

## **COST Action 850 “Biological Symbioses”**

Draft Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Management Committee Meeting, Helsinki, Finland, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The meeting was attended by the following: ANSARI Minshad Ali (B), ATANASOV Nikola Dimitrov (BG), BATEMAN Roy, (UK), BLUM Bernard J. (CH), BOEMARE Noel (F), BORGEMEISTER Christian (D), BROWN, Andy (UK), BURMAN Martin (S), BURNELL Ann (IRL), COOSEMANS Jozef (B), EBSSA Lemma (D), EHLERS Ralf-Udo (D), ESTER Albert (NL), GLAZER Itamar (IL), GRADINAROV Denis (BG), GRIFFIN Christine (IRL), GWYNN Roma (UK), HAUKELAND-SALINAS Solveig (N), HYRSL Pavel (CZ), JAWORSKA Magdalena (PL), KUSKE Stefan (CH), LAKATOS Tamas (H), MOENS Maurice (B), MRACEK Zdenek (CZ), PERRY Roland (UK), PETERS Arne (D), PHILIPSEN Holger (DK), PUZA Vladimir (CZ), RAVENSBERG Willem (NL), ROPEK Dariusz (PL), STRASSER Hermann (A), TOMALAK Marek (PL), TRIGGIANI Oreste (I), VAINIO Ana (FIN), VAN TOL Rob (NL), VIGNEUX Fabienne (F), WILSON Michael (UK), WRIGHT Denis (UK), ZEC-VOJINOVIC Melita (FIN)

### **1 Opening of the meeting**

The Chairman of COST 850, Dr Ralf Ehlers, opened the meeting (1100h). The historical event - the first MC of COST 850 after the EU enlargement - was emphasized. Participants from new EU member states from the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary and new MC members from Bulgaria and The Netherlands were welcomed.

### **2 Approval of the agenda**

The draft agenda was unanimously approved.

### **3 Approval of the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Management Committee meeting**

The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> MC meeting at Einsiedeln were unanimously approved. There were no matters arising.

### **4 Report by COST Secretary Bouktje Stol**

- A revised list of MC membership to be circulated
- Publications policy now to give priority to proposers who approach a scientific publisher and ask them to ask the EU COST Office to fund a certain number of copies.
- Alternatively, we can use the EU or ESF publisher, in which COST pays for the whole thing and we have to present a camera-ready copy.
- Printing of leaflets etc (no ISBN No. type) can be done by the COST Office.
- The new COST Office (Minutes 6<sup>th</sup> MC) has several publications available to publicise its role, including one listing all COST Actions (can ask for copies). A domain booklet is being produced with one page per Action.
- COST Office also making large posters for each COST domain and it may also be possible to produce posters for specific meetings.
- Publications are funded from a central budget.

- Financial matters:
  - Reimbursements for Einsiedeln and Aberdeen meetings still to be paid; attendees at the Merelbecke meeting have been paid.
  - ESF now in charge of reimbursements and are guaranteeing to pay in 3 weeks from the time that the complete package of claims from a particular meeting is submitted to Strasbourg.
  - Average cost of reimbursement is ca 600 Euro per person per meeting.
  - COST 850 has ca 55,000 Euro left of this year's budget to be spent by October/first week in November 2004. That is, there are about 90 reimbursements remaining for this financial year.
  - COST Office starting to reallocate money to Actions that have plans for meetings. Need, therefore, to have more long-term planning for our meetings.

## 5 COST 850 Website and publications

Organised by **Jurg Grundler** (juerg.grunder@faw.admin.ch) Content of website was described.

- Not all countries have provided country details for inclusion on the website ([www.cost850.ch](http://www.cost850.ch)), please send something.
- Ralf Ehlers emphasised the value of the website for internal communication as well as externally (e.g. Minutes are now on internet).
- Information on meetings, latest work, PhD theses, publications, presentations from meetings and Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM) to be sent to Ralf or Jürg.
- It was agreed that reports from STSM should also be put on the website.
- Stefan Kuske mentioned “Crops, Pests and Agents” and need to expand this area of the site. Legal and Safety aspects will be filed soon by **Ralf**.
- Ralf Ehlers proposal, that a series of small meetings could be arranged where 2-5 people came together to produce information on a crop-pest topic for the website, was approved. Pest examples mentioned included (organizer): thrips (**Lemma Ebssa**), slugs (**Mike Wilson**), sciarids (**Willem Ravensberg**) and vine weevil (**Rob van Tol**), grubs (**Minshad Ansari**). Organizers should apply for travel support (“expert meeting”) for 1-2 day meetings but need to organise a few weeks in advance.
- Quality Control book will be published by **Jürg Grunder** soon, paid for by several Institutions within Switzerland, including Jurg Grunder's
- Ralf Ehlers reported that he had looked for publishers for the presentations on Molecular Identification and Taxonomy but had decided instead to publish on the website. He suggested authors could submit papers to the Russian Journal of Nematology.
- Rolo Perry reported that Brills are publishing “Monographs and Perspectives” – same format as *Nematology* – two volumes already published, including one volume from the Nematology Congress in Tenerife (2002); one on Pine Nematode coming out soon. Rolo has replaced Roger Cook as an Editor of *Nematology*.
- Ralf Ehlers reported that the International Society of Horticultural Science is willing to publicise COST Actions through its publications
- Solveig Salinas reported that 5,000 copies of a 4 page COST850 leaflet will be ready and available soon.

