities and foods. Today, the U.S. food and agricultural enterprise faces formidable challenges that will test its long-term sustainability, competitiveness, and resilience. On its current path, future productivity in the U.S. agricultural system is likely to come with trade-offs. The success of agriculture is tied to natural systems, and these systems are showing signs of stress, even more so with the change in climate.



More than a third of the food produced is unconsumed, an unacceptable loss of food and nutrients at a time of heightened global food demand. Increased food animal production to meet greater demand will generate more greenhouse gas emissions and excess animal waste. The U.S. food supply is generally secure, but is not immune to the costly and deadly shocks of continuing outbreaks of food-borne illness or to the constant threat of pests and pathogens to crops, livestock, and poultry. U.S. farmers and producers are at the front lines and will need more tools to manage the pressures they face.

Science Breakthroughs to Advance Food and Agricultural Research by 2030 identifies innovative, emerging scientific advances for making the U.S. food and agricultural system more efficient, resilient, and sustainable. This report explores the availability of relatively new scientific developments across all disciplines that could accelerate progress toward these goals. It identifies the most promising scientific breakthroughs that could have the greatest positive impact on food and agriculture, and that are possible to achieve in the next decade (by 2030).

[Read republication copy.](#)

One step closer to control soybean cyst nematode

Iowa State University researchers have discovered the mechanism that gives soybean cyst nematode (SCN) power over plants. This discovery doesn't mean the pest is beaten just yet, but instead puts scientists in a better position to find long-term control methods.

“Our key finding is a mechanistic understanding of one way the nematode alters the activity of plant genes. This is required to direct development of the feeding site within the plant root,” said Thomas Baum, ISU distinguished professor and plant pathology department chair, in a recent news release. “The nematode injects a mixture of proteins into plant cells. We discovered that one of these nematode proteins alters the conformation of the host plant’s genetic material, redirecting the plant’s gene expression machinery to enable parasitism.”

This new understanding is another piece to a complex puzzle, he added. With this information on hand, researchers will be able to piece together a larger and more clear understanding of this pest that costs farmers \$1 billion annually.

The researchers surmise SCN likely uses more than this single protein to redirect plant cells into their optimal feeding structure. More discoveries like this could help scientists engineer new resistant crops.

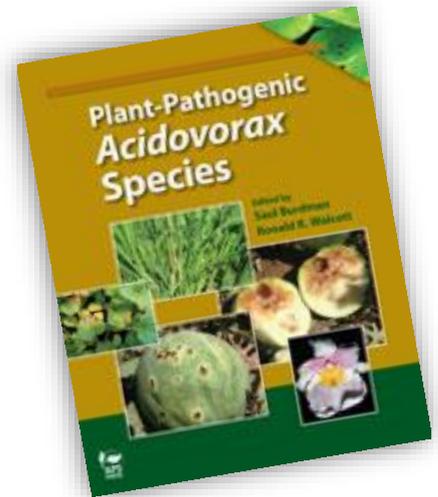
[Read more.](#)

(Sonja Begemann, Farm Journal, 14 November 2018)

Plant-Pathogenic *Acidovorax* Species – new book

Plant-Pathogenic *Acidovorax* Species. 2018. Saul Burdman and Ronald R. Walcott (editors). APS Press, 200 p.

Research goes back more than 100 years for some genera of plant-pathogenic bacteria, and a lot is known about the diseases they cause, including how to manage them. The opposite is true of the genus *Acidovorax*. *Acidovorax* pathogens and diseases have only recently been considered as economically important threats to food crops worldwide—among them, cereals such as corn, wheat, oats, barley, and rice. Thus, little is known about *Acidovorax* pathogens, and options for managing the diseases they cause are limited.



Plant-Pathogenic *Acidovorax* Species is the first comprehensive effort to collate information on these pathogens. This book provides an up-to-date overview of plant diseases caused by *Acidovorax* species, addressing taxonomy, epidemiology, diagnosis, and management. In addition, the book considers nonpathogenic plant-associated or free-living species of *Acidovorax*.

