

ONTA NEWSLETTER

Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America

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Maceió, Alagoas State, Brazil

ONTA 2009 MEETING

The coming ONTA annual meeting will be held jointly with the Brazilian Society of Nematologists (SBN) at the “**Hotel Ritz Lagoa da Anta**”, in **Maceió, Alagoas State, Brazil**.



A view of the Hotel Ritz Lagoa da Anta, in Maceió, Alagoas State, Brazil.

The 32 sessions planned for the scientific program include the most important research topics that are investigated in the field of the Science of Nematology. The international convenors of the sessions were selected among the most outstanding research nematologists in many countries and continents. These scientists have played an important role in the organization of each session by selecting speakers directly involved in the scientific topics of their talks. This international effort will result in a very successful scientific congress. ONTA members are invited to present the results of their research at this meeting. ONTA extends a special thank you to the SBN, who is hosting Society, for organizing this joint scientific event. ONTA extends its thanks and appreciation to **Regina Carneiro** <recar@cenargen.embrapa.br>, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for making this joint meeting possible. More information about the meeting is available on the website accessible from <<http://www.ontaweb.org>>.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All,

I am very pleased to inform you that through the year the EC, Honors & Awards committees, regional Representatives and working groups have been very busy dealing not only with ONTA household activities, but also with the initiatives that were proposed at the beginning of this Presidency such as ONTA finances, *Nematropica* on-line case, revision of the constitution, operations manual, and updating of membership. As a result, the ONTA account from Piedras Negras (Puerto Rico) and a Certificate of Deposit have been transferred to a new ONTA account in Florida. **Renato Inserra** (Treasurer), **Roberto Vargas** (former Treasurer), **Julia Meredith** and **Zuleika Maldonado** (Banco Popular, Puerto Rico) have made possible the transfer of funds from accounts and we are very grateful to them for their effort and help to sort out this issue. This change has already facilitated and speeded up ONTA and *Nematropica* finances and management.

Nematropica is at the heart of our organization, but publication costs plus reduction in demand from libraries have made necessary to consider important changes regarding its present publication form (e.g. bind or electronic version) to keep the journal going and ensure its long term publication. Information regarding the *Nematropica* on-line case was prepared by **Larry Duncan** and **Rosa Manzanilla-López** with the support of the EC members. A ballot (prepared by **Larry Duncan**) was sent to all ONTA members by the Secretary (**Paola Lax**) to vote yes or no to *Nematropica* on-line. Participation from ONTA members to cast their vote on this very important issue has been actively encouraged thanks to several invitations sent by e-mail by **Paola Lax** and the Regional Representatives. The information and the on-line case for *Nematropica* were also posted in the ONTA Web sites thanks to our Web site managers (**Debby Monfort**, **Terry Kirkpatrick**, **César Ornat** and **Miguel Talavera**). We are waiting for the results of the ballots (20th September) and they will be announced at our next annual meeting in Brazil.

At present **Patricia Stock** (Vice-President) is leading the revision of our Constitution and Operations manual and we will inform you about progress in the near future.

Regarding membership, we have new members from the Americas and outside the Americas (Africa and Asia). The new members have been welcomed in the organization by our Secretary and Business Manager (**Janete Brito**). Both **Paola** and **Janete** have made a great job in keeping up to date membership to the organization. However, we do not have members from countries such as Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras. Efforts have been made to contact potential members but economic limitations are still an important issue to join ONTA.

Our annual meeting will be held in Maceió (Alagoas, Brazil) where we will join our Brazilian sister organization and host (Sociedade Brasileira de Nematologia) for the II International Congress of Tropical Nematology. This year has been especially difficult to get institutional sponsorship in different countries, and on behalf of ONTA, I would like to acknowledge **Regina Carneiro** and her team not only for their tremendous work in organizing the Congress but also for their dedication and commitment to get funds and support to sponsor students and speakers among them several from ONTA. Also, we are very proud to inform you that for the first time ONTA offered the travel award grants. These grants were possible thanks to the initiative of **Charles Overstreet**, Chair of the ONTA Foundation, and generosity of **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana**.

I also would like to acknowledge **Luis Payán** and **Janete Brito** for their work in promoting ONTA sustaining membership activities and Syngenta for sponsoring the printing of the biographies booklet for the ONTA awards ceremony 2008-2009.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to EC members, ONTA Officers, H & A committees, Regional Representatives, and all of you for the everyday work on behalf of the organization.

See you soon in Maceió! Kind regards,

Rosa

PRESENT AND FUTURE ONTA LEADERS



Rosa Manzanilla-López has been a very effective president of ONTA. She has led the Organization with great skill, handling many difficult issues with outstanding ability and determination. Her term will expire in October 2009, but she will continue to guide the organization as a member of the Executive Committee. Her gentle and decisive attitude has been a great asset for ONTA.



