

CPS • SCP News



CANADIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY • SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE PHYTOPATHOLOGIE

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Mot du Président/ President's Message

Déjà mon dernier message du président. L'année a passé à une vitesse fulgurante et j'ai l'impression que je viens tout juste de commencer mon mandat. Comme pour bien des choses, j'ai maintenant l'impression de savoir comment fonctionne la société - mais c'est déjà le temps de passer à autre chose !



J'ai nettement l'impression que la société est en excellente condition. Les finances de la société sont bonnes, en grande partie grâce à notre rencontre annuelle et aux produits de la société comme nos livres. La publication et le lancement de «

Maladies des Grandes Cultures » sont de gros contributeurs aux succès et à la santé financière de notre société. La cote de notre revue scientifique est en hausse constante et la disponibilité d'une version électronique sur le web (et bientôt la numérisation des anciens numéros)

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contribue sans aucun doute à ces bons résultats. L'équipe éditorial est très dynamique et les récents succès de la revue sont attribuables en grande partie à leurs efforts.

Mais il ne faudrait quand même pas dormir sur nos lauriers. Une de nos préoccupations a été de renforcer nos liens avec d'autres sociétés et de consolider nos réseaux. Notre adhésion à Plant Canada, au réseau sur la gestion des plante, et les rencontre conjointes avec d'autres sociétés comme Plant Canada en 2005 et en 2007, et l'APS et la MSA en 2006 reflètent ce soucis de notre société d'interagir avec les autres sociétés. Je crois que notre participation à ces évènements d'envergure ouvriront une fenêtre sur notre société et finira par nous bénéficier, possiblement en augmentant le nombre de membres, les visites de notre site web, l'achat de nos produits, et la publication d'article dans

notre revue.

Mais il y a toujours des risques, comme par exemple la perte d'identité de notre société et il faut être vigilant pour éviter de se faire avaler par une autre organisation. Il y a un sens d'appartenance assez fort à la SCP et on doit s'assurer qu'en participant à ces gros événements, on ne diluera pas notre société. Les trois prochaines années représentent à mon avis une expérience (sans répétitions ni témoins!) et on devra être prêts à re-examiner ces participations après la rencontre avec Plant Canada en 2007.

***<<J'invite aussi ceux qui ont la fibre
bénévole à nous contacter et à nous
faire part de leur intérêt à participer
à la bonne marche de la société.>>***

On commencera très bientôt à mettre sur pied notre nouvelle équipe pour élaborer le plan stratégique des cinq prochaines années. Nous allons demander à ce comité de faire des recommandations qui reflètent les desirs des membres. Le dernier plan stratégique a été une source importante d'idées et a permis d'orienter les travaux du conseil d'administration. Nous vous tiendrons au courant des développements au cours de l'année.

En terminant, je voudrais remercier les membres de cette opportunité d'agir en tant que président de la SCP. Ce fut une année d'apprentissage, mais qui m'a aussi permis de voir le dévouement des gens qui oeuvrent à faire fonctionner la société, et ce de façon bénévole. Nos membres doivent apprécier que grâce à ce bénévolat, ils en ont beaucoup pour leur argent et je voudrais

remercier et applaudir ces bénévoles. J'invite aussi ceux qui ont la fibre bénévole à nous contacter et à nous faire part de leur intérêt à participer à la bonne marche de la société.

Bon été phytopathologique à tous !

Richard C. Hamelin
Président
Société Canadienne de Phytopathologie

Already my last President's message! The year went by really fast and I feel as if I'm just starting on the job. As with many things, once you get the hang of it, it's time to move on.

My impression is that our Society is in great shape. Our finances are good, thanks to our successful annual meetings, and to our products such as our books. The publication of "Diseases of Field Crops" last year and the launch of the French version of that book this year certainly contribute to the success of our Society and to our financial health. Our peer-reviewed scientific journal is doing very well and has a steadily increasing citation index. The availability of CJPP on the web and the current project of

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who would like to serve in various ca-
pacities in the Society to contact us and
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scanning old issues of CJPP are certainly helping our journal. The CJPP editorial team is very dynamic and the recent success of the journal is certainly in large part thanks to their effort.