A wide range of readers will benefit from the features of this important new resource:

- Protocols are provided for detection and diagnosis with polymerase chain reaction (PCR), allowing diagnosticians and plant pathologists from academia, industry, and regulatory agencies to rapidly detect pathogenic species associated with plant materials.
- The current taxonomy of the genus *Acidovorax* is used throughout, providing researchers, instructors, students, and regulatory personnel with the most recent assessment of taxonomic classifications and nomenclature.
- The geographic distributions and host ranges of diseases are described, giving scientists, instructors, and personnel from industry and regulatory agencies an updated view of global patterns of disease.
- The mechanisms of action of plant-growth-promoting *Acidovorax* species are outlined, allowing researchers to develop sustainable and ecologically safe strategies for improving plant health and performance.
- Disease management strategies are described, supporting growers and seed and plant producers in developing and implementing effective measures of control.
- Colour photos are provided of plant disease symptoms, enabling researchers, growers, and students to visually identify the diseases that affect specific crops.

The editors of Plant-Pathogenic *Acidovorax* Species, Saul Burdman and Ronald R. Walcott, are experts in the field of plant-pathogenic bacteria and recognised for their work in the area of bacterial fruit blotch disease, caused by *Acidovorax citrulli*. In writing this book, they have engaged

29 other researchers from around the world to provide the latest information about *Acidovorax* pathogens and diseases. Their work has filled a significant void in the research literature on the genus *Acidovorax*.

Visit [APS Press](#) to learn more about this book.

Join PestNet's new system

PestNet has developed a new platform. It's easy to join and use.

Desktop computer

In a browser, go to <http://app.pestnet.org/?communityId=PestNet>

Follow the prompts i.e., Go to community > Visit the Community > login page

Login using either Social media or Register an account. That means you join by clicking Facebook if you have an account. Or if you prefer to join with a Google (Gmail) Microsoft, Twitter or Yahoo account, choose one of those.

If you do not have a social media account or don't want to join using it, then register your email and a password on the right-hand side. Complete your account via the confirmation email.

There are 3 ways of viewing PestNet Submissions or Responses:

- You can go to the website (as you have just done), or
- Look through the email that you will get each day – the digest. It will contain all Submissions and Responses of the last 24 hours. Click on a title if there's anything of interest to you.
- Look through Notifications on items that you have watched for in the menu bar to the left of your name.

Change how you want to receive emails or your watch preferences:

- Click on your name and go to My Community Profile (<https://app.pestnet.org/me>)
- Fill in your details (if you want)
- Make changes to how you receive Submissions and Responses (if you wish)
- By default, you will receive a daily digest email of posts that occurred on PestNet (Global watch=Enabled). Alternatively, you can set a different time to receive Submissions and Responses. If you change Global Watch=Stop then you can use 'My Watches' to select from a number of choices (e.g. users, tags, individual submissions, etc.).

Participating in the PestNet Community:

Send a Submission to PestNet by clicking on the add button (white cross in a green circle, bottom right). Respond to a Submission by opening it and clicking on the reply button (curved arrow in a green circle). In each case, fill in the form. Any images uploaded with a submission or response are automatically optimised for viewing on the website.

Mobile device - tablet or smartphone

In Google Play Store go to <https://play.google.com/apps/testing/com.lucidcentral.mobile.pestnet>

Note: An Apple iOS edition of the app is coming soon. The website edition of the PestNet application is also mobile-optimised and can be viewed via your phone or tablet.

Download the app, open it, login using either your social media account or registered account.

Tapping on a Submission opens it and tapping again closes it. Use the add button (white cross in blue circle) to send a Submission. To post a response tap on the blue Post Response button at the bottom of a submission.

(Graham Jackson, PestNet, 14 November 2018)

The search for what is killing American beech trees

American beech trees are dying in northeast Ohio and beyond. An Ohio State University study aims to figure out why. The study is looking into the cause of beech leaf disease, which was first found in Lake County in 2012 and has since spread to nine other counties in Ohio, eight in Pennsylvania, one in New York and five in Ontario.

Young trees seem to be particularly susceptible to the disease, which initially causes dark stripes to appear on leaves, then deforms the leaves. Eventually the disease can kill the trees.

“There’s no similar forest tree disease that we are aware of anywhere,” said Enrico Bonello, a professor of plant pathology in Ohio State’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), who oversees the study. “It’s really a black box.”

Working under Bonello’s supervision, doctoral graduate student Carrie Ewing is comparing the genes of microorganisms present in leaves that have symptoms of beech tree disease and those that do not, hoping to identify the microorganisms that are uniquely associated with beech leaf disease. She’s trying to determine whether the mystery microorganisms causing the disease are viruses, fungi, bacteria, phytoplasmas or nematodes.

