

ONTA NEWSLETTER

Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America

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

Volume 44, Issue 2

November 2013



A view of Cape Town, South Africa, site of the 6th International Congress of Nematology.



The 6th ICN will be held at the Southern Sun Cape Sun Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa. This Congress is organized by the Nematological Society of South Africa (NSSA) under the

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auspices of the International Federation of Nematological Societies (IFNS). The Congress is a joint meeting of International Nematological Societies (including ONTA) represented in the IFNS. The program of the Congress includes four days of concurrent scientific sessions and one day of field demonstrations in representative agricultural operations of the area. Nematode workshops are also planned. The scientific program is coordinated by the IFNS President **Wilfrida Decraemer** (Belgium), Vice-President **Rosa Manzanilla-López** (UK) and NSSA officers **Mieke Daneels**, **Rinus Knoetze** and **Drieke Fourie**. Program topics include: 1) Animal parasitic nematodes; 2) Biological control of nematodes/biopesticides; 3) Chemical control of nematodes; 4) Entomopathogenic nematodes; 5) Future of nematology, education and training; 6) Genomics and plant-nematode interactions; 7) Industry-related issues; 8) Integrated nematode management; 9) Morphology, taxonomy, phylogeny and classification; 10) Nematodes and soil health; 11) Nematode biodiversity; 12) Nematode interactions; 13) Physiology, biochemistry and behavior of nematodes; 14) Plant resistance and nematode virulence; and 15) Regulatory aspects of plant nematology. Local organizers encourage a large participation of students from all over the world, and they have raised travel funds from many sponsors including the Brazilian Society of Nematologists (SBN), the European Society of Nematologists (ESN), ONTA and the Society of Nematologists (SON). ONTA extends its thanks and appreciation to NSSA president **Shaun Berry**, **Mieke Daneels**, Chairperson of the Congress Committee, and collaborators for organizing the Congress at local level. Further information about the Congress, including registration and accommodation, is available on the Congress website (<http://www.6thicn.com>) and on ONTA's website (<http://www.ontaweb.org>).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1-3** 6th International Congress of Nematology, South Africa, New ONTA Leaders; Report 2013 Meeting, La Serena, Chile.
- 4-7** 2013 ONTA Awardees, Photos, Minutes of the ONTA Executive-Business Committee Meetings.
- 8-14** Plant Health, Nematoda, Clips, ONTA Officers.

ONTA OFFICERS FACING NEW DUTIES

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Paula Agudelo



Paula Agudelo (Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, USA), became ONTA President at the Meeting in La Serena-Coquimbo, Chile, in October 2013. After her involvement in the preparation of the scientific program of the Chilean meeting as Vice-President, she has important issues to solve for the organization. These issues include ONTA activities at the upcoming 6th International Nematology Congress in South Africa (2014), plans for future ONTA meetings in the following years, *Nematropica*, which will be directed by a new editor-in chief, and the ONTA website.

ONTA VICE-PRESIDENT

Larry W. Duncan



Larry W. Duncan (University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, Florida, USA), was elected ONTA Vice-President in 2013. He will become President during the 6th International Nematology Congress in South Africa (2014). **Larry** has been involved in ONTA activities and publication of *Nematropica* for many years. At present, he supervises the on-line publication of the journal. **Larry** will discuss and coordinate with **Paula** new initiatives as well as old issues faced by the organization.

New Members at Large on the Executive Committee



Erwin Aballay (University of Chile, Chile) and **Regina Carneiro** (EMBRAPA, Brazil) have been appointed Members at Large to the Executive Committee (EC) by ONTA President **Paula Agudelo**. **Erwin** has served as ONTA Vice-President and President in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Regina has served on many ONTA Committees and as Member at Large of the EC in 2009. EC members will benefit greatly by their managerial and scientific expertise as well as their insight into the organization.