## 6 Short Scientific Missions

Solveig Salinas, in charge of STSMs, reported on three STSMs:

- Songbi Chen from Israel to Aberdeen – use of proteomic facility to study expression during desiccation of EPN.
- Hilton D. McWeeney from Ireland to Bath – phenotypic variation in *Photorhabditis temperata*
- Minshad Ansari from Belgium to Kiel – on grub control.
- Lemma Ebssa from Germany to Bath - immune response of thrips

The need for a standard electronic submission procedure for STSMs was discussed to help speed up the current procedure. Submissions can be sent to Solveig ([solveig.haukeland@planteforsk.no](mailto:solveig.haukeland@planteforsk.no)) electronically with a signed submission following by post. It was noted that from next year the funding of STSMs might be transferred from the central COST budget to each COST Action. Itamar Glazer stressed the need to emphasise specific technology training to be accomplished within a 3-week period.

## 7 Reports and future activity for WGs

Three very successful meetings had taken place:

- WG4 Aberdeen meeting: “Indundative and inoculative release and persistence of EPN in forest and agricultural environments” – held from 21 to 22 February, 2004; details to be placed on website.
- WG3 + WG4 Merelbeke meeting: “Use of EPN to control white grubs in turf” – held from 2 to 3 May, 2004; details on website.
- WG3 Helsinki meeting: “EPN application” – held on 31 July, 2004; details on website.

Proposals for meetings were then considered:

- WG3 “EPN in mushrooms” – training of extension workers for mushroom fly at HRI, Wellesborne, UK – was to be on 13 to 14 July now changed running on October 27, 2004; total cost ca 7,000 Euro for 40 participants. Noted that can ask COST for up to 3,000 Euro without a full final report, but such a report is required for requests from 3,000 to 10,000 Euro. Meeting was organized by **Roma Gwynn** and **David Chandler**. Proposal approved.
- WG3 + WG5 “Risk of EPN use and registration” – to be held at Hotel Birke, Kiel, Germany – suggested dates: November 5-8, 2004; a one page outline of the proposed meeting had prepared by **Ralf Ehlers**. Proposal approved.
- WG1 + WG2 “Nematode-bacterium symbioses” – to be held in Crete from 2 to 3 July, 2005 – 40 participants so far. A tentative programme and budget was presented. Meeting will be planed and organized by **Kostas Bourtzis** together with **David Clarke**. Proposal approved.
- WG3 “Novel uses of EPN” – to be held in Bari (10 to 12 June, 2005) before the IOBC/WPRS Working Group "Insect Pathogens and Insect Parasitic Nematodes", Locorotondo, Bari, Italy; various topics suggested, including urban trees, orchards and forests, whitefly, leafminers, *Orphelia*. Meeting will be organized by **Oreste Triggiani** and planed by **Marek Tomalak**. Proposal approved. The MC would also meet in Bari.

- WG3 “Training workshop on application” - to follow up Helsinki meeting with a 2 to 3 day workshop on application equipment at Imperial College’s International Centre for Pesticide Application Technology, Silwood Park, Ascot, UK; dates to be decided but probably in March or April, 2005. Meeting will be prepared by **Denis Wright** and **Roy Bateman**. Proposal approved.
- WG3 “Thrips” – to be held in Hannover, Germany – date to be decided. Meeting will be organized by **Lemma Ebssa**. Proposal approved.
- WG4 “Natural occurrence and evolution” - including molecular taxonomy – to be held in Czech Republic to be held from 15 to 16 January, 2005. The MC would also meet at this time. Meeting will be organized by **Zdenek Mracek**. Proposal approved.
- WG1 + WG2 “Genome evolution in EPN” – a new proposal is being made to USDA for the sequencing of *Heterorhabditis* genome so a meeting is opportune. Meeting will be prepared by **Ann Burnell**.
- WG3 “EPN and oil seed rape” – small meeting of up to 10 participants from Finland, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands. **Holger Philipsen** will plan a meeting

It was stressed that organisers need to submit to Ralf Ehlers a tentative programme, a budget, and a draft list of participants and invited speakers well in advance of the proposed meeting.

## 8 AOB

- COST Technical Committee now focusing on mid-term evaluation of Actions as it is then not too late to change. Ralf Ehlers proposed a possible format for the mid-term report. We can decide if we need hard copies of the report or put on website; latter option was approved. Thanks to Ann Burnell for putting the report together. **Ann Burnell** will send report to **Jürg** for publication on the website.
- Noted that we should include date of publication for documents posted on website.
- COST Evaluator PILAR CASTRO MARTINEZ commented that she had learned much at the meeting about the Action 850 and the participants and that details about the evaluation will be discussed after the MC meeting.
- Albert Ester asked whether there should be a meeting on *Diabrotica* since it is expected to become a major problem in Western Europe this year. Ralf Ehlers mentioned there had been some promising results in field trials with EPN but considered it might be too early for a meeting, better to wait until 2006 (agreed). He suggested that *Diabrotica* could be included in the Bari meeting (see 7). Proposal agreed.

## 9 Date of next MC Meeting

Saturday 15 January (a.m.), Czech Republic (see 7).

The meeting closed at 15:45h.

Minutes by Denis Wright and additions by secretary, chairman and STSM organizer