

ONTA NEWSLETTER

Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America

ONTA web site: <http://www.ontaweb.org>

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ROSA MANZANILLA-LOPEZ

Dear ONTA members,
It is a great pleasure to be in touch with you through the ONTA Newsletter and I would like to use this opportunity to present to you some of the ongoing projects that are being carried out by the current ONTA Presidency, the officers of the Executive Committee and the Regional Representatives.

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1. *Nematropica* on-line. Printing and postage costs of *Nematropica* continue to increase, placing a heavy burden on ONTA finances. Should *Nematropica* remain as a printed journal or move to on-line publication only? Most nematology journals are in the process of becoming an on-line journal and it is time that we should, as a community, analyse this option to ensure the long-term publication of the journal at an affordable cost and its accessibility by ONTA members and a broader audience, including emerging countries in the world tropics. During the last EC meeting in Australia (July 2008), it was approved that ONTA members would be presented with the pros and cons of going on-line, and to give our ONTA community the opportunity to vote in this central, vital, issue for the future, not only of *Nematropica*, but the Organization. We will inform you of further developments as soon as timetables for consultation and other specific actions are defined. **Larry Duncan, Kathy Lawrence, Paula Agudelo, Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana** and other members of the Executive Committee and Regional Representatives will help us to undertake these activities.

2. Finances. Our financial structure has been in need of change for a long time. In order to speed up financial transactions and payment options, such as the use of credit cards and bank transferances, we have re-structured our modus operandi by opening a new bank account based in Florida. We hope that this change will facilitate not only membership payments but activities related to *Nematropica*'s publishing costs.

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The publication of Nematropica requires an active interaction between our Treasurer, Editor in Chief (**Kathy Lawrence**) and Business Manager (**Janete Brito**). After long-term service, **Roberto Vargas** has been recently succeeded by **Renato Inserra**. **Roberto Vargas** will kindly support the new Treasurer **R. Inserra** through this transition period.

3. Modifications to the ONTA Operations manual. For a long time we have been planning a revision and update of our Constitution and Operations Manual. However, we need to follow the established procedures to amend the Constitution. These amendments can then be submitted on time and in the correct form so as to be officially considered and approved by our ONTA members. I have invited **Patricia Stock** (Vice-President) to coordinate this important activity for our Organization along with **Jim Rich**, **Janete Brito** and **Paola Lax**.

4. ONTA Membership. The number of ONTA members fluctuates because many members retire and new members are recruited during our annual meetings. The active role of our Secretary, Business Manager and Regional Representatives in keeping membership information up-to-date is essential for healthy finances in the Organization, but we also need to continue broadening the membership base of the organization. For example we do not have members from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras or Uruguay in the Americas and this is something that should be addressed. However, I would like to emphasize that ONTA membership has expanded to Africa, Asia and Australia, thereby showing the interest of Nematologists from other tropical regions in our organization yet posing the need to strengthen links between ONTA and its members from other tropical regions outside the Americas.

I invite you to work together with the members of the Executive Committee, regional representatives and myself to strengthen our Organization so that it is able to achieve its mission and can continue to be one of the largest and leading organizations of nematologists in the tropics.

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We hope we will soon have progress on the above projects and that we can celebrate them together at our next annual meeting in Brazil (4-9th October, 2009).

With best wishes for the New Year,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López

NEW ONTA OFFICERS



S. Patricia Stock was elected ONTA Vice-President for the term 2008-2009. She will become President at the ONTA meeting in Brazil on October 4-9, 2009.



Paola Lax was elected ONTA Secretary for a three-year term (2008-2011).

ONTA members congratulate **Patricia** and **Paola** on their election and convey to them wishes for success and satisfaction on their difficult task in leading and managing ONTA activities, respectively.