**Report of the XLV ONTA 2013 MEETING
October 20-25, 2013 ~ La Serena,
Chile**

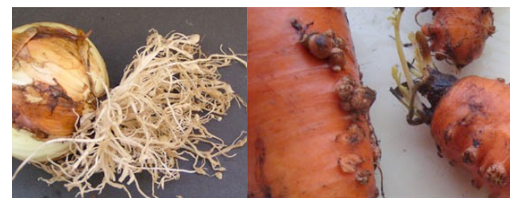
The 45 Annual Meeting was a successful scientific event with the participation of 182 nematologists and agricultural specialists from Chile and other countries of the world. The excellent accommodation provided by the Local Arrangements Committee and the pleasant weather conditions enhanced the success of the meeting. Organizers of the Meeting included: **Erwin Aballay** (Universidad de Chile), Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee (eaballay@uchile.cl), and his collaborators **Paula Agudelo** (Clemson University, USA), **Ingrid Moreno** (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero, SAG, Chile), **Juan C. Magunacelaya** (Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile), **Patricia Navarro** (Universidad de Chile, Chile), **Patricia Meriño**, **Mariela Espinoza**, **Carol Krauss**, **Gloria Peña** (SAG, Chile), **Patricia Flores** (BIOAGRO, Chile), **Hugo Pacheco** (SAG, Chile), **Enrique Tapia** (SAG, Chile), **María Teresa Illesca** (SAG, Chile) and other coordinators including **Rosa Manzanilla-López** (Rothamsted Research, UK), **Janete Brito** (Florida Department of Agriculture, USA), and **Paola Lax** (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina). These individuals are commended for making this meeting possible. The scientific program included eight symposia on different topics such as Education in Nematology, Nematode diversity and biological control, Nematode identification and diagnostics, Nematodes

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of economic importance, Nematodes on potato, Nematodes on turfgrasses, Novel sources for nematode control and Plant defense and nematode effectors. Six contributed sessions were also added to the program. The topics of these sessions included: Biological control, Chemical control, Entomophilic nematodes, Host nematode interactions and resistance, Nematode ecology and Nematode identification and taxonomy. The excellent oral, poster presentations and lectures provided the participants with a wide range of scientific information. The program also included field demonstrations in potato and vegetable crops infested by damaging nematodes. The field excursion was coordinated by **Ingrid Moreno** (SAG, Chile). ONTA members conveyed their appreciation and thanks to **Erwin Aballay** along with his collaborators for the organization of this memorable meeting.



Ingrid Moreno in a visited potato field not infested by potato cyst nematodes (PCN) and maintained under rigorous phytosanitary conditions. Note the protective plastic cover over her shoes to prevent the spread of PCN cysts from infested to non-infested potato fields.



Onion and carrot roots galled by root-knot nematodes and collected from a field infested with these damaging nematodes during the field excursion.

2013 ONTA AWARDEES

The following ONTA members were recognized during the banquet at the 45th ONTA meeting held in La Serena, Chile.

Erwin Aballay (University of Chile, Chile) received a Special Award of Appreciation. **Erwin** was acknowledged for his outstanding managerial skill in organizing the 45th ONTA Annual Meeting.

Emilio Fernández Gonsálvez (Havana University, Cuba) received the Special Award. **Emilio** was recognized for his long standing support of ONTA activities and efforts in teaching and promoting research to improve agricultural production in Cuba.

Pat Donald (United States Department of Agriculture, ARS, Tennessee, USA) received the Distinguished Service Award. **Pat** was recognized for outstanding accomplishment in leading *Nematropica* as editor-in-chief 2010-2013.

Rosa Manzanilla-López (Rothamsted Research, UK) received the Distinguished Service Award. **Rosa** was recognized for outstanding service and continued effort in fostering ONTA activities.

Larry W. Duncan (University of Florida, USA) received the Honorary Member Award. **Larry** was recognized for long and outstanding contributions to ONTA and the science of nematology.

Aurelio Ciancio (Plant Protection Institute, CNR, Italy) and **Howard Ferris** (University of California Davis, USA) received a Citation of Special Recognition. **Aurelio** was recognized for dedicated support of ONTA activities and representing the organization in IFNS. **Howard** was recognized for outstanding achievements in research and teaching on nematode biology, ecology, and sustainable management of damaging pests.