S. Patricia Stock was elected ONTA Vice-President for the term 2008-2009. She will become President at the ONTA meeting in Brazil. **Patricia** has been involved in many difficult decisions for the organization. Her managerial expertise and leading experience will benefit the organization.

Rosa and **Patricia** are assisted by **Paola Lax** (photo below) who was elected ONTA Secretary for a three-year term (2008-2011) and is serving the organization with great enthusiasm a dedication.



ELECTIONS OF ONTA VICE-PRESIDENT

Patrick Quénehervé, chair of the Nomination Committee, reports that **Nancy Kokalis-Burelle** and **Emma Zavaleta** have been nominated as candidates for the ONTA Vice-President position.

Nancy and **Emma** are two outstanding scientists who have the qualifications and experience to lead the Organization. Ballots for this election have been emailed to all members by the Secretary, **Paola Lax**.

ONTA members are requested to send their vote by e-mail to Paola as soon as possible. Paola's e-mail address is : <plax@efn.uncor.edu>.

Biographies of the two candidates are reported in the following pages.

ONTA's TREASURY

At the 5th International Congress of Nematology Brisbane, Australia, July 13-18, 2008, **Renato Inserra** was appointed new Treasurer of the Organization by majority vote of the ONTA Executive Committee.

The new Treasurer was charged with establishing a new ONTA bank account in Florida and asked to cooperate with past Treasurer **Roberto Vargas** in transferring ONTA funds from Puerto Rico to Florida.

This decision has been implemented and involved the registration of ONTA as a corporation in the state of Florida. The tax exempt status of the corporation has been filed with the Internal Revenue Services and it is still pending. These legal matters are handled by a lawyer.

The funds from the bank account in Puerto Rico have been transferred into a new bank account in Florida. **Renato Inserra** is grateful to president **Rosa Manzanilla-López** for the decisive actions in expediting the complicated financial transactions between the banks in Puerto Rico and Florida. The cooperation from the past treasurer **Roberto Vargas** is also acknowledged.

CANDIDATES FOR ONTA VICE-PRESIDENCY



Nancy Kokalis Burelle received her Bachelor of Science degree from Western Kentucky University in 1982 with a double major in Biology and Agriculture. She received her M.S. degree in 1988 and her Ph.D. in 1993 in Plant Pathology from Auburn University under the direction of **Paul Backman** and **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana**, respectively. Her doctoral research focused on the effects of organic amendments on soil microbial ecology and nematode populations.

After receiving her Ph.D., Nancy worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Dr. **Rodríguez-Kábana**'s lab from 1994-1996 on a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant investigating the effects of crop rotations on soil microbial ecology and nematode populations.

Following her postdoctoral research, she worked as a Research Fellow in the Department of Plant Pathology at Auburn from 1996-1997 with **Rod, Joe Kloepper**, and **Don Kenney** of Gustafson LLC, on the development of BioYield, a commercial product containing two plant growth promoting rhizobacteria.

Nancy is currently a Research Ecologist at the USDA, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Horticultural Research Lab in Ft. Pierce, FL.

She has been with the USDA, ARS since 1997 where her research focuses on developing alternatives to methyl bromide soil fumigation for vegetable and ornamental crop production.

Specific research emphasis is on the integration of reduced-risk chemicals, cultural practices such as solarization and organic amendments, and biological control into sustainable production systems for methyl bromide dependent crops.

Since joining USDA, ARS she has worked with industry partners developing commercial products under two Cooperative Research and Development Agreements. She also has two patents on biological control technology, and two pending patents on reduced risk chemicals for nematode control.

Nancy has authored or co-authored over 60 peer-reviewed publications, and is a Courtesy Assistant Professor and a member of the Graduate Faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Florida.

She has served the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America as Editor-in-Chief of *Nematropica* from 2005-2008. During her tenure as Editor-in-Chief **Nancy** revised and updated the guide to authors, and instituted an electronic manuscript submission and review procedure, which reduced the time for manuscript review and revision, enabling the journal to be published in a timely manner. She has also served on the Executive Board for the Society of Nematologists from 2001-2003, as Secretary of the N. A. Cobb Foundation from 2006-2009, and as Chair of the Membership and Ecology committees for SON. She is currently serving as an Editorial Board Member for the journal *Biological Control: Theory and Application in Pest Management*.

CANDIDATES FOR ONTA VICE-PRESIDENCY



Emma Zavaleta Mejía obtained a bachelor degree in Biology at the Autonomous University of Morelos State, Mexico in 1975 and a Master's in Plant Pathology from the Postgraduate College, Chapingo, Mexico in 1978. After her graduation she was appointed as Research Assistant at the Postgraduate College.