Having said this, we shouldn't rest on our

laurels. We've tackled several issues this year to try to improve the Society. One of the themes driving our business this year was the need for our Society to interact with other societies and re-enforce our links and networking. Our participation in Plant Canada, the Plant Management Network, and the participation of CPS in joint meetings with Plant Canada, APS, MSA, in the coming years reflect the will of our Society to interact with other Societies. I believe participating in these large initiatives will open a window on our Society by showcasing what we are doing and ultimately could result in increased membership, visits to our website, purchases of our products, publishing in our journals and citing of our publications.

Yet, there is some danger of losing our identity and we have to be vigilant and not let our Society be swallowed up by other organizations. Clearly, there is a strong sense of belonging to the CPS (the 75th anniversary re-enforced that sense) and we have to make sure that members know that by joining large entities and participating in larger events, we are not planning on diluting our Society. I see the next three years as an experiment (with no reps or controls!) and we should be ready to re-examine these involvements and joint meetings after the Plant Canada 2007 meeting.

We're also embarking on a new Strategic Plan that will orient the Society for the next five years. We will be asking the Steering Committee to help the future Boards plan tasks that reflect the will of the membership. Certainly, the last Strategic Plan was a big help to CPS and a lot of the tasks were accomplished. This is an important step and the Strategic Planning Committee and the Board will keep you informed of the developments in that regard.

Finally, I would like to thank the CPS members for this opportunity to serve as CPS president. It has been a year of

learning, but also of working with dedicated people who spend long hours to make this Society work. Our Society gives its members a lot for their membership buck and this is thanks to people who volunteer their time and energy and share their enthusiasm. I would like to applaud them. I would also like to invite those of you who would like to serve in various capacities in the Society to contact us and let us know of your interest.

Have a good phytopathological summer!

Richard C. Hamelin
President
Canadian Phytopathological Society

Committee Reports

Report of the Ad-Hoc Steering Committee to Update the History of Plant Pathology in Canada

During the past year, a Steering Committee was struck to oversee the writing of sequel to Conner's book, History of Plant Pathology in Canada. Ron Wall and Roy Whitney have recently joined the committee of Dick Stace-Smith, Lu Piening, Bud Platt, Jack Sutherland, Verna Higgins, Guillemond Ouellette, and Denis Gaudet. The title of the sequel will be "History of Plant Pathology in Canada, 1970-2005". The committee decided that a similar structure and format to Conner's book (approx 250 printed pages and BW photos) be followed. The Committee also drafted a questionnaire that was sent out to members requesting a brief biography and some reminiscences from each member. Approximately 125 have been received to date. The committee is now in the process of identifying all the plant pathologists that would fall within this historical treatise and sketching an outline for the book. The Committee is still eager to accept biographies (forms can be downloaded from the CPS website) and

reminiscences from pathologists who have not yet filled them out or wish to add to their contribution. The Committee has enlisted the help of Ron Howard and Karen Bailey to identify prospective publishers and editors to bring this book to fruition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dick Stace-Smith, Lu Piening, Bud Platt, Jack Sutherland, Ron Wall, Roy Whitney, Verna Higgins, Guillemond Ouellette, Denis Gaudet

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR, CANADIAN PLANT DISEASE SURVEY- DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS

