

ORGANIZATION OF NEMATOLOGISTS OF TROPICAL AMERICA ONTA NEWSLETTER http://www.ontaweb.org/ May 2019

51st ONTA ANNUAL MEETING SAN JOSE (COSTA RICA)



Fig. 1. San Jose at night

The Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA) and the ONTA Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee greets you and cordially invites you to participate in the 51st (LI) ONTA Annual meeting to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 21 to 25 July 2019. Costa Rica is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world; it contains about 5% of the world's species. The lush wild natural environment can be experienced throughout the country. Costa Rica is a safe paradise providing visitors with a tranquil setting for their stay. It is one of the few countries in the world with no army. Costa Rica offers dreamlike landscapes, kind people willing to share their culture and a safe country to experience natural wonders.

The capital San Jose (Fig. 1) hosts most government services, but other provincial capitals – Alajuela, Heredia and Cartago – offer a number of commercial and quality tourism services.

The Central Valley has two areas of extraordinary beauty that are notable tourist



Fig. 2. Coffee plantation

destinations: Turrialba and the Valley of the Saints. Rural villages offer great scenic beauty and a glimpse of Costa Rica's past with adobe houses, large coffee plantations, mills and dairy farms (Fig. 2).

San Jose, Central Valley offers a variety of cultural and natural attractions, including the best museums in the country: Gold, Jade, National, Costa Rican Art, La Salle Natural Sciences, Insects at the University of Costa Rica, Contemporary Arts & Design and Children's, among others. Also, the architectural jewel of Costa Rica, the National Theatre, is located here.

National parks located in the Central Valley protect the region's primary volcanoes: Poás, Braulio Carrillo, Irazú and Turrialba, all of which have transport and viewing infrastructure allowing visitors to enjoy the birds, landscapes, craters and forests. If you would like to know more about San Jose and the other tourist attractions of Costa Rica, please visit the Instituto Costarricense de

Turismo	website
(www.visitcostarica.com/en/costa-rica)).

Local Arrangements Committee

We want to offer you all an attractive scientific program in Nematology in addition to social activities and a field trip that will make your visit to Costa Rica an unforgettable experience. The meeting program will include: a welcome cocktail, symposia, technical presentations, banquet, and a one day tour. Please visit the ONTA website of the meeting (www.onta2019.com) where you can find all relevant meeting details such as dates deadlines, registration fee, abstracts submissions, hotel, program, etc.

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is chaired by Fabio Chaverri Fonseca, from Universidad Nacional (fabio.chaverri.fonseca@una.cr) with the support of other ONTA members in Costa Rica.

Wyndham San Jose Herradura Hotel



Fig. 3. Hotel Wyndham San Jose Herradura facilities

strongly recommend using the main hotel, not only for the special meeting rate, excellent conference facilities, location, and restaurants, but because Costa Rica has a big problem with traffic jams.

The ONTA annual meeting will be held at the Wyndham **San Jose Herradura Hotel and Convention Center**, a five star destination (Fig. 3), just 12 km from San Jose and 5 km from Juan Santamaria international airport. There are other optional hotels nearby, but we

Technical Program Committee

The Scientific Program is being organized by the LAC (Fig. 4), with support of ONTA Vice-President Dr Martín Augusto Delgado Junchaya (mdelgadoj@upao.edu.pe). The preliminary technical program includes: Oral Paper Sessions, Symposia, Key note Lecture, Poster Session and a Technical Field Trip.

Registration Rates

Before 17 May 2019

Members = US\$545.00

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Non ONTA members = US\$645.00 Students = US\$300.00

After 17 May 2019

Members = US\$595.00 Non ONTA members = US\$695.00 Students = US\$350.00

Travel:

Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO)

Visas: Please check if you will require a visa and how long will it take to be granted in your country.

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Fig. 4. 'Carreta' (painted wagon) Costa Rica's national symbol of work

From the ONTA Newsletter Editor

Dear ONTA Members,

It was in 2006 that Costa Rica last hosted an ONTA Annual meeting and next July we will meet again in San Jose for our 51st ONTA Annual Meeting (21-25 July). Meetings bring always memories of those who paved the way to allow nematology to establish and grow in the Americas. We have mentioned before the importance of the strong impetus given during the second half of the twentieth century by European and North American countries to Nematological research in Latin America (ONTA Newsletter vol. 47 issues 1, 2). Nematological studies in 1960s had already started in various Latin American countries many of which were represented by their delegates, including Manuel Jiménez from Costa Rica, at the first scientific meeting of ONTA in November 1968 (Sarasota, Florida, USA). Since then, nematologists such as Roger López Chavez (Fig. 5) and many others have played an important role in nematological training and research in Costa Rica.



Fig.5. Roger López Chaves (left) and Joe Sasser (right). Courtesy of Alejandro Esquivel H.

Many advances in our understanding of the banana nematodes and their management have been obtained in Latin America and the Caribbean. Nowadays, most of the research is still conducted in Costa Rica

and the French Antilles (Manzanilla-López et al., 2006). In Costa Rica, biological and management studies on banana nematodes have been conducted at the National Banana Corporation (CORBANA) and Chiquita Brands by nematologists such as Gustavo Fallas and Mario Araya, amongst others (Fig. 6A, B). However, the development of resistant banana varieties, not only to black Sigatoka and Fusarium oxysporum races but to the burrowing and lesion nematodes, remains a major challenge. More recently, biological control of diseases caused by nematodes and other soil borne pathogens is the subject of ongoing research involving different national research institutions (e.g., CORBANA), private laboratories, small and medium (SMES or 'PYMES') that are pioneering biological control agents and biological products enterprises (Fig. 6C-E). Last year, thanks to the MUSA 2020 project (ONTA Newsletter Vol. 48, issues 2) and Dr Luis Pocasangre (Fig. 6B, F), I had a unique opportunity to visit some glasshouses growing organic aromatic herbs and soft fruits where biological products are used to control pests and diseases (Fig. 6E), and also to meet colleagues Xiomara Mata Granados (Fig. 6G, working on nematology related projects such as biological control of nematodes at the Technological Institute of Costa Rica, and Alcides Sánchez-Monge (Fig. 6H), School of General Studies (EEG) and Research Center in Cellular and Molecular Biology (CIBCM) of the University of Costa Rica. In addition to his teaching work, Alcides collaborates with projects on diversity and ecology of free-living taxa and identification of some pest species.