In 1980, she enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Plant Pathology at the University of California, Riverside, USA where she completed a doctoral project on 'The effect of soil bacteria on *Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid & White) Chitwood infection' under the supervision of Dr. **Seymour D. Van Gundy**. She completed her doctoral studies in 1985, and joined the faculty of the Postgraduate College at Chapingo University in the capacity of assistant professor of Plant Pathology. She reached full professor status in 1990. At present she teaches courses on Physiology of Plant-Pathogen Interactions.

Her interest in research has focused on the study of
1) Ecological Alternatives for the Management of Plant Diseases and 2) Physiology and Molecular Biology of Plant-pathogen Interactions.

Emma has investigated the use of plants with antimicrobial properties like marigold and brassicas (in rotation, association, and incorporation of residues), biofumigation, solarization and mulching as strategies for the management of nematodes and other soil-borne pathogens. She is also involved in research aiming to the determination of the biochemical and molecular changes that *Nacobbus aberrans* induces in its hosts and their relation with the phenomenon of the resistance breaking by the false root-knot nematodes.

She has supervised the research programs of graduate and postgraduate students including 13 Ph D dissertations and 31 Masters' theses and 13 Bachelors' theses, respectively. Additionally she has co-advised 57 postgraduate students. She has published 110 articles in national and international scientific journals (including *Nematropica*).

Emma has participated as associate editor and referee in national and international journals and in the evaluation of research projects of national and international agencies. Since 1986, she has been appointed National Researcher in the National Researchers System (SNI) achieving the maximum level (III) attainable in the System. In 1994, she was appointed Member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences and, in 2002, Member of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Mexico. She has been an active member of ONTA and has participated in several annual meetings presenting invited papers and other scientific talks.

***NEMATROPICA:*
ON-LINE OR NOT ON-LINE?**

At the International Nematology Congress in Australia, the Executive Committee had agreed to prepare a working document to inform ONTA members of the pros and cons, including cost implications, of the journal going on-line and to examine the transition process after the approval by the members.

This document was sent by e-mail/post to all ONTA members for analysis and feedback. A mandate from ONTA members will be sought as to whether *Nematropica* should move to being an entirely on-line journal. This document will also be posted on the web site so as to receive feedback from ONTA members. A final document was prepared and distributed to ONTA members by e-mail.

Members are supposed to vote in favor or against the change of *Nematropica* to an on-line journal. So far only 53 members have sent their vote on this important issue for the organization.

The deadline for casting the vote is September 20. Please rush your vote on this issue by expressing your opinion in an e-mail to ONTA Secretary **Paola Lax** <plax@efn.uncor.edu>. Ballots are also retrievable from the ONTA Web site.

**ONTA FOUNDATION
STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD**

The chair of ONTA Foundation Committee, **Charles Overstreet**, reports that three students have been selected for the ONTA Foundation Student Travel Award. Each of these students has been contacted and agreed to accept the award. The three students are **Garo Haroutunian, Ivan C. Lizazo**, and **Angel Ramirez-Suarez**. Congratulations, winners!

**IN MEMORIAM...
ARMEN CHARLES TARJAN
(1920-2009)**



Armen Charles Tarjan passed away on January 25, 2009. He was one of the few nematologists trained by **Gotthold Steiner**, a founder of the Science of Nematology in the USA. **Charlie** enjoyed a very productive and exciting long life during which he achieved many important scientific goals in nematode taxonomy and tropical and marine nematology. His pleasant and jovial personality along with his ability to speak many languages, especially Spanish, made him an international promoter of nematological studies in Latin American countries. ONTA and *Nematropica* would not have reached favorable notoriety and scientific recognition without his hard work and long standing commitment. **Charlie Tarjan** had colleagues and friends in almost every continent. He will always be remembered for his enthusiastic way of dealing with nematological studies, making friends all over the world and helping students to discover the great pleasure of scientific research with nematodes. His charisma, concern and care for his colleagues and students surely will be missed.

His complete biography is published in *Nematropica* (2009) 39:1-10.

IN MEMORIAM...EINO KRALL

We have been informed by **Dieter Sturhan** that **Eino Krall** from Estonia passed away on August 27, 2009. **Eino Krall**, like **Charlie Tarjan**, is another pioneer of Nematology who was involved in taxonomical and field nematology studies in Eastern Europe. ONTA's condolences go to his wife **Heljo Krall**.

SYMPOSIUM ON *NACOBBUS* IN NORTH AMERICA



Symposium on *Nacobbus* in North America (Acapulco, Mexico, 21-22 July 2009). Front row: **Alejandra Elizalde** (SENASICA), **Rosa Manzanilla** (RRes), **Ignacio Cid del Prado** (CP Montecillo), **Emma Zavaleta** (CP-Montecillo), **Manuel Mundo Ocampo** (UC-Riverside). Back row: **Juan Pablo Robles** (CESAVEG, Gto.), **Angel Ramírez** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), **Alejandro Tovar** (ENCB-IPN), **Damaris Godínez** (CP Montecillo), **Leah Millar** (APHIS-USDA), **Roberto Montes** (CEPROBI-IPN), **Ilusión Perez** (CESAVEG, Gto.), **Francisco Franco** (CP-Montecillo).