**REPORT OF THE 5th INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS OF NEMATOLOGY
BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA
JULY 13-18, 2008**

The 40th ONTA Annual Meeting was part of a joint meeting with the International Federation of Nematological Societies (IFNS) and in the context of the 5th International Congress of Nematology. The Congress was a great success for the quality of the scientific program and the significant participation of Nematologists from different countries of the world. The gorgeous natural scenery of Brisbane and the excellent accommodation provided by Brisbane Convention Center enhanced the success of the Congress. Organizers of the Congress included **Mike Hodda** (Chairperson), **N. Bell**, **S. Brown**, **J. Cobon**, **K. Davies**, **R. McLeod**, **J. Marshall**, **J. Nicol**, **T. Pattison**, **I. Riley**, **G. Sterling**, **S. Taylor** and **D. Wharton**. These individuals should be commended for making this scientific event possible. The scientific program prepared by an IFNS committee chaired by **Aurelio Ciancio** encompassed a great variety of nematological subjects. The numerous symposia on biodiversity, nematode pests of potato and soybean, plant resistance to nematodes, biological management of nematodes, methyl bromide alternatives, precision agriculture, nematode taxonomy and the excellent oral and poster presentations provided the attendants with a wide range of scientific information. The high travel costs prevented many ONTA members to attend the Congress.

2008 ONTA AWARDEES

The Honors and Awards Committee decided to postpone the ONTA Award Ceremony until 2009 because many ONTA members were not able to attend the Congress in Australia. Only the **Best Student Poster Competition** was held at the Congress. The competition was kindly sponsored by **ONTA Foundation** through a generous gift from **Rodrigo Rodríguez Kábana**. The following students were recognized and shared in equal parts the amount (\$US 800) of the award.

Kishor Bhattarai from the University of California Riverside, Nematology Department, Riverside, California (USA) was awarded for his studies on the characterization of WRKY genes involved in regulating root-knot nematode infections on tomato.



From the right, **Kishor Bhattarai** (winner of the competition), **Marcelo Doucet** (ONTA President) and **Charles Overstreet** (Chair of ONTA Foundation Committee).

Sergio Calzavara from the University of São Paulo, Jaboticabal, São Paulo (Brazil) who was awarded for his biological and host-range studies on the root-lesion nematode *Pratylenchus jaehni* and its damage to citrus.



From the right, **Sergio Calzavara** (winner of the competition), **Marcelo Doucet** (ONTA President) and **Charles Overstreet** (Chair of ONTA Foundation Committee).

ONTA Executive Committee Meeting

This meeting was held at the Hotel Riverside in Brisbane on July 13, 2008 at 15:30 PM.

Major issues discussed included the following topics:

- 1) **Reorganization of ONTA financial system.** It was decided that the financial system of the Organization needs to be modernized and more efficient in order to speed-up the collection of membership dues and page charge payments. All payments will be received only by the Treasurer who will quickly update the Secretary about the membership status of the Organization so only members current with their dues will receive *Nematropica* and will be listed on the ONTA website.
- 2) **Appointment of a new Treasurer. 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.
- 3) **Modifications of ONTA Operation Manual.** These modifications should reflect the reorganization of ONTA financial system.
- 4) **Nematropica online.** The proposal discussed at the ONTA meeting in Argentina (2007) to transform *Nematropica* from a printed to an-online journal was taken into serious consideration by the EC members. ONTA members will be presented with the pros and cons of going on-line, and will have the opportunity to vote in this important issue for the Organization. The completion of this process requires at least two years. The first year (July 2008 – October 2009) will be dedicated to prepare the document for consultation with ONTA members and to resolve any administrative issues through the process. In the second year (October 2009 – October 2010), if all goes well, *Nematropica* would move to on-line publication with papers being distributed to members on CD or DVD. This will ensure that the members are aware of the necessity to make arrangements to access the purely on-line journal in year three.
- 5) **ONTA Website.** The proposal submitted by **Jim Rich** to move the ONTA Website from Florida to Arkansas was approved. The new English Website Manager is **Terry Kirkpatrick** who is assisted by **Debby Monfort** (Arkansas University). The address of the ONTA website is <www.ontaweb.org>.
- 6) **ONTA elections.** The results of the election for Vice-President and Secretary were discussed by the EC. **Patricia Stock** and **Paola Lax** were declared the winners for the offices of Vice-President and Secretary, respectively. The ONTA Secretary has communicated the results of the election to **Erwin Aballay** and **Alejandro Esquivel**, the two opposing candidates.
- 7) **Honors and Awards Committee.** **Forest Robinson** has stepped down as Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee. Before leaving this post, he suggested postponing the 2008 Award Ceremony to the next ONTA meeting in Brazil in 2009. **Forest Robinson's** proposal was approved by the EC. **Future ONTA Meetings.** The EC confirmed the decision taken in 2007 to hold the 2009 and 2010 ONTA Annual Meetings in Brazil and Ecuador, respectively. The next ONTA annual meeting in Brazil will be a joint meeting with the Brazilian Society of Nematologists. The date of this joint meeting will be **October 4 – 9, 2009**. The select site is the **"Hotel Ritz Lagoa da Anta", in Alagoas, Maceió State, Brazil**. More information about this event and local arrangements committee will be provided by **Regina Carneiro**, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee.