Nematology in Costa Rica has diversified to include studies of agro- and native ecosystems biodiversity; hence, in this ONTA Newsletter issue, we have the privilege of an invited contribution prepared by our ONTA colleagues to tell us more about the history of Costa Rican nematology. Enjoy!

Best wishes,

Rosa



Fig. 6A. Gustavo Fallas (center). Courtesy of Alejandro Esquivel H.



Fig. 6C. Front row: Dr Jorge A. Sandoval, Research director (CORBANA). Back row from left to right: Drs Luis Lopez-Llorca, Aurelio Ciancio, Javier López Cepero



Fig. 6E. Glasshouse culturing of aromatic herbs



Fig.6G. From left to right: Mayra Rodríguez, Rosa H. Manzanilla-López and Xiomara Mata Granados (Costa Rica Technological Institute)



Fig. 6B. From right to left (Luis Pocasangre Enamorado, Rosa H. Manzanilla-López, Mario Araya



Fig. 6D. Biological control products



Fig. 6F. Luis Pocasangre Enamorado



Fig. 6H. Alcides Sánchez-Monge, School of General Studies (EEG), Research Center in Cellular and Molecular Biology (CIBCM) Costa Rica University

History of Nematology In Costa Rica

M.Sc. Alejandro Esquivel Hernández Retired Professor Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica

Unlike what happened in the United States with Nathan Augustus Cobb or Johanes Govertus de Man in Europe, who promoted research and teaching in nematology since the mid-19th century, Costa Rica had to wait longer to take the first steps in this scientific discipline. We can affirm that the history of nematology in our country begins with Dr Luis Ángel Salas at the University of Costa Rica (Fig. 7). Dr. Salas was a visionary of the teaching of Agronomy and was concerned to incorporate specialized courses in the study program of the University. In the 1940s he specialized in entomology at the "Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas", and later took specialized courses in acarology and nematology at the University of California (Berkeley), the University of Florida (Gainesville) and the Netherlands. Dr Salas was a full professor of Nematology between 1969 - 1985.



Fig. 7. Dr Salas in the Laboratory of Entomology, Acarology and Nematology of the Agronomy School (previously Plant Breeding School) of Costa Rica (Picture courtesy of Agronomy Faculty, UCR. (Alejandro Esquivel H.)

His work as a teacher and researcher, influenced several generations of students of the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Costa Rica. One of them was **Roger López Chaves** who later received his doctorate in nematology at the University of Florida. Dr López Chaves (Fig. 5), a professor at the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Costa Rica, had a successful and prolific job as a teacher and researcher. Among the most relevant scientific contributions is the description of several new species for science: Meloidogyne salasi (new species named in honor of Dr Luis Ángel Salas), M. arabicida, Paratrophurus costarricensis and Pratylenchus gutierrenzi. He also mentored many students who finished their final graduation research work in the area of nematology. The development of Nematology was strengthened with the incorporation of Eng. Luis Salazar Figueroa (Fig. 8) to the Nematology Laboratory of the University of Costa Rica, the contributions of Eng. Adrián Figueroa Morera, head of the nematology section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and Dr Nahum Marbán Mendoza (Fig. 9), international expert who was linked to CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center) for more than a decade. He had among his responsibilities the development of the Phytonematology course within the Integrated Pest Management program. He was a teacher, researcher and mentor to several students of the master's program in that house of studies, contributing not only to train national personnel but also at a Latin American level.



Fig. 8. Luis Salazar Figueroa

Currently, the Nematology Laboratory of the University of Costa Rica, has two nematologists, M.Sc. Lorena Flores Chaves (Fig. 10) and Dr Danny Humphreys Pereira (Fig. 11), who specialized in Washington State University in the United States. Both nematologists together with other specialists described the species M. lopezi in honor of Dr Roger López Chaves. In this laboratory, morphological and molecular characterizations phytoparasitic of the main nematodes associated with various crops such as pepper, tall fruit trees, tropical roots and tubers, vegetables (potato, tomato, sweet pepper, onion and carrot) and Musacea are carried out. They are also studying the biology and taxonomy of cyst-forming nematodes in the country and the interactions between hosts and nematodes. The laboratory provides a service quantification and identification of of nematodes to the national producer and is a reference in this service.



Fig. 9. Front row: Nahum Marbán-Mendoza and Luis Bello. Fabio Chaverri (third right, back row)



Fig. 10. From right to left: Eng. Mainor Rojas (ICAFE Costa Rica, M.Sc. Fabio Chaverri (IRET, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica), M.Sc.

Lorena Flores (Nematología, Universidad de Costa Rica), Carlos Mario Rodríguez (Director Global Agronomy Starbucks), Ing. Orlando Mora (Starbucks Corporation), Eng. Léster Núñez (Nematología Universidad de Costa Rica)



Fig. 11. Danny Humphreys Pereira

The School of Agrarian Sciences (ECA) of the National University of Costa Rica began its academic work in 1974 and virtually, from its inception, the teaching of Nematology was linked to the curriculum. However, in those years, the lack of a properly equipped laboratory for nematological research, the lack of economic resources, as well as qualified personnel and the lack of international links limited research in this field. In 1995 the M.Sc. Alejandro Esquivel H. (Fig. 12), disciple of Dr Roger López, professor of the ECA, and with a speciality in nematology, received an invitation from the National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio) to participate in a series of workshops with scientists of great international importance in the field of nematology. The purpose of these meetings was to develop the human and logistic capacity to carry out an inventory of the nematofauna in five Conservation areas of Costa Rica. We can say with all truthfulness, implications of this project, that the significantly promoted the knowledge of the Costa Rican nematofauna and was the trigger for the development of a nematology

laboratory in the ECA of international projection.