Donald W. Dickson (University of Florida, USA), **Nahum Marbán-Mendoza** (Universidad Autónoma, Chapingo, Mexico) and **Rodrigo Rodríguez Kábana** (Auburn University, USA) were recognized for 50 years of continuous activity and service.

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:

Maria Gabriela Medina-Canales from Carpio & Plan de Ayala National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico, was awarded \$500 for her studies on management of *Meloidogyne* spp. in Mexico using *Pochonia chlamydosporia* var. *mexicana* and a new strain of this beneficial fungus.

Chanté Venter from North-West University, South Africa, was awarded \$300 for her studies on the characterization of resistant traits to *Meloidogyne incognita* in soybean lines.

M. S. A. Pretorius from North-West University, South Africa, was awarded \$200 for his studies on the effect of Vetiver Grass (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*) root exudates on the motility of *Meloidogyne javanica* second-stage juveniles and on their development in tomato roots.

ONTA TRAVEL AWARDS

Charles Overstreet, chair of the ONTA Foundation Committee, informed that two travel awards of \$500 each were kindly sponsored by the ONTA Foundation through generous gifts from **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana** and **Charles Overstreet**. The following students received these awards:

Laura Evangelina García, National University of Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

Anselmo Cabrera Hidalgo, Graduate School, Montecillo Campus, Montecillo, Mexico.

Maria Gabriela Medina-Canales, Carpio & Plan de Ayala National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico DF, Mexico.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ONTA thanks **Michiel Thijssen** from **Brill Academic Publishers**, Leiden, The Netherlands for donating hematological books that are bestowed to the first prize winners of the student poster competition. ONTA greatly appreciates **Michiel Thijssen's** support.

SELECTED PHOTOS OF ONTA AND STUDENT COMPETITION AWARDEES



Erwin Aballay
Special Award of Appreciation



Emilio Fernández Gonsálvez
Special Award



Pat Donald
Distinguished Service Award



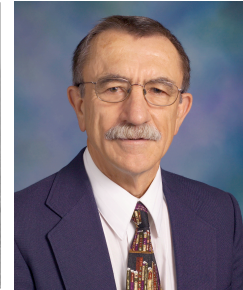
Rosa Manzanilla-López
Distinguished Service Award



Larry W. Duncan
Honorary Member Award



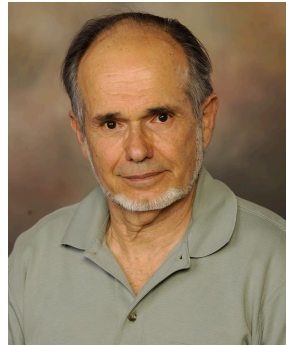
Aurelio Ciancio



Howard Ferris
Citation of Special Recognition



Donald W. Dickson



Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana



Nahúm Marbán-Mendoza

Recognition for Fifty (50) Years of Continuous Service Dedicated to the Science of Nematology



Student Best Poster Competition Ceremony in La Serena, Chile. Note from right to left: Student Anselmo de Jesus Cabrera Hidalgo (Mexico) (travel award winner) and beside him student M.S.A. Pretorius (South Africa) (3rd prize winner), followed in the first row by student Chante' Venter (South Africa) (2nd prize winner) (with a red dress), Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana (USA) (with a jacket in his hand) and Charles Overstreet (USA) (with a white folder in his hands) (ONTA Foundation Director and Chair, respectively). Student Maria G. Medina-Canales (Mexico) (1st prize and travel award winner) is the last lady in the first row on the left.

