

## **COST Action 850 “Biological Symbioses (Symbiotic Complexes for Biological Control Pests)”**

Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Management Committee Meeting, Einsiedeln, Switzerland, January 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2004-01-22.

The meeting was attended by the following:

Austria	Markus Riegler
Belgium	Jozef Coosemans
Czech Republic	Zdenek Mracek
Finland	Heikki Hokkanen
France	Noel Boemare Jean Paul Sarraquigne
Greece	Kostas Bourtzis
Germany	Ralf-Udo Ehlers Christian Borgemeister
Greece	Kostas Bourtzis
Hungary	Andras Fodor
Ireland	Aoife Dillon (for Christine Griffin)
Israel	Itamar Glazer Daniel Segal
Netherlands	Lonne J.M. Gerritsen Albert Ester
Norway	Solveig Salinas
Poland	Marek Tomalak
Spain	Ana Morton
Switzerland	Bernard Blum Stefan Kuske Jurg Grunder
United Kingdom	Richard ffrench Constant Roma Gwynn Denis Wright Stephen Jess Roland Perry
COST	Bouktje Stol

## **1 Opening of the meeting**

The Chairman of COST 850, Dr Ralf Ehlers, opened the meeting.

## **2 Approval of the agenda**

The draft agenda was unanimously approved.

## **3 Approval of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Management Committee meeting**

The minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> MC meeting were unanimously approved. There were no matters arising.

## **4 Overview of the Administrative Restructuring of the COST activity**

The Secretary of COST 850 Dr Bouktje Stol reported on the various matter regarding the administrative restructuring of COST:

The new COST Office has opened at  
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Dr Bouktje Stol can be contacted directly at Tel +32 (0) 25333825 or email [bstol@cost.esf.org](mailto:bstol@cost.esf.org).

The new director of COST is Mr Anthony Mayer and the deputy director is Mr Wolfgang Obert. The European Science Foundation (ESF) and the European Commission have signed a contract for ESF to provide the administrative, technical and scientific secretariat and management for COST. Funding under COST will be available until 2006, however the budget has not yet been agreed. A budget of 80,000 Euro is available for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) and workshops in 2004. Publishing costs are not deducted from this budget, as publishing costs are covered separately. Whether or not COST publication will be processed through the ESF, or independently remains unclear, but should be resolved in next few weeks.

Approval of STSM by the Secretary of COST should be sought at least three weeks prior to commencement of the mission. Individuals will not be approved for a STSM where a

report from a previous mission is outstanding. The maximum budget for a STSM has been increased from 1,500 Euro to 2,000 Euro.

The maximum number of participants from each country that may be reimbursed through COST was previously 2 people per meeting. This has been changed in the event of a joint meeting where the number of participants per country can be up to 2 people per working group.

Ralf Ehlers raised the issue that there appeared to be a quite a delay in candidates being reimbursed having attended the Salzac meeting. Dr Bouktje Stol will look into the situation as the average time taken for the commission to reimburse candidates is 4-5 months.

Where fewer than 6 candidates are attending a meeting, approval from the Secretary should be obtained at least 3 weeks in advance of the meeting. Approval for larger meetings should be obtained at least 4 weeks in advance of the meeting, while approval for conferences should be obtained at least 2 months in advance. In order to avail of this year's budget, meetings should be held no later than October.

## **5 COST 850 Website and publications**

Ralf Ehlers confirmed that all agendas and programs for meetings should be available on the website at <http://www.cost850.ch>. The report on the Hungarian workshop on the *S. glaseri* type nematodes has been completed. Jurg Grunder reported that the publication on quality control from COST 819 would be completed in the spring.

## **6 Short Scientific Missions**

Five applications were assessed. Individuals proposed for STSMs were Eustachio Tarasco from Italy to Ralf Ehlers lab in Germany, Meltia Zec-Vojinovic from Finland to Ralf Ehlers lab in Germany, Kostas Bourtzis from Greece to Richard French Constant's lab in the UK, Pavel Hyrsal from the Czech Republic to Ralf Ehlers lab in Germany and Minshad Ansari from Belgium to Noel Boemares lab in France. The MC unanimously approved all.

Ralf Ehlers requested that someone else might like to take over the running of the STSMs. Lonnie Gerritsen volunteered to take over the project. There is no limit to the number of STSM that can be undertaken and Bouktje Stol will provide Ralf Ehlers with regular updates on the financial status of the programme.

## **7 Reports and future activities for Working Groups**

WG1 and WG2: Richard French Constant reported that the results of the proposal relating to the sequencing of *H. bacteriophora* which had been submitted to the USDA

would be known by August, but it is probable that funding will still be required from Europe. The time frame of the project will depend on amount of funding obtained. David Clarke would like a workshop to be held in Bath if the Sanger Institute is expected to be involved in sequencing the nematode. Kostas Bourtzis reported that a joint meeting of WG1 and WG2 would be held in the UK as a 2-3 day meeting. The date of the meeting is to be decided and the meeting will consist of scientific presentations on the genomics of host and bacteria. Bouktje Stol confirmed that as this was a joint meeting, the maximum number of experts that could be invited was four and it is preferable that all of the experts are not from the same country, however the origin of experts could be overlooked if there was sufficient justification.

WG3 and 5 Mushroom Meeting: It was agreed that the members of the MC would forward addresses of mushroom spawn producers, scientific organisations and representatives of extension services in the relevant countries to Ralf Ehlers. It was agreed that the workshop on technology transfer to mushroom growers should be of a practical nature in order to demonstrate to growers how to accurately identify the pest species, to check the viability of nematodes, to sample the casing following application of the nematodes and to discuss the integration of EPNs with chemicals and other biological control agents such as *Hypoaspis*. Roma Gwynn agreed to speak to David Chandler of HRI, Wellesbourne to confirm the proposed date of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July. Roma Gwynn agreed to take over the organising and budgeting of the meeting.

WG3 Grubs in Turf: Ralf Ehlers reported that Maurice Moens and Minshad Ansari have offered to organise a one-day workshop on grub control in turf in Ghent on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. The MC unanimously approved this. Roma Gwynn suggested that a representative of the Sports Turf Research Institute in the UK should be invited.

WG3 Application Technology: Ralf Ehlers reported that a workshop on application technology is planned to be held prior to the Society of Invertebrate Pathology meeting in Helsinki. The workshop will therefore be held from July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>. Possible speakers include Albert Ester, Ralf Ehlers, Denis Wright and Christian Borgemeister. Roma Gwynn and Denis Wright suggested that perhaps Roy Bateman should also be invited to give a talk on biopesticides. Roma Gwynn and Denis Wright will draw up a tentative programme and a list of participants by the end of February 2004.

## **8 Date of next MC meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next MC meeting in Helsinki on the afternoon of August 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, in conjunction with the Society of Invertebrate Pathology meeting.

## **9 Any Other Business**

Jean Paul Sarraquigne reported on the potential for the control of the hazelnut weevils (*Balaninus nucum*). Results of field trials in orchards were presented.

Stephen Jess asked about the progress on the proposal for a new COST action on *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Ralf Ehlers reported that the proposal contained five working groups: structure of toxins, crystallisation, ecology, production/formulation and resistance. The comments received were that the proposal was of a high quality in relation to the mode of action, but weak on the ecology. Details on the socio-economic were also asked for.

The Chairman Ralf Ehlers thanked the local organizer Jurg Grunder for the excellent organisation of the meeting.