collaboration of The renowned scientists consolidated the foundation and lines of research that were developed for many years. In 1997, M.Sc. Alejandro Esquivel travelled to the University of Wageningen, The Netherlands, where he received intensive training in the identification of free-living nematodes to start the inventory of nematodes in Costa Rica, a project that was consolidated through a joint agreement between the National University and the INBio with government of the funding from the Netherlands. Through international cooperation, the nematology laboratory has described more than 50 new species for science and has one of the largest free-living nematode reference collections in Latin America. From its beginnings in 1997 to the present, the ECA Nematology Laboratory is a world reference in the knowledge of neotropical nematofauna and is internationally recognized. Currently, the Nematology laboratory continues to conduct high-level research, maintains the search for external funds for research, the permanent link with international experts and participates in international forums. In the field of teaching, the ECA offers since 1992 a specialized Nematology course for students of the career of Agricultural Engineering, supports students of the ECA and other academic units interested in developing their graduation research projects in the area of nematology. Through the sale of services, it supports small and medium producers as well as agricultural companies that require advice in this field. The laboratory was founded by M.Sc. Alejandro Esquivel in 1996 and currently the person in charge is Eng. Walter Peraza Padilla, who has focused his research efforts on the families Longidoridae and Criconematidae.

The history of Nematology in Costa Rica is still being written and, personally, I visualize a very promising future. A new generation of professionals with a speciality in nematology has been incorporated in recent years into different public and private institutions in Costa Rica. The School of Agronomy of the University of Costa Rica, the School of Agrarian Sciences of the National University, the School of Agronomy of the Technological Institute of Costa Rica, the School of Agriculture of the Humid Tropical Region (EARTH) and the National Banana Corporation (CORBANA) have specialized laboratories of Nematology and professionals with specialization in this scientific discipline. The TEC Nematology Laboratory, recently created by M.Sc. Ingrid Varela (currently finishing his doctorate in nematology at the University of Jaén, Spain), has contributed to the description of several new species for science. Dr Luis Pocasangre at EARTH (Fig. 6B, F) has focused his research on the study of endophytic bacteria and fungi for the biologic control of phytoparasitic nematodes. The CORBANA nematology laboratory focuses on providing routine analysis and monitoring of nematode populations in banana plantations. This situation that we have today at the national level, will allow the country to continue giving important steps and contributions beloved to our scientific discipline.



Fig. 12. Alejandro Esquivel Hernández

Longidorids ongoing research of the Nematology laboratory at National University (UNA), Costa Rica



Fig. 13. Walter Peraza Padilla

In 2015, M.Sc. **Walter Peraza-Padilla** (Fig. 13), who is in charge of the laboratory of Nematology of the UNA, began an investigation with the objective of identifying the main species of nematodes of the family Longidoridae associated with agricultural

crops in Costa Rica. After three years of study, the taxonomic and molecular identification of the Costa Rican Xiphinema species, X. krugi, *X. setariae* and *Longidorus laevicapitatus*, was achieved. Results of such investigation were published by the European Journal of Plant Pathology. Likewise, in collaboration with M.Sc. Ingrid Varela of the Technological of Costa Rica (TEC) the identification of two new species for science was achieved, X. tica n. sp and X. poasense n. sp. We are currently in the process of identifying and publishing a third new species. We want to thank Dr Pablo Castillo of the Institute of Sustainable Agriculture (IAS) of Cordoba, Spain for his invaluable cooperation in the execution and results of this project.

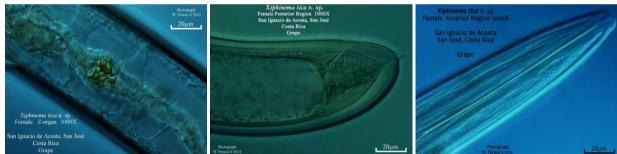


Fig. 14A: Xiphinema tica n. sp., female Z-organ

Fig. 14B: Xiphinema tica *n. sp., female posterior end*

Fig. 14C: Xiphinema tica *n. sp., female anterior region*

From the ONTA President

Greetings fellow ONTA members,

I hope you are making plans for the 51st reunion meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica (July 21-25 2019) and have registered, submitted abstract. and made vour hotel vour reservations. The local arrangements committee has done an outstanding job of preparing a complete and informative website (ONTA2019.com) for the meeting. A11 aspects of the scientific and recreational activities are beautifully detailed in both Spanish and English. The local arrangements committee deserves an extra pat-on-the-back for their efforts. I think we will certainly have a productive and informative meeting of ONTA again this year.

I am currently in Japan for a month visiting colleagues working on Pinewood nematode. Dr Ryoji Shinya and his students at Meiji University in Tokyo (Fig. 15) are working on sexuality and methods of culturing *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* and evidence of hermaphroditism and sex ratio distortion in the fungal feeding nematode *Bursaphelenchus okinawaensis*. I have given several seminars at the university on my work at LSU and have had the opportunity to visit individually with Dr Shinya's 20 students (you read correctly, 20 students). See the picture with this note Dr Shinya is on the extreme left (Fig. 16).

In Kyoto, at the Terrestrial Microbiology lab of Kyoto University, I will be hosted by my long-time friend and colleague, Dr Yuko Takeuchi. She works on insect vector relationships with Pinewood nematode. Dr Takeuchi is an excellent nematologist and has visited my lab and become a big "LSU Sports" fan. I have brought many LSU sports souvenirs with me to distribute in Japan. You can never have too many "Tiger Fans!"

Also in Kyoto, I had the opportunity to visit the lab of Dr Hideaki Iwahori at Rvukoku University. I saw his Pinewood nematode field trial evaluating a new avermectin-based material from Syngenta for control of the Pinewood nematode and presented a seminar on "Introduction Nematodes" to and "Reniform nematode." The second photo was taken in the lab of Dr Iwahori (Iw on shirt). Dr Takeuchi (Ta on shirt) from Kyoto University was also present and, as always, is acting as my translator and tour guide.