ONTA Executive Committee Meeting

Venue: Hotel de La Bahía, La Serena (Chile)
21 October 2013

The Executive Committee (EC) meeting started at 7:25 pm. The following members attended: **Soledad Verdejo Lucas** (President), **Paula Agudelo** (Vice President), **Erwin Aballay** (Past President), **Rod Rodríguez-Kábana** (ONTA Foundation), **Rosa Manzanilla-López** and **Nahum Marbán-Mendoza** (Members at Large), **Janete Brito** (Business Manager), **Aurelio Ciancio** (ONTA representative at IFNS), and **Paola Lax** (Secretary).

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. Printed copies of the minutes from the meeting in Cancun (Mexico) were presented to EC members for their revision and approval. Minutes were approved.

Annual reports. Printed versions of annual reports (2012-2013) from EC members and Committees were handed out to the EC members attending the meeting. The President, **Soledad Verdejo Lucas**, thanked the EC members and those of the other committees for their services. She highlighted the outstanding work done by **Julia Meredith** and the members of the Honors and Awards Committee and expressed her appreciation to **Jenny Escobar** for presenting the awards at the Banquet. She also thanked **Pat Donald** for her leadership and exceptional ability shown during her mandate as Editor-in-Chief of *Nematropica*. She welcomed **Terry Kirkpatrick** as new Editor-in-Chief of the journal. She was pleased with the topics included in the scientific

program and by the fact that students were co-chairing many scientific sessions. She added that this initiative motivates students in feeling part of the Organization.

Meeting in La Serena, Chile. **Erwin Aballay**, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, highlighted the work conducted for planning the event during one and a half years. He also indicated that it was difficult to obtain the participation of key-speakers and finalize the scientific program. The cost of the meeting was covered in 30% by sponsors and 70% by registrations. There were 182 participants who submitted 170 abstracts. The revenues obtained made possible the financial support of three speakers to attend the meeting. **Rosa Manzanilla-López** proposed sending an appreciation letter by ONTA to sponsoring institutions.

Nematropica. **Soledad Verdejo** informed that the new Editor-in-Chief, **Terrence Kirkpatrick**, will start his activities in January 2014. **Pat Donald** will finish her mandate in December when volume 43 of the journal will be completed and posted on the web site. **Paula Agudelo** pointed out that she requested to be replaced as editor of the Spanish version of the journal. **Soledad Verdejo** added that there were three potential candidates to take her position (**Graciela Liébanas**, **Sara Sánchez**, **Reyes Peña Santiago**, and **Miguel Talavera**); an email will be sent to them for their response.

Nematropica online. **Janete Brito** indicated that the online version of the journal is operating well thanks to **Larry Duncan**'s supervision. She stated also that the costs of publishing *Nematropica* are covered by membership fees and contributions from sustaining members. However, publication costs have increased making necessary a reduction in publication costs. She added that **Pat Donald** and **Terry Kirkpatrick** are searching for new approaches for lowering these costs. Also, she mentioned that ONTA's financial status is adversely affected by the fact that some members are not current with their annual membership dues and many non-members are submitting manuscripts to *Nematropica*. She emphasized the importance of keeping the membership list up to date with the payment of dues. This updated list should be available to the Editor-in-Chief for verification of the membership status of the authors who submit manuscripts to *Nematropica*. EC members suggested updating frequently the directory on the web site so that each member and the Editor-in-Chief, **Terrence Kirkpatrick**, have access to that updated information. It was agreed that only active members can publish free of charge in the journal.

ONTA website. **Soledad Verdejo** announced that **Cesar Ornat** and **Miguel Talavera** will no longer be managing the Spanish web site. **Janete Brito** suggested having both the English and Spanish versions of the web site on a single server. **Erwin Aballay** indicated that simultaneous translation software might be considered, whereas **Rosa Manzanilla-López** suggested contacting a webmaster from some Latin American university. **Janete Brito** stated she will cooperate with **Terrence Kirkpatrick** in updating the site.