COMPTE RENDU DU COORDINATEUR NATIONAL, L'INVENTAIRE DES MALADIES DES PLANTES AU CANADA - APERÇU DES MALADIES

Volume 85 of the Canadian Plant Disease Survey (CPDS), reporting mainly on disease highlights for 2004, was published at the end of April on the CPS website (<http://www.cps-scp.ca/cpds.htm>). I appreciate the work of my co-section editors (Marilyn Dykstra, Andy Tekauz, John Muir, Bruce Gossen, Tom Hsiang and Paul Hildebrand) as well as that of Angie O'Shea (compiler) in completing the job. Fifty-one reports were published, two more than in Volume 84. The distribution among sections is: cereals (23 reports); oilseeds and special crops (14); fruits, nuts and berries, ornamentals and turfgrass (6); diagnostic labs (2); forages (2); forest trees (2); vegetables (2). Unfortunately, no submissions were received in French this year and there were fewer articles than in recent years in the diagnostic labs and forest trees sections. As in previous years, CPDS is dominated by submissions from the western provinces.

This is the ninth year that CPDS has been published electronically and the second year that it is the exclusive responsibility of CPS. In addition to being downloadable from the web, a small number of copies are printed by the Society for libraries that prefer hard copy for archival purposes. I welcome comments about the format, editing or publication of CPDS.

Dr. John Muir has indicated that he wishes to step down as section editor of the forest trees section in 2005; a search is underway to find a replacement in time for the call for submissions in September. I extend my thanks to Dr. Muir for his contribution over the past few years.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Morrall, CPDS National Coordinator
Department of Biology
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, S7N 5E2.

Annual Report of the CPS-SCP Website

The CPS-SCP website (www.cps-scp.ca) continues to be popular with users worldwide. The site experienced substantial increases in the number of hits (connections to site) and successfully viewed pages between 2004 (March-Dec 2004) and 2005 (Jan-May 2005). The number of hits increased from an average of 22,000/month in 2004 to 25,000/month in 2005. The numbers of pages viewed rose from 7,640/Month in 2004 to 10,500/Month in 2005. The number of unique visitors/month nearly doubled (4520 in 2005 vs. 2577 in 2004).

The site was visited by users from some 120 countries each month (in 2004 and 2005). The largest numbers of visits always originated from Canada and the USA, followed by Japan, Great Britain, Germany, France, India, China, the

Russian Federation, Australia, Iran, Spain and Italy.

The most popular pages with the visitors in 2005 were the Canadian Plant Disease Survey (e.g. vol. 84 downloaded 637 times in March-May), Koch's postulates (e.g. 845 Feb-April), meetings, positions, cjpp-eng (instructions to authors for CJPP), educational resources (304 downloads in March), publications, Pathology news (sudden oak death, soybean rust...). Surprisingly, the top keyword string in 2005 was "Koch's postulates". The frequent visits to the Koch's postulates and educational resources pages suggest that the site is attracting students and teachers. Members are encouraged to contribute new ideas and educational material to make the site more attractive to potential students of plant pathology. The placement page (positions) continues to be popular with the visitors. More than ten placement ads from Canada and the USA were posted on our site between September 2004 and April 2005.

The most frequent visits took place between 2 and 6 pm (Pacific Time) during the week days with peaks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The most common browsers used were Microsoft Explorer, Firefox, Netscape and other non-identified browsers. The top referring sites were Google, Yahoo, MSN, Ask Jeeves, Alta vista and some unidentified search engines.

The website did not experience any problems, such as hacking, in the past 12 months. Except for a 4-hour server downtime last fall, the site was accessible at all times.

We are currently preparing to add the archives of CJPP and CPDS to the site. The University of Guelph is finishing the scanning of old CJPP articles. Once posted on the site, we should be able to search them and download individual articles. The same task is being

contemplated for CPDS, which enjoys great popularity with the visitors to our site.

The second project (in progress) is the translations and posting of biographical contributions from our retired colleagues. This project was initiated by Greg Boland, Ron Howard, and Mary Leggett coordinated the French translations.

Finally, I will encourage the members to be more involved in the development of the site by providing ideas and content to make the site even more attractive. Equally important, any incorrect links, wrong or outdated info should be reported. A number of incorrect links were corrected thanks to such reports from some members.