Until Costa Rica, I say SAYOUNARA,

Ed McGawley



Fig. 15. Ed and students at Meiji University in Tokyo, Japan



Fig. 16. Ed and students at Meiji University in Tokyo, Japan. Dr Shinya is on the extreme left.

From the ONTA Vice-President



Fig. 17. Martín Delgado Junchaya

Dear ONTA members,

Regarding the organization of our LI Annual Meeting, the recently news, obtained from our colleague Fabio Chaverri Fonseca, indicate that we have closed the reception of papers and the scientific committee is reviewing the abstracts.

Details of the Program are also being adjusted, which, as usual, basically comprises:

- Welcome Cocktail
- 2 Magisterial talks
- 5 symposia (crops, diversity and systematics, biological control and integrated management, genomics and chemical control of nematodes)

- Oral Presentations
- Poster Session
- Stands Area
- ONTA business meeting,
- Presidential reception (only by invitation)
- Awards Ceremony (Poster Competition) and Recognitions
- Gala Dinner
- Field tour to the **Tarrazú area** (coffee, integrated management of nematodes)

The options for **post-congress tours** are already defined. There are various tours choices (from 1 or several days) and include: **Adventure tours, City tours, Volcanoes, Beaches, etc.** Each person, with his or her companion(s), can book the tour you want on our website www.onta2019.com

The Local Committee, led by Fabio Chaverri, with the successful advice of our colleague Alejandro Esquivel and Local arrangements Committee members, will meet next Friday May 3 to define the Program, after having reviewed the total of the presentations.

I am looking forward meeting you personally in San Jose, Costa Rica, on July 21,

Sincerely,

Martín Delgado Junchaya Vice President ONTA 2018-2019

ONTA OFFICERS FACING NEW DUTIES

ONTA FOUNDATION, INC.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

New Chairman of the Foundation

Charles Overstreet (Fig. 18), Prof in the Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University retired from his active duty at the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service after serving in this capacity for almost 40 years. Charles has decided to discontinue his service as Chairman of the ONTA Foundation. The Directors of the Foundation have elected **Janete A. Brito** as new Chairman of the Foundation. The New Board of the Foundation is represented by the following directors:

- Janete Brito, Registered Agent and President of the Board
- Johan Desaeger, Director and Treasurer
- Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana, Director

- Larry Duncan, Director
- Alejandro Esquivel-Hernández, Director
- Lee Simmons, Director

Janete Brito (Fig. 19) is a member ONTA Executive Committee serving the organization in the capacity of Business Manager of *Nematropica*. She has been involved with the activities of the Foundation for longer than a decade as one of the directors of the Foundation. Her outstanding managerial skills make Janete a very effective Chair of the Board of the Foundation.

Renato Inserra





Fig. 18. Charles Overstreet

Fig. 19. Janete A. Brito

MINUTES ONTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 19, 2018, Hotel Libertador, Arequipa Peru

ATTENDING: Deb Neher (President), Ed McGawley (Vice President/Incoming President), Martín Delgado (Vice President), Renato Inserra (Treasurer); Julia Meredith (Interim Secretary), Janete Brito (Business Manager Nematropica), Rosa Manzanilla-López (Newsletter Editor; Nominations), Larry Duncan (ONTA Web), Aurelio Ciancio (IFNS), Javier Franco (Local Arrangements), Charles Overstreet (ONTA Foundation).

Ignacio Cid del Prado (Education) joined at 8:45 PM.

President Deb Neher called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Julia Meredith presented a brief update about secretarial activities and difficulties encountered in recuperating and merging membership files and dues payments. She indicated that membership information is current, and an incoming secretary will have accurate data. The Nominations Committee can proceed to contact candidates for this office.

Deb presented ONTA's flag to Martín for display during the meeting.

Renato spoke about ONTA finances. He reported that Julia and Carolina Cedano (LAC) had informed him that ONTA's cost for the meeting was covered. He continued with information relating to Nematropica, noting that ONTA's financial situation is in good standing at the moment because the organization received substantial contributions from sustaining members.

Janete Brito said the charge per manuscript is U\$120.00 and publication cost is going down. There is a fixed charge for the table of contents. She said there was a quick turn around with manuscripts and that revision of Brazilian manuscripts was going well. Brent Sipes and Cathy Howard were working well together, and Terry Kirkpatrick will continue to advise if needed. *Nematropica* was given top priority a year ago.

Ed informed the group that average time from submission to publication is 8 months. He said there is a problem in finding reviewers and that, in general, editors of all journals are experiencing this difficulty. An editor needs a list of reviewers and perhaps also an author could suggest reviewers.

Further discussion of *Nematropica* showed that if members pay a flat fee per manuscript, they expect judicious expedition of it. Authors will not want to publish in journals that charge when they can publish at no charge in others. Rosa pointed out the need for shorter time for publication. She mentioned the impact factor of the journal and that perhaps it should consider changing to English only.

There needs to be an Ad Hoc Committee for ONTA's Constitution and Amendments that will incorporate the use of electronic communications and Email ballots, the establishment of a Liaison Committee with ONTA Foundation, elimination of country representatives except as requested by the President or Secretary to facilitate communication. Rosa indicated that some modifications and revisions have already been formulated.

Rosa and Deb emphasized the importance of recruiting new people for the organization. Janete suggested that perhaps if we follow up with students, they can contribute. Rosa proposed we follow up especially with student winners. Aurelio said it is hard to have one unified approach because of country diversity. Rosa suggested that maybe a Student Committee incorporating students could help. Aurelio considers that ONTA cannot rely on students alone to increase its membership numbers, citing again the diversity of countries and circumstances.

Larry reported that he will work on improving ONTA's website and that Julia had also voiced interest in this topic. He has some ideas he would like to implement after his work on the IFNS site. If Pay Pal can be used for ONTA membership and perhaps even ONTA Foundation, Renato can eliminate Elavon, the present system used for processing credit cards, and the cost to ONTA would be significantly less.

