

ONTA NEWSLETTER

Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America

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Hilton Colon Quito Hotel (above) and the Plaza Grande in Quito, Ecuador.

ONTA 2010 MEETING

October 3-8, 2010 ~ Quito, Ecuador

The 42nd ONTA Annual Meeting will be held at the **“Hilton Colon Quito Hotel, Quito, Ecuador.**

The scientific program includes symposia on:

- 1) Detection and management of nematodes in summer flowers and roses
- 2) Ecology and management of nematodes on vegetables
- 3) Damaging nematodes and their management on fruit trees
- 4) Biological control of phytonematodes
- 5) Plant defense against phytonematodes
- 6) Entomopathogenic nematodes and pest control practices
- 7) Nematode-microbe interactions
- 8) Marine and fresh water nematodes
- 9) Chemical nature and function of phytonematode secretions.

The international convenors of the sessions were selected among the most outstanding research nematologists in many geographical areas. An important field tour of the ornamental nurseries and areas of production of roses in the vicinity of Quito will provide a great opportunity for the participants to interact with ornamental growers and become acquainted with production practices, phytosanitary measures and nematode management programs implemented in these high elevation areas of Ecuador. ONTA extends its thanks and appreciation to **Jenny Escobar** (jennyesobar.2010@yahoo.com), Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee and her collaborators **Carmen Triviño**, **Betty Tello**, **Tarcisio Mosquera** and **Pedro Asanza** for making this meeting possible. More information about the meeting, special rates for accommodation and post meeting tours to Galapagos and Amazon is available on the website.

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT
PATRICIA S. STOCK



S. Patricia Stock was inaugurated as President during Second International Congress of Tropical Nematology (the joint meeting of ONTA and the Brazilian Society of Nematologists) held in Maceió, Brazil, Oct. 4-9, 2009. Patricia previously served as Vice-President for the term 2008-2009.

Patricia has been extremely involved in many ONTA activities since her inauguration including the process of transforming Nematropica into an online journal. Her leadership has played an important role in the initial preparations for the meeting in Ecuador. She has been in close contact with the president elect **Emma Zavaleta Mejía** and with **Jenny Escobar**, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, who are preparing, respectively, the scientific program and the meeting arrangements at the local level.

The inaugural letter she sent after the meeting in Brazil is included below.

Dear ONTA colleagues and friends,

Our meeting in Maceio, Brazil is now history and plans are already underway for next year's meeting in Ecuador. I hope you all enjoyed this meeting as much as I did. As you know, a meeting's success is not the result of one person's effort, but that of many. So I want to thank once again Regina Carneiro and Myriam Tigano and their organizing team for the wonderful job they did. Not only did they set up a great scientific program, but they were also very gracious hosts.

I also extend my appreciation to all of you who attended the II International Tropical Nematology Congress and contributed to symposia, papers, and posters. Your participation made this meeting the success that it was.

I also want to thank all our supporting members and sponsors who contributed with significant donations to assist with the organization of this meeting and provided funds for student travel awards.

Very specially, I want to extend my gratitude to our former president, **Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez**, for her leadership over this past year. Her passion for Nematology and lifelong interest in promoting this science in Latin America was obvious in her performance and accomplishments she made during her appointment as ONTA president.

Now I sit back and reflect on this coming year, as I start my duties as ONTA's new President. A very busy but exciting year is ahead of us. ONTA has stepped into the 21st century and many changes and new ideas are on their way... This year we will see Nematropica being published online. This will be a major challenge and but no doubts that we will all appreciate this change which should increase and promote our journal to a wider audience. We will also continue reviewing our operations manual and by laws, and some changes will be proposed. We plan to update and refresh our website (both English and Spanish) versions. I view electronic communication as an incredibly powerful tool for dissemination of science, education and outreach activities. We should take advantage of it and promote the science of Nematology worldwide.

Finally I want to say that I'm excited to serve as president of ONTA and look forward to the coming year. I thank you all for your support and trust in having given me this opportunity. I look forward to working with you!