I took over the responsibility of the site from Dr. Greg Boland in June 2004. After a few months spent to get familiar with the design of the site and "learning" the job, things went very smooth. My apprehensions of "crashing" the site because of ignorance did not materialize. The support from Greg Boland and Judy Prange, our technical assistant and site designer, was excellent. I would like to express to both of them my gratitude for the help I received and congratulate them for the wonderfully well designed and structured site they put together.

The statistics presented in the report were kindly made available by "Josh" of Neocode Software (Vancouver, BC), our Internet provider.

Lakhdar Lamari
CPS Website Editor

**Canadian Phytopathological Society
Membership Committee Annual Report -
2005**

2005 Membership Total (as of May 11,
2005): **379**

Regular members: 272
Emeritus members: 57
Student members: 41
Sustaining Associates: 9

**Members from 2004 not renewed by May
11, 2005: 66**

Membership has not changed very much
over the last several years, with total
membership varying between 401 and 418
in the period between 2000 and 2004. The
number of members renewed by May 2005
is similar to the number renewed last
year at the same date. It is expected that
late membership renewals and additional
new members will bring the total back up
closer to 400 by the end of the year.

**Membership Totals for the last several
years:**

2004 - 401, 2003 - 409, 2002 - 418, 2001 -
405, 2000 - 406

Number of Members by Geographic Region:
Canada: 317; US: 44; International: 18

**Number of Canadian Members by
Province:**

ON - 77; BC -56; AB - 45; MB - 43; SK -
42; QC - 29; PE - 9; NB - 8; NS - 6; NF - 2

186 Western Canada members (BC-MB);
131 Eastern Canada Members. (ON-NF)

CJPP - Members Journal Selections:

There has been a slow but increasing
trend towards selection of the online
journal. In 2005, 31% of members paid for

online access, compared to 28% in 2004
and 22% in 2003.

New Members

We have 31 new members to date in 2005.
On behalf of CPS, I would like to extend a
warm welcome to the following new
regular and student members (includes
several from 2004 who joined late in the
year):

New Regular Members:

El Hadrami Abdelbasset
Vipan K. Bansal
Jason P. Bond
Carl Bradley
James Calpas
Tiesen Cao
Brady Code
Luis Del Rio
Michael Wayne Harding
Maria Jeffries
Sharon Lee Ione Lisowski
Victor Manolii
Lyriam L.R. Marques
Akalach Mohammed
Patricia Okubara
Wayne M. Pitt
Danny Rioux
Patrick Stephenson
Allen Terry
Xiuling Tian
Richard Wilson

New Student members:

Saori Amaike
Syama Chatterton
Valerie Gravel
Jeremy Klassen
Anna Klimes
Lily Liu
Ameur Manceur
Edmore Mwakutuya
Georgina Rodriquez
Behzad Sorkhilalehloo
Cheryl Trueman
Xiben Wang
Jinghe Wang

Shiming Xue
Yong Min Kim
Taye Zegeye

The following **Sustaining Associates** have generously supported the CPS for 2005:

- Agricultural Certification Services Inc.
- Busch Agricultural Resources Inc.
- Dupont Canada Agricultural Products
- Monsanto Canada Inc.
- Philom Bios Inc.
- Phyto Diagnostics Co. Ltd.
- Pioneer Hi-Bred Production Limited
- Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.
- SW Seed Ltd

Respectfully submitted by
Gayle Jespersen
Membership Secretary

Announcements

Maritime Region CPS Meeting

Please mark your calendars!
The annual Maritime Region meeting of the CPS has been set for Thursday, December 1, 2005. The meeting will be held at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Potato Research Centre in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Hosting the meeting will be Xianzhou Nie, research scientist with AAFC in Fredericton.

Additional details will be available from Xianzhou Nie (niex@agr.gc.ca) or Rick Peters (petersr@agr.gc.ca) later this summer. We look forward to seeing you in Fredericton!