Ed handed out a list of suggestions to be taken into consideration by the organizing committees of future meetings. As incoming President, he promised that ONTA will continue to serve the science of Nematology and provide mentorship. He will look into establishing an Education Committee and a Membership Committee. Ignacio Cid del Prado spoke about the importance of this committee and its possible activities. The meeting concluded with discussion about the Education Committee. Julia Meredith

Interim Secretary



Fig. 20. Julia Meredith

2019 ONTA AWARDS CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF AWARD CANDIDATES

The Honors and Awards Committee of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America is now accepting proposals for candidates for ONTA Awards to be given in 2019. If you wish to recommend an award candidate you must provide:

Name of the candidate to receive the award
Type of award. You may chose from: a)
Honorary Member Award, b) Distinguished
Service Award, c) Special Award, d)
Appreciation Award, e) Extraordinary Service
in Nematology, f) Industry Award (under consideration).

3) Biographical sketch of candidate explaining why the candidate merits consideration for the award specified, and meets the minimum requirements for the award (see list below).

4) Clarity and precision. No more than one candidate for any given award, and no more than one award for any given person is allowed, with the exception of the Appreciation Award and the Award for Extraordinary Service in Nematology, which may be presented to more than one person per year when requirements are met.

Important note: All candidates must meet requirements stipulated in the list on the next page.

Minimum Requirements for Specific ONTA Awards

a) Honorary Member

This is the highest award that ONTA may bestow an individual. To receive the award, the person must have made long and outstanding contributions to the Organization, the Science of Nematology, or both. Honorary Members are selected when deemed appropriate and do not have to be awarded annually. To maintain the integrity of this award, it is preferable that only one Honorary Member be chosen during any one year. b) Distinguished Service Award

This award is reserved for presentation to members who have made outstanding contributions to ONTA. Years of dedicated service and types of service to ONTA should be considered when bestowing this award upon a member. This award is not required to be given each year but only when appropriate. of Outgoing Editor Recognition of Nematropica: The Editor of Nematropica traditionally receives a Distinguished Service Award for the time, effort and coordination dedicated to Journal activities. unless otherwise determined by the H&A or Executive Committee.

c) Special Award

This award is presented only intermittently to the following classes of individuals: 1) those who have worked in Nematology even under conditions of extreme hardship; 2) those individuals who have provided extraordinary services to ONTA (e.g. Treasurer, Secretary, etc.); and 3) other persons for outstanding accomplishments as deemed from time to time appropriate by the Committee.

d) Appreciation Awards

From time to time, on occasion, it may be appropriate that ONTA recognizes an individual for a specific, one-time, outstanding and valuable contribution to the organization. This award may be a special award of recognition or a citation for the contribution. The choice of a plaque, diploma, or other type of recognition may be selected. This award category gives the H&A Committee the ability to design unique recognition appropriate to individuals or contributions.

e) Extraordinary Service in Nematology

This award has the purpose of recognizing ONTA members that have worked in

nematology for 50 or more years. It is bestowed when there are ONTA members that have attained this status. Recipients must be a member of ONTA and meet the requirement of at least 50 years involved in nematological work.

f) ONTA Industry Award (under consideration for first presentation in 2019)

This award is to be presented annually to any active ONTA member making outstanding contributions to the Science of Nematology, with particular attention given to research that has had a major impact on managing plant parasitic nematodes, or the utilization of nematodes beneficial organisms as in agriculture. The expectation is for the award to include a monetary component, for use by the recipient personally or in their research, at the discretion of the sponsoring corporation, and the title would be flexible and changeable to enable recognition of the sponsor.

Please send your proposal by e-mail to Forest Robinson <<u>RobinsonONTA@gmail.com</u>>

DEADLINE for proposal submission: JUNE 1, 2019.



Fig. 21. Forest Robinson

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING!

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS

In Memoriam Dr Francesco Roca (1944-2019)

We are sad to report that Dr. Francesco Italo Roca (Fig. 22, opposite column), researcher at the Institute of Sustainable Plant Protection (former Istituto di Nematologia Agraria) of the National Research Council of Italy, passed away peacefully at his home in Italy, on March 3, 2019.

Francesco was born in Alessano, Apulia, on March 26th, 1943. He completed his studies and received his doctoral degree in Plant pathology at the Agricultural Science Faculty of the University of Bari in 1970. After serving under the Italian Army, he started his career as a nematologist supported by a CNR grant followed, on August 1st, 1974 by a permanent position contract at the former Laboratorio di Nematologia Agraria of CNR, located in Bari, Italy. After a short stage at Dundee, UK, he later spent the rest of his career at Bari.

The main interests and objectives that Francesco followed during his long lasting nematological research mainly involved the nematode vectors of plant viruses and the taxonomy of Longidoridae and Trichodoridae. He has been largely recognized as one of the most outstanding authorities in the taxonomy of *Xiphinema* and *Longidorus* species, a result he achieved through a formidable although sometimes difficult work, that lasted for more than four decades.

His endeavour led him to investigate the links between transmitted viruses and hosts evolution, a starting approach that later oriented his research towards the nematode taxonomy and the characterization and description of several species new for science. His nematode descriptions were always detailed, correlated by rich and exhaustive iconographic data and tables. Francesco was in fact convinced that research is a mission for the benefit of society, and for that it must be widely accessible and based on sound, trustable and reproducible data. In this view, he never stepped back whenever other researchers addressed him for a technical or

scientific suggestion or opinion. Francesco collaborated with several taxonomists all over the world and participated in international congresses and ONTA



activities. He was indeed a researcher with a unique personality of a high level both from the human and scientific points of view. His character was strong as he was firm in his convictions, unwilling to compromise and shy, but always acting as a loyal and outspoken colleague and friend.

