



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate B : European Research Area: structural aspects
COST



COST Action 850 "Biocontrol Symbioses (Symbiotic Complexes for Biological Control Pests)"

Minutes of the 2nd Management Committee Meeting, Plant Research International, Wageningen, The Netherlands, August 30th, 2001

The meeting was attended by the following :

Austria	Markus Riegler
Belgium	Minshad Ali Ansari (for Maurice Moens)
Czech Republic	Zdenek Mracek Jaroslav Weiser
Denmark	Holger Philipsen Otto Nielsen
France	Noel Boemare Mark Blight (for Yvan Rahbe)
Germany	Leo Eberl Ralf-Udo Ehlers
Greece	Kostas Bourtzis
Hungary	Andras Fodor Istvan Venekai (for Csaba Budai)
Ireland	Ann Burnell Christine Griffin Antonia Volgyi
Israel	Daniel Segal Itamar Glazer
Italy	Giovanna Curto Oreste Triggiani
The Netherlands	Lonne Gerritsen
Norway	Solveig Haukeland Salinas
Poland	Marek Tomalak Andzrez Bednarek (for Magdalena Jaworska)
Portugal	Nelson Simoes
Spain	Ana Morton (for Garcia del Pino)
Switzerland	Jurg Grunder
United Kingdom	Richard ffrench-Constant
COST	Roel Mulder

1. Opening of the meeting and introduction of delegates

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of COST 850, Dr Ann Burnell. All delegates introduced themselves briefly.

2. Approval of the agenda

The revised draft agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 1st Management Committee meeting and matters arising.

The minutes of the first MC meeting were unanimously approved.

Re. item 8 of the minutes: Ann Burnell reported that there had been no progress with the web page due to pressure of work.

Re. item 10 of the minutes: the request of the University of Bethlehem, Palestine, to become a non-COST country institute in the Action, has been approved by the COST technical committee. Roel Mulder will send a letter to Ann Burnell in confirmation.

4. Short term scientific missions.

Ralf Ehlers reported that there had been three applications for STSMs. These were (1) Ana Morton of Barcelona University, Spain, to visit the lab of Ehlers in Kiel, Germany; (2) Amos Navon of the Volcani Centre, Israel, to visit the lab of Ehlers in Kiel, Germany, and (3) Judit Marokhazi of Eotvos University, Hungary, to visit the lab of ffrench-Constant at Bath, UK. Each of the three proposals had been assessed by two experts and had been highly rated. The MC agreed that they should be funded. Roel Mulder informed the meeting that STSMs cannot begin until 1st October at the earliest. Ralf should confirm the situation with Roel Mulder in mid September.

Roel further advised the meeting that money cannot be spent after the end of a one-year STSM contract period, and suggested that it might be preferable to adopt a mechanism whereby STSMs can be approved by the MC by e-mail. The proposal to approve STSMs by e-mail was not adopted.

5. Reports from WG1-4.

WG1 "Symbiosis Biology".

Richard ffrench-Constant reported on behalf of Dave Clarke that it was proposed to hold a symbiosis symposium (see item 7).

WG2 "Bioactive Molecules"

Richard French Constant reported that it is planned to publish the proceedings of the WG meeting on Bioactive Molecules scheduled for the day following the MC meeting, 31st August, and requested that manuscripts be sent to him by the end of September.

WG3 "Biotechnology"

Ralf Ehlers reported on proposals for three WG3 meetings: A meeting on "Molecular identification and taxonomy of undescribed "long-dauer-juvenile-type" species from Europe and the southern Mediterranean regions" (see item 7); a workshop with industry to foster closer collaboration and communication, and a workshop on the application of entomopathogenic nematodes in mushrooms. The MC decided to organise the workshop on long-dauer-type nematodes next March in Budapest, Hungary.

WG4 "Interactions with field biota".

Solveig Haukeland proposed that the WG should hold a small meeting in the near future to plan future activities of the WG (see item 7).

6. Report from WG3 (Biotechnology) and 5 (Socioeconomics) meeting at Kiel, 25-27 May, 2001.

Holger Philipsen introduced the concept of the meeting, "Initiation of internal and external communication". Nadarajah Sriskandarajah ("Sri") presented the minutes of that meeting.

Arising from discussion following the report, the meeting decided (1) that it was not advisable to include debate on GMOs in communicating with persons or bodies outside COST 850, and (2) to hold a meeting on internal communication in COST. This should be a plenary meeting of the MC (see item 7). An organising committee was appointed with Holger Philipsen and Giovanna Curto as co-convenors; other members: Ralf Ehlers, Andrzej Bednarek, Jurg Grunder, Itamar Glazer, Danny Segal, Otto Nielsen and Richard French-Constant. The organising committee agreed to meet briefly the following day (31st August).

7. Dates and venues of future meetings

The MC approved the request of Solveig Haukeland to hold a meeting of WG4 to discuss an agreed programme of work and requested her to organise it.

A plenary meeting will be held in January 2002. Exact dates (probably in the week 17 and 24th January) to be confirmed. The meeting will be held in Eilat, Israel (with Switzerland as reserve venue in case of problems).

A meeting on the "*Steinernema* species with long infective juveniles" in Budapest, March 22-25, 2002 (see item 5).

A MC meeting and a meeting of WG1, “Symbiosis” will be held in July 2001, in conjunction with a meeting of the US-Hungarian EPNB group. Kostas Bourtzis will investigate whether it is possible to hold the meetings either before or after a *Wolbachia* meeting scheduled for Crete (Greece), July 9-15th. If not possible, the venue will be either Maynooth (Ireland) or Bath (UK).

8. COST 819 documents in press

Roel Mulder reported that the proceedings of the April 2000 Maynooth meeting will be ready by the end of September 2001.

Jurg Grunder reported that he intends to finalise the publication on EPN Quality this winter (delayed until now due to protracted ill health).

9. Any other business

Ann Burnell noted that minutes, agendas and other documents of COST 850 will be circulated only in electronic form.

A request from Sergei Spiridonov for official participation (on own costs basis) of the Institute of Parasitology, Russian Academy of Sciences, in COST 850 was approved.

10. Closing

Ann Burnell
Chairman

Roel Mulder
COST Secretariat

Christine Griffin
Vicechair