Rick D. Peters, Ph.D.

Back issues of the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology available soon

All back issues of the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology will soon be available on the CPS website. Paperbound issues from storage are being scanned and digitized into pdf format, and will be posted to the CPS website (www.cps-scp.ca) by June 2005. All access to pdf files on the CPS website will be free of charge. This effort is being supported by CPS and the Library of the University of Guelph.

Greg J. Boland
University of Guelph

Submission Deadline for the September issue of CPS - SCP News

PLEASE NOTE: The submission deadline for the **September issue** of CPS - SCP News is **August 17, 2005**. Please have your reports and submissions to the Editor by this date. **If you send photographs for publication in the CPS-SCP News please ensure that you indicate that all individuals appearing in the photographs have given permission for their photographs to appear in the newsletter. Photographs will not be published if permission has not been obtained from the individuals involved.**

International corner...

Research on Fusarium head blight in Uruguay

In Uruguay, wheat and barley represent the most important winter cereal crops, with an annual average area of 175,000

hectares for wheat and 101,000 hectares for barley (all two-row cultivars). Wheat is primarily used for domestic consumption and for export in some years, while almost 90% of the barley production is exported mainly as malt. These two crops play an important role in the production systems of the country, not only as important components in the crop-pasture rotations but also as accompanying crops for the establishment of pastures. Crop-pasture rotations have been widely adopted by farmers in Uruguay, predominantly in western areas of the country. Pastures composed of gramineous and legume species are usually planted in association with the last crop of the rotational sequence (usually wheat or barley) and last for three to four years.

Fusarium head blight (FHB) has become one of the most devastating diseases of wheat and barley in the southern cone of South America (except Chile) and is currently the most significant cereal disease in Uruguay. In the last decade, there have been periodic moderate to severe outbreaks, with acute epidemics occurring in 2001 and 2002. Above-average rainfall in late September and October has contributed to the recurring epidemics. All commercial wheat and barley cultivars grown in the country are moderately susceptible to susceptible to FHB. Among other factors that might have contributed to recent FHB epidemics is the increased use of soil conservation practices since 1992. In 2001 and 2002, 40 to 50% of the barley crops were planted under no-tillage systems.

The most common species associated with FHB in Uruguay is *Fusarium graminearum* (perfect stage *Gibberella zeae*). Other species such as *F. poae*, *F. avenaceum*, *F. equiseti*, *F. trincictum*, and *F. acuminatum* are also present. *Fusarium graminearum* in Uruguay was found to produce deoxynivalenol (DON), zearalenone (ZEA), and 15 acetyl-DON (15 AcDON), and was

proposed to belong to the chemotype 1B (DON/15 AcDON).

Emphasis has been placed on breeding for FHB resistance as this remains the most desirable management option for this disease. Barley research initiated in 1996 includes identification of resistance and its transfer to adapted genotypes. Each genotype is evaluated for FHB incidence and severity, spike morphology, and DON content in harvested grain. Greenhouse screening has also been conducted since 2001 in order to assess Type I and II resistance. Sources such as ZAU2, double haploid lines from Gobernadora/Azafrán (GobDH45 and GobDH53), ICARDA-CIMMYT line Gob/Humai10/3/Mpyt169.1Y/Laurel/Olmo/4/Canela, INIA line CLE 231, and FNC 1 (a local cultivar widely grown in the 1980s and 1990s), have been identified as maintaining acceptable levels of FHB resistance.