“We are comparing huge amounts of data, kind of a shotgun approach,” Bonello said. “It’s like trying to find a needle in a haystack by comparing various haystacks.”

Meanwhile, the U.S. Forest Service and researchers with Lake County’s Holden Arboretum in Kirtland are conducting a separate study on potential causes of the disease. They are looking into whether nematodes found two years ago on infected beech leaves are causing the disease or if they were just present on infected leaves.

[Read more.](#)

(Ohio’s Country Journal, 15 November 2018)

Current vacancies

There are two positions listed on the ISPP webpage including Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at the Montana State University, USA and Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of California, Davis, USA. For more details on these positions visit the [Current Vacancies](#) page.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Lodovica Gullino, Grahame Jackson, Greg Johnson, Sophien Kamoun, Jan Leach, Andrea Masino, Eleftherios Tjamos, and Peter Williamson for contributions.

Coming Events

International Phytobiomes Conference

4 December - 6 December, 2018

Montpellier, France

Website: www.phytobiomesconference.org

51st Congress of the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology

20 January - 24 January, 2019

Langebaan, South Africa

Website: www.saspp.co.za/2019-saspp-conference.html

19th International Reinhardsbrunn Symposium on Modern Fungicides and Antifungal Compounds

7 April - 11 April, 2019

Friedrichroda, Germany

Website: plant-protection.net/de/reinhardsbrunn

1st International Molecular Plant Protection Congress

10 April - 13 April, 2019

Adana, Turkey

Website: www.imppc2019.org

Joint Meeting of the IUFRO working parties "Shoot, foliage and stem diseases" and "Wilt diseases" (7.02.02 and 7.02.03)

6 May - 10 May, 2019

Figline Valdarno, Florence, Italy

Website: www.iufro.org/download/file/29599/2749/florence19-1st-announcement_doc/

14th International Plant Virus Epidemiology Symposium

14 May - 17 May, 2019

Seoul, Korea

Website: www.ipve2019.com

5th International Symposium on Postharvest Pathology: From Consumer to Laboratory - Sustainable Approaches to Managing Postharvest Pathogens
19 May - 24 May, 2019
Liège, Belgium
Website: www.postharvest2019.be

International Symposium on Cereal Leaf Blights 2019
22 May - 24 May, 2019
University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
Website: www.isclb2019.com

Rhizosphere 5
7 July - 11 July, 2019
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Website: www.rhizo5.org

11th International Workshop on Grapevine Trunk Diseases
7 July - 12 July, 2019
Penticton, British Columbia, Canada
Website: iwgtd2019.ca/

4th International Symposium on Biological Control of Bacterial Plant Diseases (BIOCONTROL2019)
9 July - 11 July, 2019
Viterbo, Italy
Website: www.biocontrol2019.com

XVIII International Society for Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions Congress
14 July - 18 July, 2019
Glasgow, Scotland
Website: www.ismpmi.org/Congress/2019

1st International Wheat Congress
21 July - 26 July, 2019
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Website: 2019iwc.ca

American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting – Plant Health
3 August - 7 August, 2019
Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Website: www.apsnet.org/meetings/2019/Pages/default.aspx

International Workshop on the Fruit Microbiome: A New Frontier
3 September - 6 September, 2019
National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA
Website: www.bard-isus.com/fruitmicrobiome.html

Working Party Meeting of IUFRO WP 7.03.10 Methodology of forest insect and disease survey in Central Europe - “Recent Changes in Forest Insects and Pathogens Significance”
16 September - 20 September, 2019
Suceava, Romania
Website: www.silvic.usv.ro/iufroromania2019/

22nd Biennial Conference of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society
25 November - 28 November, 2019
Melbourne, Australia
Website: www.apps2019.org

16th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union
23 March - 27 March, 2020
Limassol, Cyprus
Website: cyprusconferences.org/mpu2020

14th International Conference on Plant Pathogenic Bacteria
7 June - 12 June, 2020
Assisi, Italy
Website: www.icppb2020.com

Asian Conference on Plant Pathology: Importance and Impact of Global Plant Health
15 September - 18 September, 2020
Tsukuba International Congress Center, Ibaraki, Japan
Website: www.ppsj.org/pdf/meeting/2020_ACPP.pdf?0913-2

IX International Postharvest Symposium
9 November - 13 November, 2020
Rotorua, New Zealand
Website: scienceevents.co.nz/postharvest2020

12th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2023)
20 August - 25 August, 2023
Lyon, France
Website: www.icpp2023.org