During his spare time Francesco enjoyed fishing and mechanics. He has been an excellent man, a careful husband and father, now survived by his beloved wife and son. *RIP*

Aurelio Ciancio

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)

Mexico

A presentation for the book "Perspectives in sustainable management through Pochonia chlamydosporia applications for root and rhizosphere health" (R.H. Manzanilla-López and L.V. Lopez-Llorca) was organized by Drs Ma. Gabriela Medina Canales, Aida Tovar Rodríguez and Alejandro Tovar Soto (Nematology Laboratory, National School of Biological Sciences (ENCB) of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico. The presentation took place on 16 November 2018 in the Auditorium "Guillermo Carvajal Sandoval" of the Biochemistry Department (ENCB). The presentation program included a talk by Dr Liliana Aguilar Marcelino (Helminthology Department, National Center for Animal Health Assessment Services-Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research CENAPA-INIPAP) entitled: "Biocontrol of parasitic nematodes of agricultural importance with edible fungi and acari", which was followed by a thorough, but very amenable, review of the *Pochonia* book that was prepared and given by Dr María de los Ángeles Martínez Rivera (Medical Mycology Laboratory, Microbiology Department). The presentation was very well attended by students and Academic staff from the ENCB and other Mexican graduate colleges.

Perspectives in Sustainable Nematode Management Through Pochonia chlamydosporia *Applications for Root and Rhizosphere Health*, edited by Rosa H. Manzanilla-López and Luis V. Lopez-Llorca. ISBN 978-3-319-59222-0 / BIC: PSTP / SPRINGER NATURE: SCL24035 1st ed. 2017, XXV, 411 p.



Fig. 23. Drs Ma. Gabriela Medina-Canales and Aida Tovar Rodríguez



Fig. 24. Students and staff of the National School of Biological Sciences. Dr Liliana Aguilar Marcelino (front row, second), Dr Alejandro Tovar Soto (second of back row from left to right)

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Association of Applied Biologists Advances in Nematology, Linnean Society, London - 11th December 2018

Advances in Nematology took place on the 11th December 2018, at the Linnean Society in Piccadilly, London – the worlds' oldest learned biological society. Delegates delivered their presentations in the prestigious lecture room, adorned with original portraits of famous biologists including Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace, while lunch and coffee breaks were taken in the library that holds many seminal biological texts and dates back to 1829. Advances in Nematology is a meeting that encourages PhD students, early career researchers and leading experts to make submissions on a range of topics including biology, ecology, epidemiology, management of plant parasitic nematodes, entomopathogenic nematodes and diagnostic methods. Many regular delegates recognise it as a good meeting for PhD students to deliver their first poster or platform presentation. This year, 41 delegates attended from a range of countries including the UK, Republic of Ireland, Czech Republic, Georgia, Spain and Germany, representing industry, academia and government.

The conference began with a short AGM where the Convenor (Dr Matthew Back) discussed future conference plans and activities of the AAB Nematology Group. **Raquel Campos Herrera**, Fig. 25 (invited speaker from Instituto de Ciencias de la Vid y del Vino in Spain) then provided a succinct and engaging summary of her work investigating practices that improve soil ecosystems and biological control by entomopathogenic nematodes. Following this, delegates heard presentations on topics such as effectors, metabolism of nematicides and nematodes found in Morocco.

After the morning session, **Rosa H. Manzanilla-López** chaired the poster 'flash' presentations. During the lunch-break, delegates had an opportunity to view the posters and vote for their preferred paper.

In the afternoon, our second invited speaker, Keith Davies (University of Hertfordshire), gave a great summary of his work on the bacterial parasite *Pasteuria penetrans* and its interaction with the nematode cuticle. The presentations that followed covered an array of topics including biofumigation, proteomics, entomopathogenic nematodes and viability assessment methodology.

The day concluded with the student prizes announced by Raquel Campos Herrera and Rosa H. Manzanilla-López. The Brian Kerry Prize for the best platform presentation went to Helena Rawsthorne (University of Southampton) for her paper entitled 'Using *C. elegans* social behaviour to investigate genes associated with autism spectrum disorder'. James Cutler (Liverpool John Moores University) won the AAB prize for his poster entitled 'Pathogenicity of wild isolated *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita* against pest slug species'.

At the end of the conference, **Rosa H. Manzanilla-López** and **Barbara Pembroke** (Fig. 26) were thanked for their excellent contributions to the organisation of Advances in Nematology meetings following the completion of their terms for the AAB Nematology Group.

Matthew Back, AAB Nematology Group, 24 January 2019



Fig. 25. Raquel Campos-Herrera



Fig. 26. From left to right: Barbara Pembroke, Matthew Back, Steve Edginton, Rosa H. Manzanilla-López

Minutes From The VI Technical Conference On Potato (Portugal)

Ivânia Esteves (Coimbra University)

The VI edition of the Technical Conference on Potato was held on March 28th in the High School of Agriculture of Coimbra (Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra-ESAC), Portugal. The conference was organized by the Potato Association of Portugal (PORBATATA) in collaboration with ESAC, and other public and private agricultural institutions. According to the organizers, this biannual event aimed to "promote a space for scientific and technological dissemination and debate, capable of contributing to develop new strategies for innovation and competitiveness, essential for the modernization and development of the potato industry". As in previous years, attendance was high and delegates included representatives from the potato industry, Portuguese phytosanitary authorities (Direção-Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária-DGAV, Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária- INIAV), PhD students and nematology researchers from Coimbra, Évora and Minho Universities. The importance of monitoring emerging pests was addressed by the first panel of invited speakers in the session "Plant Health and Quarantine Organisms". Maria José Cunha from ESAC clarified that plant-parasitic nematodes (PPN) belonging to the genus Globodera, Meloidogyne and Pratylenchus are widely disseminated in Portuguese potato areas and, although potato cyst nematodes are the major concern, other PPN are increasingly gaining relevance. For example, Meloidogyne luci have been recently detected in Portugal and may constitute a threat to potato production. Paula Cruz de Carvalho from DGAV listed the quarantine organisms which are annually prospected by the National authorities in potato fields, which currently include surveys for *Tecia solanivera*, *Epitrix* spp., Leptinotarsa decemlineata (Azores and Madeira Island), G. pallida and G. rostochiensis, Ralstonia solanacearum, Synchytrium endobioticum, Clavibacter michiganensis spp. sepedonicus and Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum and explained that surveys may be extended to include Meloidogyne.