IFNS meeting in South Africa (2014). **Rosa Manzanilla-López** stated that the program was completed in July 2013, including the selection of the session chairs and co-chairs, who will be in charge of inviting the speakers. There will be a total of 15 topics and 4 workshops on cyst-forming nematodes (responsible persons **M. Moens** and **D. Peng**), Hoplolaimidae and Pratylenchidae (responsible person **P. Agudelo**), Industry (responsible person **Bayer representative**), and *Meloidogyne* sp. (responsible persons **J. Brito** and **J. Thies**). In addition, there will be a symposium on various nematological topics organized by students and led by **D. Coyne**, who has contacted sponsors for that event. ONTA will collaborate with the student poster competition and the travel award. **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana** expressed concern about the greater participation of nematologists from Europe and United States compared to that from Latin America. **Rosa Manzanilla-López** pointed out that economic issues play an important role in the participation of nematologists from different geographical areas. Lack of resources in many countries has prevented and prevents many colleagues from attending the congress. **Aurelio Ciancio** emphasized the importance of

seeking sponsors to get funds for scientists lacking resources for attending meetings. **Rosa Manzanilla-López** highlighted that the purpose of the Organizing Committee is to provide financial support to students rather than scientists.

Other issues. **Rosa Manzanilla-López** mentioned the possibility of organizing, in 2016, an ONTA meeting along with the Society of Nematologists (SON), as ONTA did with the Brazilian Nematological Society in 2010.

Janete Brito indicated that during the business meeting, **Leopoldo Hidalgo** will invite ONTA members to meet in Cuba 2015.

Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana mentioned that **Emilio Fernández** wants to include a symposium of nematodes at the 7th International Seminar on Plant Health, which will be held in Cuba in 2014, April 7-11.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Minutes were compiled by Paola Lax (ONTA Secretary).

ONTA Business Meeting

Venue: Hotel de La Bahía, La Serena (Chile)
24 October 2013

ONTA President **Soledad Verdejo-Lucas** called the Business Meeting to order at 5:50 pm. It was attended by members of the Executive Committee (EC) and other Committees. These persons included **Soledad Verdejo-Lucas** (President), **Paula Agudelo** (Vice President), **Erwin Aballay** (Past President), **Janete Brito** (Business Manager), **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana** (ONTA Foundation), **Rosa Manzanilla-López** and **Nahúm Marbán-Mendoza** (Members at Large), **Larry Duncan** (Editor of the electronic version of *Nematropica*), **Aurelio Ciancio** (ONTA representative at IFNS), and **Paola Lax** (Secretary).

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. Printed copies of the minutes from the previous meeting in Cancun, Mexico, were circulated among ONTA members. They were approved by the members present at the Business meeting.

Obituaries. Prestigious nematologists who passed away in 2012 were recognized with a moment of silence to honor their life and achievements in Nematology. These persons included **Karin Gerber** (Austria) and **Luisa Viruliche** (Cuba).

Officers' reports. Printed copies of the annual reports from the Vice President, Treasurer, Business Manager, Secretary, Member at Large, ONTA Foundation, Honors and Awards Committee, Newsletter Editor, Editor in Chief of *Nematropica*, Webpage Committee and Nomination Committee, were circulated among ONTA members present at the business meeting. Those reports will be posted on the Organization's website for consultation.

Vice-President's election. The election of **Larry Duncan** (USA) to the office of Vice-President was confirmed.

Local arrangements. **Erwin Aballay**, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, commented that 182 participants had registered for the event. The funds collected from registration fees covered 70% of the expenses, and the remaining amount was obtained by contributions of sponsors. There were not sufficient funds for simultaneous translation.

Nematropica online. The president informed that the June 2012 issue was uploaded on the web site. The December issue will be posted when the Editor-in-Chief, **Pat Donald**, completes her term. In January 2014, **Terrence Kirkpatrick** will replace **Pat** as the new journal Editor. The need to appoint a new Editor for the Spanish version to replace **Paula Agudelo** was also mentioned. Several candidates will be consulted for her replacement. The need to be an active ONTA member and up to date with the membership fee in order to publish manuscripts free of charge in *Nematropica* was also stressed.