Best regards,
Patricia Stock
ONTA President 2009-2010



4 -9 October 2009,
Maceió, Alagoas State, Brazil

REPORT OF THE 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF TROPICAL NEMATOLOGY

The 41st ONTA Annual Meeting was a joint meeting with the Brazilian Society of Nematologists (SBN). 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 Maceió and the excellent accommodation provided by the Local Arrangement Committee enhanced the success of the Congress. Organizers of the Congress included **Regina M.D.G. Carneiro** (Chairperson), **Maria de Fátima S. Muniz**, and **Alma Godoy**. These individuals should be commended for making this scientific event possible. The scientific program prepared by the scientific committee chaired by **R.M.D.G. Carneiro** with the assistance of **R. Manzanilla-López**, **P.S. Stock**, **M.S. Tigano** and **P. Lax** encompassed a great variety of nematological subjects. The topics of the sessions included: biological management of nematodes, emerging and other damaging nematode parasites such as *Meloidogyne mayaguensis*, *Nacobbus aberrans* and *Rotylenchulus reniformis*, marine nematodes, molecular techniques for nematode identification, nematode parasites of aromatic plants, banana, coffee, cotton, potato, soybean, sugarcane, and yam, nematode taxonomy

Continue on the adjacent column.

in the bar code era, plant nematode interactions, gene expression and resistance. These sessions and the excellent oral and poster presentations provided the more than 400 attendants with a wide range of scientific information. The tour of the Coruripe sugar refinery enlightened the advanced nematode management approaches implemented by the Brazilian sugar industry for the production of sugarcane. The tour of São Francisco river delta was one of the most outstanding ecological tour planned for the meeting because of the variety of the delta fauna and habitats for migratory birds. ONTA members convey their appreciation and thanks to **Regina, Maria de Fátima** and **Alma** along with their collaborators for the organization of this memorable joint meeting. Photos of the events of this meeting are posted on the ONTA website.

NEW ONTA OFFICER



Emma Zavaleta Mejía was elected ONTA Vice-President for the term 2009-2010. She will become President at the 42nd ONTA meeting in Ecuador held October 3-8, 2010.

Emma is involved in the preparation of the scientific program of this meeting in Ecuador. She also cooperates with the ONTA President, **Patricia Stock** and the Chair of the Local Arrangement committee, **Jenny Escobar**, in organizing this scientific event. Her experience in nematode research in Mexico will benefit the scientific activity of the Organization.

2009 ONTA AWARDEES

The following ONTA members were recognized during the banquet at the 41st ONTA meeting held jointly with the Brazilian Society of Nematologists as the 2nd International Congress of Tropical Nematology in Brazil. The number of awards bestowed was greater than that of other years because no awards were bestowed at the 2008 International Congress of Nematology in Brisbane Australia.

Forest Arin Robinson received the Honorary Member Award for his outstanding contributions to the Organization.

Janete A. Brito and **Roberto Vargas-Ayala** received the Distinguished Service Award. **Janete** was acknowledged for her skills and dedicated efforts in managing ONTA finances and fund raising activity as ONTA Business Manager. **Roberto** was acknowledged for his long standing services as Treasurer of the Organization.

Emma Zavaleta Mejía received the Bayer Crop Science award. **Emma** was recognized for her studies on ecological alternatives for nematode management.

Nicola Greco and **Silamar Ferraz** received the Special Award. **Nicola** was recognized for his involvement in and promoting research projects in Chile and Venezuela. **Silamar** was acknowledged for his long standing teaching activity and training new nematologists in Brazil.

Regina M.D.G. Carneiro and **Luis A. Payan** received a Special Award of Appreciation. **Regina** was recognized for her support of ONTA activities and for organizing the 2nd International Congress of Nematology. **Luis** was acknowledged for his involvement in ONTA activities as Editor of the Newsletter and for promoting financial support for the organization.

ONTA STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

The **ONTA Student Poster Competition** was kindly sponsored by the ONTA Foundation through a generous gift from **Rodrigo Rodríguez Kábana**. The following students were recognized:

Lucianie Favoreto from UNESP/FCAV, Campus de Jabotical, Brazil was awarded \$500 for his studies on the characterization of phytonematodes parasitizing seeds of forage grasses.

Leonardo Santos from the Federal University of Goiás, Goiânia, Brazil, who was awarded \$300 for his studies on phytonematodes associated with bananas.