The complete version of the minutes of the EC and the following Business Meetings are posted on the ONTA website at <http://www.ontaweb.org/>

Click on "Annual Meeting Archives" from the "Annual Meeting" tab on the Home page, then select "2008/Australia" and then, "Committee Reports".

ONTA Business Meeting

This meeting was held at the Brisbane Convention Center (Brisbane, Australia) on July 15th, 2008 at 17:30 PM. Major issues discussed included the following topics:

- 1) **Reorganization of ONTA Financial System.** The ONTA members were informed about the financial situation of ONTA and the need to implement a better system to recover and deposit payments made to ONTA through memberships, subscriptions and page charges for papers published in *Nematropica*.
- 2) **Appointment of a New Treasurer.** Members were informed of: a) the appointment of a new Treasurer (**Renato Inserra**) by a majority vote of the Executive Committee (Article II, Section 2B of Constitution), b) that the EC requested that a new ONTA bank account is set up in Florida by the new treasurer, c) that the EC invited also the new treasurer to contact the former treasurer (**Roberto Vargas**) in order to coordinate the transfer of the treasury from Puerto Rico to Florida, d) the EC members decision to propose **Roberto Vargas**, the outgoing Treasurer, as a recipient of the “Distinguished Services Award” in recognition to his long standing services to ONTA in his official capacity. It was agreed that any proposals to change/amend the Constitution as a consequence of the reorganization of ONTA financial system would be placed before ONTA members for consideration and approval at the next ONTA meeting in Brazil.
- 3) **ONTA Membership.** After updating the membership list, there was a loss of 80 members, but another 24 had joined as new members. It was pointed out that the Organization lacks members in most Central American countries (e.g. Belize, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras) and there is only one member in Colombia. It was proposed that ONTA may need to sponsor a program of membership in certain countries.
- 4) **Regional Representatives.** At present, ONTA has Regional Representatives in Argentina (**Paola Lax**), Chile (**Erwin Aballay**), Costa Rica (**Alejandro Esquivel**), Mexico (**Francisco Franco**) and Brazil (**Myrian Tigano**). A recommendation was made by the Acting Secretary that there should be at least one Regional Representative in countries which have more than three ONTA members.
- 5) ***Nematropica*: on-line or not-online?** The EC 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 will be 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 sites so as to receive feedback from ONTA members.
- 6) **Websites.** **Jim Rich** informed the members that the new English Website Manager is **Terry Kirkpatrick** who is assisted by **Debby Monfort** (Arkansas University). The long term service of **Jim Rich** and **Melissa Thorpe** in running the English web site was acknowledged.
- 7) **Results of election for new Vice-President and Secretary.** **Patricia Stock** and **Paola Lax** were declared as winners for the offices of Vice-President and Secretary, respectively. They received the wishes of the members for a successful and fruitful term in their respective offices.
- 8) **Honors and Awards Committee.** **Forest Robinson** has stepped down as Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee. **Forest** was thanked for his many years of excellent service on the Committee The EC will be appointing a new chair in the coming months. Members were informed that the awards for 2008 will be given during the next annual meeting in Brazil in 2009. It was decided that all the students from the Nematology Societies involved in the Congress were eligible to compete for the \$US 800 Best Student Poster Competition sponsored by the **ONTA Foundation** through a generous contribution provided by **Rodrigo Rodriguez Kàbana**.
- 9) **Future ONTA Meetings: Brazil 2009 and Ecuador, 2010.** The next ONTA Annual Reunion will be held, as a joint meeting with the Brazilian Society of Nematologists, on October 4-9, 2009 in Brazil at the “Hotel Ritz Lagoa da Anta”, Alagoas, Maceió State. **Regina Carneiro** is in charge of the Local

Arrangements Committee for the meeting. In 2010, **Jenny Escobar** will organize the ONTA Meeting in Ecuador.