IFNS meeting in South Africa (2014). Representatives of the Organizing Committee of the 6th International Congress of Nematology, **Friede Drieke** and **Mieke Daneel**, handed out leaflets and brochures about the Congress to the members. Funds will be available for travel and accommodation expenses of a number of students, especially from undeveloped countries. The program will include different sessions, posters, workshops (on root-knot, cyst forming and other plant-parasitic nematodes of major economic importance), and an award ceremony. It was pointed out that the important dates for registration, abstract submission, payments of hotel accommodation and reservation for pre- and post-congress tours are posted on the congress website (<http://www.6thicn.com>).

Next ONTA Meeting. **Leopoldo Hidalgo** proposed Cuba as the host country for the 2015 meeting. The organizing Committee members include **Mayra Rodríguez** (Chair), **Leopoldo Hidalgo**, **Emilio Fernandez** and **Jesús Mena**. The meeting will be held in Varadero on May 17-23, 2015; the hotel has still not been selected. He also suggested a draft program. The meeting will be conducted along with the International Seminar of Plant Health. The president, Soledad Verdejo, invited all members present to vote whether or not they agreed with the proposal. It was approved by the majority of members.

Other issues. **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana** indicated that ONTA will cooperate with the organizers of the 6th International Nematology Congress in South Africa by providing funds for the Student Poster competition and Travel Awards. **Janete Brito** stressed that it would be necessary to ask other societies for cooperation in the poster competition. **Friede Mieke** stated that she had consulted other nematological societies and was waiting for their answers. **Charles Overstreet** proposed defining the criteria for poster evaluation beforehand because there may be great differences among the presented works.

After all business had been presented, **Soledad Verdejo** welcomed the new President, **Paula Agudelo**, who will replace her in leading the Organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

Minutes were compiled by Paola Lax (ONTA Secretary).

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON PLANT HEALTH

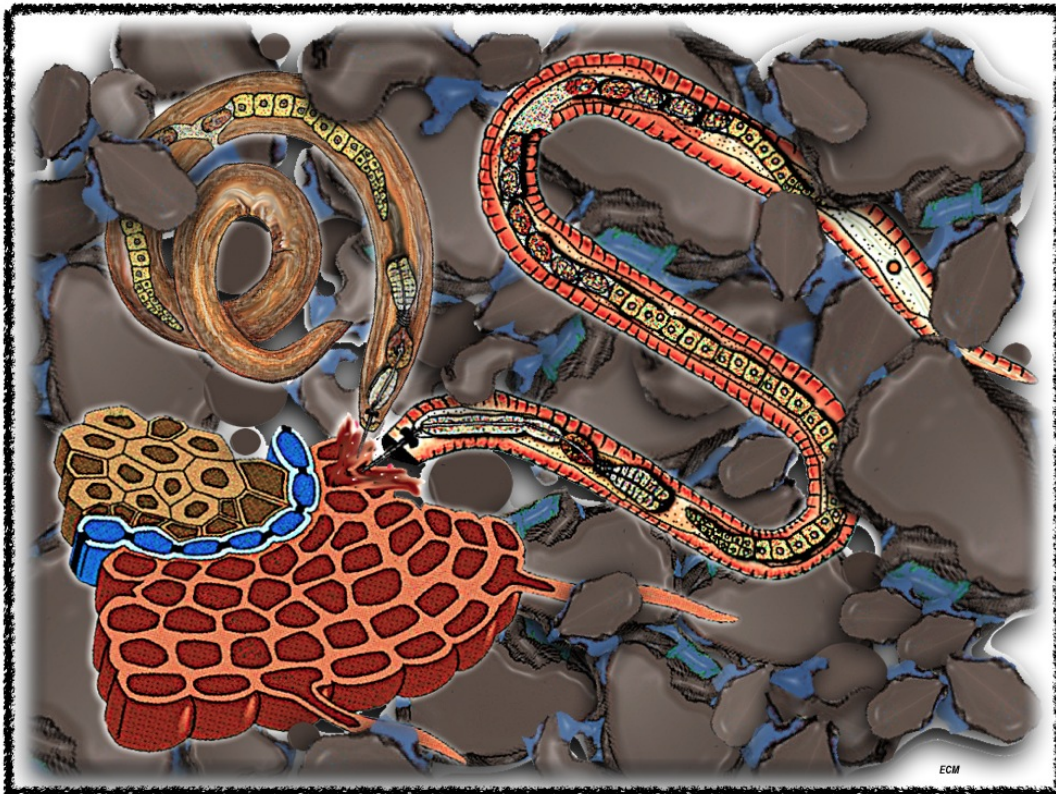
Emilio Fernandez, Plant Health Research Institute (INISAV), Havana, Cuba informs that the 7th International Seminar on Plant Health will be held at the International Conference Center, Havana, Cuba, on April 7-11, 2014. He is organizing a session on plant parasitic nematodes for that event.