The National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA) has also focused on other research areas for FHB control. The use of integrated management practices that are adequate for our production systems has been identified as being a possible way of managing FHB in Uruguay. The increased use of conservation tillage systems and the unknown contribution of some pasture species, common gramineous weeds, and crop residues as sources of inoculum, prompted studies on the ecology and epidemiology of *F. graminearum* in the prevalent crop rotations and tillage practices used in the Uruguayan production systems. The objectives of this research, which started in 2000, were to identify the most prevalent *Fusarium* species in wheat and barley crops, to determine the effect of previous crops and/or tillage systems on residue colonization by *F. graminearum* and its inoculum production, to determine the relative contribution of crop residues and gramineous (pasture components, weeds) species commonly present in our production systems to inoculum build-up,

and to evaluate alternative practices like the effectiveness of applying biocontrol agents on crop residue to reduce *F. graminearum* colonization and/or reproduction.

Preliminary results from this research have shown that *G. zeae* perithecia are present in residues of cultivated species such as wheat, barley, corn, grain sorghum, Italian millet (*Setaria italica*), fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), and canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). *Gibberella zeae* perithecia have also been observed in the main weed species Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and Crab grass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*). Wheat and barley residues had higher levels of *G. zeae* colonization than corn residue, gramineous weeds (*Digitaria sanguinalis*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Lolium multiflorum*, and *Setaria* sp.), fescue, and sunflower residue. Forage legume residues were not colonized by *G. zeae*. Sunflower residue was a substrate for *G. zeae* survival; to our knowledge this is the first report of sunflower residue colonization by *G. zeae*. Winter cereal (wheat and barley) residues also produced more *G. zeae* ascospores per gram of residue and unit area than gramineous weeds. Although at low levels, gramineous weeds allowed for year round ascospore production. It was also found that wheat and barley residue on the soil surface contributed inoculum until 2-2.5 years after harvest, while buried residue contributed inoculum until 1-1.5 year after harvest. Corn residues on soil surface contributed inoculum until 3 years post harvest.

Foliar fungicides have also been tested for their efficacy in reducing FHB in barley since 2000. One product that has been identified as the most efficient fungicide for reducing FHB of barley is Caramba® (a.i. metconazole, commercially available in Uruguay). Non-fungicide products such as film-forming polymers, antitranspirant epidermal coatings, mineral oils, and surfactants are also being evaluated for

reduction of FHB. In addition, different application technologies and timing of fungicide application are also being evaluated.

Finally, research on biological control of FHB has involved evaluation of different strains of *Trichoderma harzianum* (Uruguayan strains Trichosoil L1, Trichosoil B, Trichosoil C and US strain T-22®) for its effectiveness in reducing *G. zeae* colonization and/or reproduction on wheat residue. None of these biocontrol agents significantly reduced *G. zeae* colonization; however, strains T-22®, Trichosoil L1, and Trichosoil B significantly reduced the number of perithecia per mm² of residue at 90-100 days after residue inoculation. Research involving native *Trichoderma* strains isolated from wheat residue that have shown to overgrow *G. zeae* 'in vitro' and have chitinolytic and cellulolytic properties is underway.

Silvia Pereyra¹, Silvia Germán², Juan Díaz², and Silvana Vero³. ¹ Plant Protection, INIA (National Institute for Agricultural Research) La Estanzuela, Ruta 50 km CC 39173, 70000 Colonia, Uruguay; ² Barley Breeding, INIA (National Institute for Agricultural Research) La Estanzuela, Ruta 50 km CC 39173, 70000 Colonia, Uruguay; ³ Microbiology, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Uruguay (UDELAR), Gral Flores 2124, 11800, Montevideo, Uruguay.

E-mail: spereyra@le.inia.org.uy

If you have an article to submit to the International Corner, please send it to Dr. Myriam R. Fernandez at fernandezm@agr.gc.ca.

People and Travel

Dr. Henry Huang of the Lethbridge Research Centre was invited to attend the 3rd Annual Meeting of US Sclerotinia Initiative, Minneapolis, MN, USA, January 18-10, 2005. He presented a paper entitled "Research on biology and control of sclerotinia diseases in western Canada".