Bruno Barbosa from UNESP, Jabotical, SP, Brazil, who was awarded \$200 for his studies on the yield suppression caused by *Pratylenchus brachyurus* and *P. zaeae* to sugarcane.

ONTA TRAVEL AWARDS

Charles Overstreet, chair of the ONTA Foundation Committee informs that three travel awards of \$700 each were kindly sponsored by the ONTA Foundation through the generous gifts from **Rodrigo Rodríguez Kábana** and **Charles Overstreet**.

The following students were awarded:

1) **Iván Castro Lizazo**, from Havana University, Cuba.

2) **Patricia D. Navarro** from University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA.

3) **Angel Ramirez-Suarez** from University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, USA.

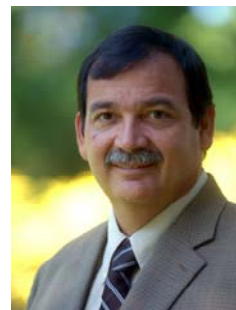
SELECTED PHOTOS OF ONTA AND STUDENT COMPETITION AWARDEES



Forest A. Robinson
Honorary Member Award



Janete A. Brito
Distinguished Service Award



Roberto Vargas-Ayala
Distinguished Service Award



Silimar Ferraz
Special Award



Nicola Greco
Special Award



Emma Zavaleta Mejia
Bayer Crop Science Award



Regina M. D. G. Carneiro
Special Award of Appreciation



Luis A. Payan
Special Award of Appreciation



From the right, Janete Brito,
Lucianie Favoreto
(first prize, student competition),
RosaManzanilla-López

From the right, Leonardo Santos
and Bruno Barbosa 2nd and 3rd
prize winners of the student
poster competition.



ONTA Executive Committee Meeting 2009

This meeting was held at Maceió, Alagoas state (Brazil), 7 October 2009.

Major issue discussed included the following topics:

- 1) **Modification of ONTA Constitution and Operation Manual.** These modifications should reflect the reorganization of ONTA financial system and changes in the modus operandi of the organization. It was proposed to plan a schedule of different activities to be conducted by selected ONTA officials.
- 2) **Term in office for President and Vice President.** It was proposed to extend the length of the term in office of President and Vice President from one year to two years and to organize the society meetings every two years rather than each year. The advantages and disadvantages of this proposal were discussed, but no decision was made on this matter.
- 3) ***Nematropica* online.** The results of the referendum on transforming *Nematropica* from a printed to an online journal were announced. A total of 97 votes were cast and 91% of the votes were in favor of transforming *Nematropica* to an online journal. The concerns and advantages that this change will cause to the journal and the Organization were discussed. It was decided that the online journal will be published on the website of the University of Florida. **Larry Duncan** and **Patricia Stock** are cooperating in implementing this change.
- 4) **ONTA Foundation.** It was mentioned that the ONTA Foundation granted funds to three students to attend the Meeting in Maceió. **Charles Overstreet** was in charge of the Travel Award Grant Committee that selected the students.
- 5) **Results of election for new Vice President.** **Emma Zavaleta Mejía** was declared the winner for the office of Vice President.
- 6) **Next ONTA meeting.** **Jenny Escobar** and **Carmen Triviño** are in charge of the organization of the 42nd Annual Meeting, which will be held in October 2010, in Quito, Ecuador.
- 7) **Future ONTA Meetings.** Invitations to host the 43rd Annual Meeting in 2011 were received from three countries. The invitations were from: **Antonio Bello**, Spain; **Isabel Abrantes**, Portugal; and **Roberto Vargas**, Puerto Rico.
- 8) **Costs for meeting attendance.** The problems faced by ONTA members (especially those from Venezuela) in obtaining travel funds to attend ONTA meeting were pointed out. It was pointed out that the ONTA's membership should be expanded by encouraging nematologists from many countries such as India, Honduras, Colombia, etc. to join the Organization.
- 9) **Official Language in Joint Meetings.** It was suggested that English should be the official language in future joint meetings.

The complete version of the minutes of the EC and the following Business Meetings is 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 "2009/Brazil" and then, "Committee Reports".

IN MEMORIAM...

MICHEL LUC (1927-2010)

Michel Luc died on January 18, 2010, from the sudden progression of an old cancer. His wife, **Mariette**, had died just a few days before and they were both buried in Neuilly sur Seine, near Paris. **Michel** was one of the last of the founding fathers of modern nematology who, after the war, made this field what it has become today.