NEMATODA – A New Nematological Journal from Brazil

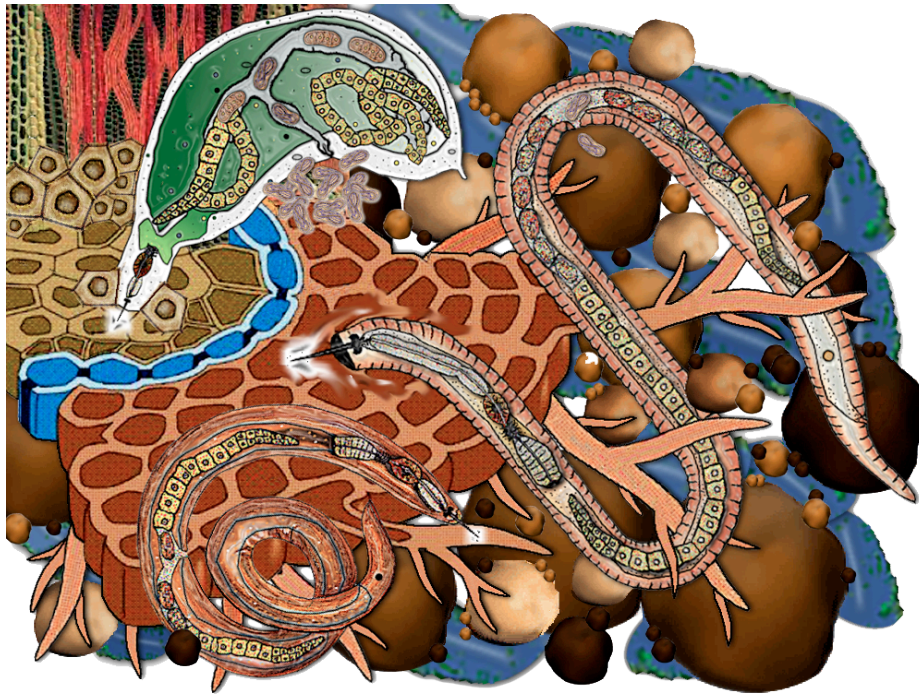
In the latest issue of SBN News, the President of the Brazilian Society of Nematologists (SBN), **Ricardo Moreira de Souza**, informs that the Journal **Nematologia Brasileira** will no longer be published. It will be replaced in 2014 by a new online journal titled **Nematoda**. This new journal will publish only nematological articles written in English. Brazilian nematologists should publish articles written in Portuguese in other Brazilian journals or in international journals, such as **Nematropica**, which accept manuscripts written in Portuguese.

THE WORLD OF NEMATODES

by **Ed McGawley** (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA)



From the left, a pin and a stunt nematode surrounded by soil particles and feeding on the cortical parenchyma of a feeder root (seen in cross section).



From the left, reniform (top), pin (bottom) and a stunt (right) nematode feeding on the stelar and cortical tissues of a feeder root (seen in cross section). Nematodes and roots are surrounded by soil particles and mycorrhizal vesicles.



Holiday Season cards from Ed McGawley and his colleagues, Nema lab, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USA).

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