A symposium on *Nacobbus* in North America was organized by **Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez** and our Mexican colleagues during the annual reunion of the Mexican Plant Pathology Society (SMF) held in Acapulco, (22 & 23 of July 2009).

Nematologists from Mexico, Europe and USA participated in the symposium. The major topics of the symposium included taxonomy and systematics (classic and molecular approaches); quarantine; novel management strategies; and molecular basis for breaking of resistance.

The symposium was very successful and was attended by numerous agricultural specialists, students, diagnosticians representing several of the private and commercial Mexican nematode diagnostic laboratories.

An extended version of the papers presented at this symposium and other symposia will be published in a book that is sponsored and funded by the SMF.

BOOK REVIEW

Ciancio and K. G. Mukerji (eds). Integrated Management of Fruit Crops and Forest Nematodes. Springer Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2009, pp. 346. ISBN 978-1-4020-9857-4 (HB) or ISBN 10: 978-1-4020-99858-1 (e-book). The cost of the book is Euro 144.95 or ~ US \$ 205

This new book, the 4th in the series Integrated Management of Plant Pests and Diseases (IMPD) series, is a very useful treatise on nematode management using integrated non-chemical and chemical approaches.

The various chapters describe the biologies, host responses, damage and management of the most economically important phytoparasitic nematodes involved in the decline of tropical and temperate fruit crops and pine trees. An integrated nematode management approach is discussed for each crop and includes chemical and non-chemical strategies. The longest chapters of this interesting book deal with major economically important crops in the tropics (banana, cacao and coffee) and in subtropical and temperate regions (citrus, grape, olive and *Prunus* spp). The content of some of these chapters echoes that published in other nematological manuals. However, the authors of the chapters have broadened the information available in the literature on nematode diseases of fruit trees by including recent results of their own studies on nematode pests in fruit-culture. Of particular interest is the information on newly emerging nematode pests such as *Meloidogyne ethiopica* on grape vines, and on the management of nematode pests of grapevine and *Prunus* spp. using resistant *Vitis* selections and integrated strategies, respectively. A special chapter is devoted to nematode pests of olive trees. This chapter is very useful for agricultural specialists in the Mediterranean regions and also in South America where the olive tree industry is in expansion. Other chapters focus on crops that have economic relevance at regional levels such as avocado, guava, mango, passion fruit and pistachio. A separate chapter is devoted to management of virus transmitting nematodes using pest exclusion programs, chemical approaches, resistant rootstocks and biological antagonists. Finally, an excellent review chapter on pine wilt disease is included and focuses on the spread of this disease and its causal agent *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in Portugal, with emphasis on the management of the nematode and its insect vector using various approaches including pest exclusion and eradication programs. This applied nematology treatise is of great values for specialists and growers involved in fruit tree production and pest management.

<http://www.springer.com/life+sci/plant+sciences/book/978-1-4020-6062-5>

MACTODE PUBLICATIONS

Mactode Publications is a well known company that provides illustrations, slides and visual items for teaching and training students, agricultural specialists and interested persons in Nematology. The company has improved remarkably its 'repertoire'. A latest and outstanding representation of the nematode world is shown by the three-dimensional model of a lesion nematode feeding inside a cortical root cell (approximately 8,000 magnifications) inserted below



Interested ONTA members should visit www.mactode.com for more details and check out the Free Download section for additional teaching resources. The company address is: Mactode Publications, 3510 Indian Meadow Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060, USA. E-mail: www.mactode.com and info@mactode.com; Tel: 1-540-231-4650; FAX: 1- 707-988-4650.

ONTA PRESENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Latest Information on the 2nd International Congress of Tropical Nematology in Brazil

Paola Lax informs that the final program for the Congress is now posted on the Web page (www.cenargen.embrapa.br/nema2009).

Presenters should verify the time of their oral presentations.

The travel agency Comunic Eventos is offering an airport transfer (about US \$30.00): airport -hotel (arrival) and hotel-airport (departure). Interested persons can book this service by contacting Elton Muller by e-mail: comercial@comuniceventos.com.br and providing him with information concerning arrival and departure times of their flights in/from Maceió. Payments can be made at the arrival in Maceió.

US ONTA members are reminded that they need an official Visa to travel to Brazil.

ONTA 2010 Meeting

The 42nd ONTA Meeting will be held in Quito, Ecuador, in 2010.

The date of this meeting has not been decided.

More information can be obtained from **Jenny Escobar** at jenny.escobar@bayercropscience.com.

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