John Sutton, Department of Environmental Biology, University of Guelph, visited Cordoba, Argentina 14-25 April, 2005. He taught a 12-hour "Powerpoint" course (within 2 days!) on "Biological Control of Diseases in Greenhouse Crops" at the Universidad Nacional de Cordoba, where he was hosted by Dra Viviana Yossen. Students participating in the course were from Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Colombia and Mexico. An abundance of thanks are due to Coralie Sopher for helping put together the Powerpoint presentation. John subsequently participated in the XIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Fitopatología which was held in a conference centre by a lake at Villa Carlos Paz, about 40 km from Cordoba. His invited talk was "Perspectivas presentes y futuras del control biológico." It should be noted that his academic activities were punctuated frequently by a profusion of warm embraces and (from unbelievably numerous women) kisses, many from students who participated in earlier courses he taught, or whom he has advised in research, in Argentina, Colombia, and Brazil. Evenings (10 pm - 2 am) were filled with delightful folklore entertainment and world-class tango. Another Canadian, Dr. Terry Anderson of AAFC, Harrow, Ontario, was unexpectedly encountered at the Congress, but don't believe what he may say about Sutton. On the weekends, Guillermo Zumelzu, an

enthusiastic greenhouse grower, and his wife Diana Manero (genetics professor), showed John some greenhouse production systems and pondered some of the problems. For the most part they seemed to understand John's Portuguese interjected with Spanish. For a grand finale they took John into the Sierra de Cordoba mountains to meet the condors. These awesome birds seemed distant at first, despite their wingspans of nearly 3 metres, until one emerged from nowhere at lightning speed to grab a piece of meat from a 30-foot pole held up by a local teenager. The 10-day "high" in the Argentina interior came to an end far too quickly! To all colleagues, especially students, if you have a chance to go to Argentina, don't question it - just go!

Dilantha Fernando, Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba visited Iran in April as a consultant to the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture, Oliseed Production Plan. During the 10 day visit, Dilantha conducted a workshop on Sclerotinia disease management in canola, and gave lectures, visited several research institutes and farmer fields in Tehran, and Gorgan.

Dilantha Fernando, Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba was invited by University of Peradeniya, in Peradeniya, and University of Ruhuna, in Matara, Sri Lanka to give lectures and conduct mini workshops in May 2005. The visit helped Dilantha establish new ties with scientists in Sri Lanka, and also brought back nostalgic memories of his undergraduate days at the University of Peradeniya!

Ms. Grace Sumampong joined **Dr. Simon Shamoun's** research program as a "Research Technician". Grace is working under the supervision of Dr. Shamoun on developing biological control agents for management of forest diseases and weeds. Grace is currently in her final stages of writing her M.Sc. thesis working under the supervision of Drs. Zamir Punja (Simon Fraser University) and Simon Shamoun (CFS-PFC).

Dr. Shiguang (Steven) Zhao joined **Dr. Simon Shamoun's** research program as a "Research Forest Biologist). Steven has been working with Simon for the last three years as a post-doctoral fellow (NSERC Visiting Fellow). Steven's main research is focused on the development of formulation and delivery technologies of biological control agents for management of forest diseases and weeds.

For more information, please, contact **Dr. Simon Shamoun**, Research Scientist and Program Leader- Biological Control of Forest Diseases and Weeds Research Program, CFS-PFC, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.



Ms. Grace Sumampong

Rona Sturrock, Canadian Forest Service, was invited to participate as one of four members of a review panel evaluating research on *Ganoderma* basal stem rot (BSR) of oil palms (*Elaeis guineensis*) in



Dr. Shiguang (Steven) Zhao (left) and Dr. Simon Shamoun (right)



Fruiting body of *Ganoderma boninense* on roots of infected oil palm tree.