Michel Luc was born on February 7, 1927 in Tunis (Tunisia). After earning a "*Licence de Sciences naturelles*" in 1948, he was hired at ORSTOM (now called IRD) in 1950.

He began his career as a phytopathologist at Adiopodoumé, near Abidjan (Ivory Coast), where he worked for several years on tropical parasitic fungi. In 1954, he was re-trained as a nematologist with **L. De Coninck, J. W. Seinhorst**, and **M. Oostenbrink**.

In 1955, he returned to the Ivory Coast where he set up the first French tropical nematology laboratory. In 1970, he created a second nematology lab at Bel-Air near Dakar, Senegal. After leaving Africa in 1975, he worked in the *Laboratoire des Vers* of **A.G. Chabaud** at the *Muséum national d'histoire naturelle* in Paris until his retirement in 1992.

After the death of **S.A. Sher**, in 1975, he was invited at the University of California, Riverside for teaching the advanced nematology classes given by that institution. He was also invited by **A. Aeschlimann** at the University of Neuchâtel, in Switzerland, where he gave nematology classes almost every year, a job that earned him the title of *Docteur honoris causa* in 1987. As a scientist, he gained a worldwide reputation with his work on the systematics of plant-nematodes, particularly those in the genus *Xiphinema*, but also Criconematids, Pratylenchids, Heteroderids and other groups. He described many new taxa, but he was a "lumper" at heart and spent considerable energy fighting against the "taxonomic inflation" created by excessive splitting of taxa. In 1987, he led an effort for a complete reorganization of the taxonomy of the order Tylenchida, a work which is still accepted as valid today.

He launched *Revue de Nématologie* in 1978 and he oversaw this journal through its transformation into *Fundamental and Applied Nematology* in 1992 and its fusion with *Nematologica* in 1998 to become the current *Nematology*. He was a member of the Editorial boards of *Nematologia Mediterranea* in 1973-1995 and *Nematologica* in 1973-1998. He was nominated as a Fellow of both SON in 1986 and ESN in 1992 and as a member of the *Académie d'agriculture de France* in 1989. The French government made him a "*Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite*" and an "*Officier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole*" and he received the "*Médaille du mérite ivoirien*" from the hands of President Houphouët-Boigny himself in 1969. He was also made an honorary citizen of the town of Daytona Beach (Florida) in 1966.

His human qualities were every bit as developed as his scientific ones. **Michel Luc** put his exceptional qualities of organizer and administration-handler to the service of the members of his team. As head of lab, he always followed closely the works of the other team members and assured their scientific progress in a strict but benevolent manner. **Michel** oversaw research programs staffed by numerous French and international nematologists including the late **Pierre Baujard** and **Patrick Quénéhervé**. All those he formed and with whom he was able to establish true friendships already miss his strong personality and his imposing stature.

He will be sorely missed by his daughters –**Françoise Luc-Johns** and **Béatrice Weinmann**– his three grand daughters –**Vanessa, Jennifer**, and **Leslie Johns**– and his two great grand children –**Marie** and **Amaury Menard-Durand**, the children of **Vanessa**.

(A more detailed obituary will be published later this year in *Nematology*.)

Prepared by Renaud Fortuner

IN MEMORIAM...

VERNON G. PERRY

Vernon G. Perry, age 88, passed away on February 16, 2010. **Vernon** started his career in Nematology at the USDA, Agricultural Research Service in Sanford, Florida, where he worked with the late **J. R. Christie** from 1949 to 1954. Then he was transferred to Beltsville, Maryland, under the leadership of **Gotthold Steiner** for a year and then transferred to the University of Wisconsin, Madison to open a research center and enroll simultaneously as a Ph.D. student. After he earned his Ph.D. degree in 1958, he was employed by the Entomology and Nematology Department, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville as Professor of Nematology. His duties were to initiate and develop nematology teaching and research programs. He taught courses in nematology, conducted research and guided graduate students.

In joint research with the late **J. R. Christie** they discovered the role of ectoparasitic phytonematodes in suppressing plant growth. He served as Assistant Department Chairman from 1969 to 1975, Acting Chairman for a year and Assistant Dean for Research from 1978 until his retirement in 1986.