The Business Meeting was adjourned by the President **Rosa Manzanilla-López** at 19:30.

Book

As reported in the previous issue of the Newsletter, an important book on nematode management using integrated and biocontrol approaches is now available on the market. This new book is the second volume of the book series Integrated Management of Plant Pests and Diseases (IMPD), edited by A. Ciancio and K. G. Mukerji. This book is listed as: **A. Ciancio and K. G. Mukerji (eds). Integrated Management and Biocontrol of Vegetable and Grain Crops Nematodes. Springer Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2008, pp. 356. ISBN 978-1-4020-6062-5 (HB) or ISBN 10: 978-1-4020-6063-2 (e-book). The cost of the book is US \$ 199.00.**

A short description of the book, reads as follows:

The second volume of the IMPD series describes aspects related to most important phytoparasitic nematodes, considering the integration of biological control methods with other management practices and technologies, including the use of predatory nematodes and microbial rhizosphere antagonists. Chapters cover topics like the mode of action and interactions of nematophagous fungi, the efficacy of control and management of plant parasitic nematode communities through a soil conservation approach, and exploitation of nematodes-bacteria antagonistic relationships. A focus is given on regional issues, like the management of nematodes parasitizing staple crops, i.e. Andean tubers or some important grain crops, like soybean in North and South America or cereals. A review on nematode management in cotton is integrated by a chapter on management of nematodes on wheat. New technologies are also revised, including the potentials of control methods based on RNA interference and issues related to the use of biofumigation to control nematodes in different regional or crop context.

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

Congratulations to UK ONTA Member!



Brian Kerry was awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the New Years Honors in the UK. He received the medal from the **Queen** (pictured) at Buckingham Palace on 6 May in recognition of his contributions to science. **Brian** is pictured with his wife **Maxine** and daughter **Anna** who joined him for the investiture. We are delighted that his contributions to nematology in the UK and internationally have been recognized by this prestigious award.

ONTA 2009 MEETING

As mentioned above, the next ONTA annual meeting will be a joint meeting with the Brazilian Society of Nematologists. The date of this joint meeting will be **October 4 – 9, 2009**. The select site is the “**Hotel Ritz Lagoa da Anta**”, in **Alagoas, Maceió State, Brazil**. The sessions planned for the Scientific Program include:

Advances and problems on taxonomy of <i>Meloidogyne</i> spp	Nematode management challenges in sugar cane
Biological control using nematophagous fungi and bacteria	Nematode management in tropical and temperate fruit trees
Ecology of entomopathogenic nematodes	Nematodes of bananas, nematodes of coffee
Ecology and biodiversity in sustainable soil conservation	New strategies in nematode management in the Americas
Economic impact and management of nematodes on cotton	Parasitic nematodes of humans and other vertebrates
Economic impact and management of <i>Rotylenchulus reniformis</i> and <i>Pratylenchus brachyurus</i> on cotton and soybean in North and South America	Pathogenic and parasitic nematodes of insects and other invertebrates: their application in pest management
Education and perspectives in nematology as a career	Plant-nematode interactions
Friends and foes: Nematode bacterium symbiotic interactions	Plant- nematode interaction, gene expression and resistance
<i>Heterodera glycines</i> in the American tropics	Plant parasitic nematodes on aromatic plants
Identification and management of nematodes in yam	Potato cyst nematodes species: identification and research in South America
Identification, distribution, damage and management of <i>M. mayaguensis</i> on guava and other crops	Predictions on nematode diversity and global warming
Interactions between nematodes and other plant pathogens	Quarantine issues and policies
Management of plant parasitic nematodes in horticultural crops	Sustainable and organic management through biofumigation, organic amendments and suppressiveness
Marine nematodes	The future of nematode taxonomy in the bar coding era
Molecular techniques for nematode identification	Updates on <i>Nacobbus aberrans</i> in South and North America
Nematodes and IPM: a worldwide perspective	

More information about this event and local arrangements committee can be obtained from **Regina Carneiro**, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee <recar@cenargen.embrapa.br> .The website for the **Hotel Ritz Lagoa da Anta** is :< <http://www.ritzlagoadaanta.com.br/index.htm>>.

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**. Her e-mail is: <jenny.escobar@bayercropscience.com>.

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