Malaysia. Ms. Sturrock was invited by the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) because of her expertise in root diseases, especially *Phellinus weirii*, which behaves very similarly to *G. boninense*, the principle species of *Ganoderma* affecting palm oil production in Malaysia and other



Oil palm tree on peat soils killed by *Ganoderma* basal stem rot (*G. boninense*).

parts of southeast Asia. During her stay in Kuala Lumpur from March 21 – April 5, 2005 Ms. Sturrock and her review panel colleagues visited several oil palm plantations on Peninsular Malaysia to see *Ganoderma* BSR first hand and to discuss research and management options with researchers and plantation staff. She was



Basal stem rot of (still standing) oil palm tree caused by *Ganoderma boninense*.

also invited to present a paper on 'Management of Laminated Root Rot (*P. weirii*) in Western North America' to 80 participants at a Workshop on 'Prioritizing *Ganoderma* Research in Oil Palm', March 28, 2005. At the culmination of their field

visits and discussions with researchers with the MPOB, local universities, and Industry, the *Ganoderma* Research Review Panel submitted a report to a committee of experts from around the world, which meets annually to evaluate progress in research and development on many aspects of palm oil production.

Employment

M.Sc. Position

A position is available in September 2005 to do a M.Sc. in the field of molecular nutraceutical under the supervision of Professor Suha Jabaji-Hare, Department of Plant Science, Macdonald Campus of McGill University. The project is funded through FQRNT-Equipe.

Project title: Increase in nutraceutical value of soybeans using elicitors.

Project Description: The goal of this project is to develop high isoflavone soybean sprouts and seeds for use in producing soy-food products that may provide enhanced health benefits to consumers. The up-regulation of genes encoding for selective isoflavones will be quantified using real-time RT-PCR technologies.

Expertise required: a strong background in plant biochemistry, plant molecular biology and basic knowledge in physiology and plant pathology.

Expertise acquired: Students will be trained in the following protocols: Plant DNA and RNA extraction, cDNA synthesis, primer design, cloning, basic bioinformatics tools, and PCR and reverse transcription (RT)-PCR technologies-conventional and real-time. The student

will graduate with a strong background in molecular plant physiology using real-time PCR technologies. The field of nutraceuticals is a growing field leading to attractive job opportunities in food-related and biotech industries.

Contact person: Students who are interested, please contact Dr. S. Jabaji-Hare by e-mail: suha.jabaji-hare@mcgill.ca, or by phone 514-398-7561. For more information on the research program and research projects that are currently being conducted in Prof. Jabaji-Hare's laboratory, visit <http://www.mcgill.ca/plant/faculty/jabaji-hare/>.

M.Sc. at the Department of Applied Microbiology & Food Science, Saskatoon

We are looking for a highly motivated undergraduate student with an interest in Biological Weed Control. The subject of the thesis research is to monitor the environmental fate of soil bacteria as pre-emergent bioherbicides of grass weeds (green foxtail and wild oat). Soil bacteria are being developed as alternatives to chemical pesticides and have opportunities to biologically control weeds, including those that have developed resistance to chemical herbicides. The M.Sc. student will be involved in developing molecular markers to evaluate the dispersal, survival, and persistence of a bacterial strain with bioherbicidal properties with the purpose of determining the environmental fate and nontarget effects of beneficial biopesticide organisms.

Supervision: Dr. Susan Boyetchko and Dr. Russell Hynes (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada). Co-investigator is Professor Darren Korber, Department of Applied Microbiology and Food Science.

Funding: Up to \$16,000/year is available through supervisor's funds.

Qualifications: A B.Sc. in applied microbiology, plant pathology or related life sciences and preferably completion of an introductory microbiology or soil microbiology course. Some laboratory experience would be highly beneficial. Successful application to the College of Graduate Studies at the University of Saskatchewan will be required - information may be obtained at <http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/>.

How to Apply: Curriculum vita, along with application and contact information, will be collected until the position is filled. For further elaboration on this opportunity contact: Drs. Susan Boyetchko or Russell Hynes, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 107 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK. S7N 0X2. Fax 306-956-7247, Email: BoyetchkoS@agr.gc.ca, HynesR@agr.gc.ca.

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