Vernon promoted research in tropical nematology beginning with his appointment at the University of Florida. He brought the late **Gerald Thorne** to the University of Florida for one year to teach a course in tropical nematology. In 1968, he co-authored with **Grover Smart** the book "*Tropical Nematology*" by inviting the most outstanding experts in tropical nematode diseases to write specialized chapters dealing with plant-parasitic nematodes in the tropics.

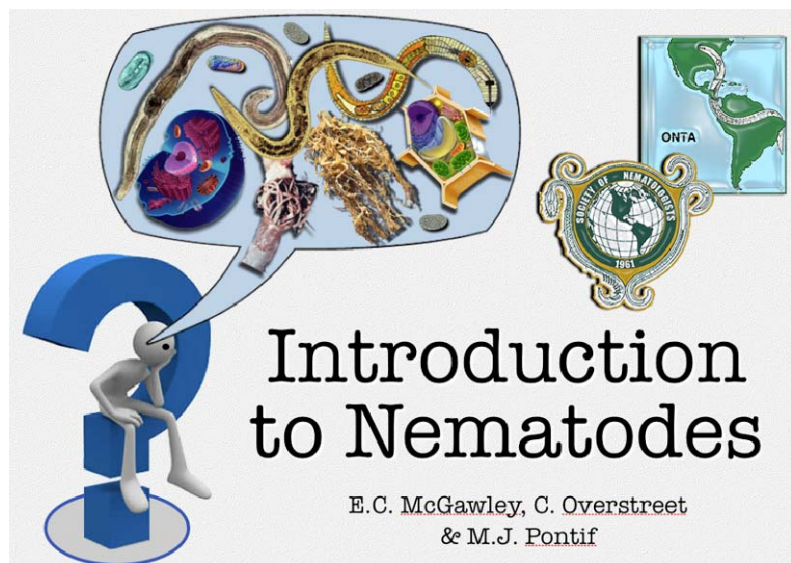
Vernon was a member of ONTA beginning in 1973, and he was influential in bringing graduate students to the University of Florida to study biology, ecology, taxonomy, and management of tropical phytonematodes. He played a significant role in establishing the University of Florida Nematology program including helping hire nematologists **Grover Smart**, **Charles Laughlin** and **Don Dickson**.

Florida nematologists recognize **Vernon Perry** for his excellent pioneering research, his pleasant and kind demeanor, and his availability to help anyone especially graduate students. He will be sorely missed by his family, his colleagues, and his many friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Imogene (Jean)**, and is survived by his two sons, **David** and **Ronald**.

Prepared by **G. Smart, D. Dickson, J. Rich & R. Inserra**

NEMATROPICA

At the International Congress of Tropical Nematology in Brazil, the Executive Committee agreed to transform *Nematropica* into an online journal. In order to facilitate this process, the *Nematropica* Editorial Committee has decided to publish the coming volume 40 of *Nematropica* (2010) as a printed version. During this time, the Editor-in-chief, **Katheryn Lawrence** and the Business Manager, **Janete Brito** will notify *Nematropica*'s subscribers about the decision made by the Executive Committee and ONTA's Members. *Nematropica* 41 (2011) will be the first issue of the journal that will be published as an online only version.



INTRODUCTION TO NEMATODES PRESENTATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

E.C. McGawley, C. Overstreet and M.J. Pontif, nematologists at LSU AgCenter in Baton Rouge, La. have created a Quicktime movie entitled "Introduction to nematodes." This powerhouse presentation offers students, teachers, and even nematologists a fascinating overview of nematodes. Quicktime movies can be played at whatever speed you need providing either intense or cursory study. The movie is packed with hundreds of images as well as

numerous video clips and drawings. The movie is primarily geared toward plant-parasitic nematodes although some information is available about entomogenous nematodes. Topics that are discussed include everything from taxonomy, morphology, sampling, thresholds, disease complexes, habitats and symptoms, extraction, management, to population dynamics. An illustrated key for many of the plant-parasitic nematodes is also included. "Introduction to nematodes" will be a valuable tool for anybody interesting in learning more about these incredible animals, particularly those teaching or taking nematology. The movie will be available online at www.ontaweb.org by the end of May 2010.

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