Harvest insurances were addressed in the second panel, in a simple and practical way, by invited speakers who are aware of the difficulties currently facing the potato sector and in line with the demands of climate change, and presented the current legislation on this matter. The benefits of insuring the potato harvest were clearly demonstrated as they ensure the producer's income in case of unexpected weather events.

The theme of the third and last panel was focused on potato quality and marketing and included the participation of representatives from supermarket chain distributors, packers and a

technician from Spain who shared the Spanish reality. They pointed out the significance of educating the consumer by highlighting the need for the awareness-raising actions in order to demystify the concept of "beautiful" potatoes as opposite to quality potatoes to reduce food waste. The directive on plastics was also discussed and although it was agreed that the contribution of the potato sector for the plastic waste is not as high as in other agriculture sectors, further actions should be considered to recycle plastics efficiently.



Fig. 27. Colleagues from the Universities of Évora (UE) and Coimbra (UC) who presented their nematology posters at the conference. From left to right: Pedro Barbosa (UE), Jordana Branco (UE), Joana Figueiredo (UC), Cláudia Vicente (UE), Margarida Espada (UE) and Ivânia Esteves (UC)

ONTA OFFICERS ELECTION 2019

As an ONTA member, we would like to invite you to participate in this very important election for ONTA Secretary and Vice-President. Deborah Neher (Past President) and Julia Meredith (Interim Secretary) have prepared an electronic ballot. Members will receive this ballot through their email addresses. Voting (one vote per member) is anonymous and tabulated electronically. Please send your vote for these two ONTA Offices **before June17**, **2019**.

ONTA OFFICERS ELECTION 2019 (CONT.)

SECRETARY CANDIDATES Dr Maria de Lourdes Mendes



Dr Maria Mendes (Fig. 28) is a motivated hands-on scientist with experience in applied nematology research. She holds a BSc degree in Agronomy Engineering from the Federal Rural University of the Semi-Arid (UFERSA), Master's degree in Plant Pathology/Nematology from Viçosa Federal University (UFV), and a Doctorate in Agronomy/Plant Protection with minor in Nematology from São Paulo State University (UNESP) in Brazil. In 2001 she moved to the United States and joined Dr Donald Dickson's laboratory at the University of Florida, where she worked as a Biological Scientist and as a Post-Doctorate. She collaborated on projects to manage nematodes with biological control agents, host plant resistance, experimental nematicides, and efforts to find methyl bromide alternatives as its phasing out (2001 to 2011). The latter was considered as a crisis for Florida vegetable growers. She also participated in teaching lectures and laboratory of the Plant Nematology course. Later, in 2015, she joined the Landscape Nematology Lab, where she is the lab manager and collaborates in several projects on nematode management on turfgrasses and field grown

ornamentals. She also helps with teaching the Nematode Diagnostics Course. She has experience in the fields of Agronomy, with emphasis on Plant Protection (Plant Pathology Nematology, and Research and and Development). She started her career in Brazil, where she worked with nematodes on horticultural and agronomic crops at EMBRABA/National Center for Temperate Fruits and Horticultural Crops, in Pelotas-RS, and later at the National Center for Soybean Research, in Londrina-PR, Brazil. She was one of the first Brazilian scientists to help in the discovery of the soybean cyst nematode in Brazilian soybean culture. Among her duties at EMBRABA were extension education to producers, agronomists, and growers, agronomy students in the form of oral presentations, hands-on demonstrations, field days and extension publications. From 1998-2001 she also held a Plant Pathology and Nematology teaching position at Londrina State University where she mentored several undergraduate and graduate students. She joined DuPont corporation in Brazil for a year as Research and Development Scientist to work on the efficacy of new products to support the nematology program. During her professional life she has encouraged many undergrad students and trainees to follow the path of Nematology. She has attended different meetings and conferences to present her work and is the author of several peer reviewed articles (national and international scientific journals), as well as two book chapters. She attends scientific meetings and has served as reviewer for several scientific journals such as Journal of Nematology, Nematropica and Plant Disease, among others. She is an active member of ONTA and Society of Nematology.

SECRETARY CANDIDATES (CONT.)

Dr Marisol Quintanilla



Marisol Quintanilla (Fig. 29) is the Applied Nematologist at Michigan State University (MSU). Marisol grew up in a family farm in Chile that produces table grapes and diverse other crops. Marisol received her master's and doctoral degrees at MSU with nematologist Dr George Bird. After leaving MSU, she spent two years at Northern Marianas College and then moved to the University of Hawaii. She has studied nematode community structure, soil health and pest management in crops as part of her research and extension work.

Marisol currently collaborates with faculty in finding applied solutions to plantparasitic nematode problems in the state's key crops. The developed management practices will aim to increase soil health and beneficial organism populations. Additionally, Quintanilla will research biorational and conventional products for nematode control and test resistant varieties. She shares the research-based results with growers and agricultural professionals through multiple extension methods. Marisol is an active ONTA member and participated in several ONTA meetings.

VICEPRESIDENT CANDIDATES

M.Sc. Fabio Chaverri



Fabio Chaverri (Fig. 30) was born in Heredia, Costa Rica. In 1988 he obtained his Bachelor of Agronomic Engineering with emphasis in plant technology, and in 1991 he graduated with a Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Costa Rica. As a graduate student he began his work experience at the Center for Agricultural Research at the University of Costa Rica. He worked as director of Research Operations (1991-1993) in the Organization of Tropical Studies (OET) in research associated with agro-ecology. In 1993 he started working as an academic with the National University (UNA) and since 1998 he works at the Central American Institute of Toxic Substances Research (IRET), where he is currently its director. All this time he has worked in the development of research and extension projects in the area of crop protection, with emphasis on phytopathology. He has been coordinator and advisor of national and international projects. Its main research objective has been the development of sustainable agricultural systems and the implementation of alternatives to the use of pesticides of high environmental and human risk. For his academic work, since the year 2004, he was appointed professor. Since his beginnings in UNA, he has coordinated activities with the Nematology Laboratory of the School of Agrarian Sciences, which allowed him a closer participation in ONTA and he was a member of the Local Arrangements Committee-ONTA of the Annual Meeting in Costa Rica in 2006. He currently chairs the same committee for the Annual Meeting of the year 2019.

VICE-PRESIDENT CANDIDATES (CONT.)

Dr Fahiem EL-Borai Kora



Dr EL-Borai (Fig. 31) received his Ph.D. degree from Entomology and Nematology Department, UF, in 2001. He remained as a post-doc at UF until 2006, then as a research associate, then Senior Research Scientist. Dr EL-Borai entered his PhD program while maintaining a lecturer position at the Plant Protection Department in Egypt. He was hired as an assistant professor there and has advanced to a full professorship. His research focus on the relationships between two ubiquitous root pathogens of citrus trees, one an oomycete, the other a nematode. He demonstrated an unusual role for a plant parasitic nematode - Tylenchulus semipenetrans inhibits root infection by Phytophthora nicotianae. He characterized the relative efficacy of occurring numerous naturally entomopathogenic nematode (EPN) species against citrus root weevil and demonstrated that trophic cascades created by augmenting EPNs can interfere with natural biological control. He published

the first evidence of herding or group movement by EPNs, a topic of great interest now. He discovered the presence of bacteria species of the genus Paenibacillus adhering in a speciesspecific manner to steinernematid nematodes. He elucidated the mechanism by which these bacteria impair natural biological control of root herbivores and provided effective soil management practices to eliminate the problem they cause in agricultural operations. Fahiem authored and coauthored over 40 scientific publications and contributed chapters to 3 books.

Currently, in December 2018, he has been appointed to be the Director of Outreach" International for the Breeding and "Strawberry Genetics" program, University of Florida/ Institute of Food and Agricultural Science, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center. His duties include international outreach and disseminate information to academic and private institutions worldwide involved in the research and/or propagation of UF strawberry varieties. His research on strawberry and other vegetables will focus on biological control, plant parasitic and entomopathogenic nematodes, microbial interactions and general plant pathology.

Dr EL-Borai has been an active member of ONTA since 1997, during his college vears. when he received ONTA meritorious awards. Fahiem has participated in many ONTA meetings. The international experience of Fahiem in the field of applied nematology and vegetable crop production makes Fahiem a qualified candidate for the Vice-Presidency of ONTA

NEMATOLOGY AGENDA

Cuba



Fig. 32. Varadero, Cuba

Varadero, Cuba (6-10 May 2019)

The National Center for Animal and Plant Health (CENSA) is pleased to invite you to

Seventh International Congress of Nematology



Fig. 34. Antibes Juan-Les Pins

Antibes Juan-les-Pins (Fig. 34) offers an exciting and very accessible destination, with low cost travel and accommodation options for

participate in the III International Seminar on Animal and Plant Health to be held in Meliá Marina Varadero, Cuba (Fig. 32), from the 6th to 10th of May, 2019, with the central motto "The agricultural sciences for One Health". This third edition will be dedicated specially to the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of CENSA.

During the Seminar, meetings, workshops, symposia, magister lectures, round tables, technical visits and other encounters will be held such as the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society -Caribbean Division (APS-CD) III Workshop: "The agricultural sector in the coping of disasters and climate change".

For further information visit our website (www.censa.edu.cu) or contact us (1health-sisa2019@censa.edu.cu)

delegates. Significant support for students and participants from developing countries is included in the ICN 2020 budget. The new convention center is located in the heart of the city and only at 20 minutes from the Nice Côte d'Azur airport. Exciting social program will be matched by wonderful tour options to view the best of French Riviera, including agronomical tours. We look forward to welcoming ONTA delegates to the French Riviera in 2020.

For further information please contact Pierre Abad (pierre.abad@inra.fr)



5th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management 10-11 October 2019at Harper Adams University, Newport, UK Call for papers deadline is 10 May 2019. **For further information please contact Matthew Back** (mback@harper-adamas.ac.uk)

ONTA GALLERY



Fig. 35. Brian Kerry (second row) at the ONTA meeting in Costa Rica (June 2006). Front row (from left to right): Sally Schneider, Charles Overstreet, Johnny Lopez, Luis Pocasangre Enamorado



Get busy! ONTA Foundation, Inc. status is clear and high. Open your wings and take a flight!

Dear ONTA member,

ONTA Foundation is ready for a campaign to request donations and expand its contributor base in a big way. ONTA Foundation can receive funds through several means: 1) checks made out to the ONTA Foundation and mailed to Janete Brito; 2) credit card, same information required as for membership payment; 3) wire transfer. Janete Brito and Renato Inserra have full codes for wiring if requested.

Please give generously to support the activities and projects of the ONTA Foundation.

ONTA ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP UPDATING

Dear ONTA Member,

A list of active members with their e-mail addresses and countries has been posted on the ONTA website (http://www.ontaweb.org/onta-membership-directory/). Please verify your membership status on the posted list. Contact Julia Meredith (jmeredith@cox.net) if your membership status is not updated.

Thanks,

Julia Meredith ONTA Acting Secretary

ONTA NEWSLETTER INVITATION

Dear ONTA member,

Do you have a passion for nematodes and nematology? Would you like to share nematology news with our ONTA members? If so, welcome aboard!

We would like to extend to you a warm invitation to send or share information for our next ONTA Newsletter issue.

Please contact us. We are looking forward to hearing from you and to learn of your local nematology events and news.

Thanks,

Rosa ONTA Newsletter Editor



Fig. 36. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López (Costa Rica, 2006)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editor would like to thank all ONTA Newsletter contributors for sending and sharing information through the year of 2019.

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López ONTA Newsletter Editor

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