



ORGANIZATION OF NEMATOLOGISTS OF TROPICAL
AMERICA
ONTA NEWSLETTER

<http://www.ontaweb.org/>

December 2025

**56th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING
PUNO, PERU: 09–13 NOVEMBER, 2026**



Fig. 1. Tourist attractions of Puno. A: Floating islands of the Uros; B: Main Square of the city of Puno.

Inside this issue:	p.
56 th ONTA Annual Meeting Invitation	2
From the ONTA President	7
From the ONTA Vice-President	9
From the ONTA Newsletter Editor	10
55 th ONTA Annual Meeting Highlights	11
ONTA Officers Annual Reports	16
ONTA Members Research News	22
ONTA Members News	24
Congratulations	26
ONTA Gallery	32
New Books and Journals	33
Invitation ONTA Foundation	37
Annual Fee ONTA Membership	37
ONTA Newsletter Invitation	38

Acknowledgements	38
Errata	39
Christmas Season Greetings	40
ONTA Sustaining Members	41
ONTA Officers	42
Committees and Representatives	43



Fig. 2. Logo 56th ONTA Annual Meeting.

**56th ANNUAL MEETING ONTA
PUNO, PERU, 09 – 13 November, 2026**

WE ARE PREPARING TO WELCOME YOU IN PUNO – PERU

Dear ONTA Friends,

With great pride and deep joy, we look forward to welcoming you to Puno, Peru (Fig. 1), the host of the 56th ONTA Annual Meeting from 09 – 13 November 2026. Located on the shores of majestic Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world at 3,802 m above sea level (m asl), Puno is an iconic destination in the Peruvian highlands, harmonizing a rich cultural heritage with extraordinary natural landscapes. Recognized as the “Folklore Capital of Peru,” this city is distinguished by its festive spirit, the warmth of its people, and the deep connection of its identity to Andean traditions (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Puno: Folklore Capital of Peru. A: 'Diablada' dance; B: 'Lawakumus' dance.

The Local Arrangements Committee comprises a team of Peruvian nematologists working in various national and international institutions and who are committed to organizing an outstanding research, academic, and cultural event.

To allow attendees to fully experience the culture of Puno, a variety of social and cultural activities are being prepared, including a tour of the city and its surroundings, performances of traditional dances, and a tasting of regional cuisine. These experiences will allow participants to enjoy the hospitality of the Andean people and strengthen bonds of camaraderie among colleagues in a friendly and festive atmosphere.

Regarding the technical excursion, visits to agricultural research centers, experimental fields, and rural communities involved in Andean production are being considered (Fig. 4). Our aim is to offer a variety of experiences so that participants can choose those that best suit their interests, whether scientific, technical, or cultural.

56th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)



Fig. 4. Native potato varieties.

During the symposia, while we will share knowledge and advances with colleagues in the field of nematology, we hope that attendees will also take time to discover the rich cultural, gastronomic, and historical heritage of Puno. The city offers a unique blend of tradition and identity through its range of traditional festivals and ancestral crafts as well as natural beauty with breathtaking views of Lake Titicaca, which will make this 56th ONTA Annual Meeting a memorable, inspiring, and meaningful event.

It would be advisable to consider high altitude acclimatization, and stay at a lower altitude location than Puno for a couple of days ahead of the meeting or ease physical activity during the first days after your arrival in Puno.

56th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)

The Local Arrangements Committee is integrated by a team of outstanding and distinguished Peruvian academics committed to the excellence of the ONTA 56th Annual Meeting to be held in Puno, Peru 09 – 13 November 2026. The President of Local Arrangements is Dr Israel Lima Medina (Fig. 5) from the Universidad Nacional del Altiplano (Puno, Peru).



Fig. 5. Dr Israel Lima Medina.

Local Arrangements Committee Members

Alberto Anculle Arenas, Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa

Carolina Esther Cedano Saavedra, Universidad Nacional de Trujillo

Cesar Augusto Murgua Reyes, Universidad Nacional de Piura

Fanny R. Márquez Romero, Universidad Nacional Intercultural de Quillabamba

Jesús H. Arcos Pineda, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

Rosmery Bedregal, Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa

Rosario Y. Bravo Portocarrero, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

Graciela Ramírez Flores, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

Aurelio Ivan Ramos Flores, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

Víctor H. Casa Coila, Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa

Elizabeth L. Gutiérrez Olguín, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

MORE INFORMATION AT:

<https://ontaperu.pe/>

Email: ontaperu@unap.edu.pe

Tel. Cel. +51 956838730

56th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)

¡Bienvenidos a la 56^a Reunión Anual de ONTA – Puno, Perú 2026!

Queridos amigos de la ONTA:

Con gran orgullo y profunda alegría les esperamos en **Puno, Perú** (Figs 1-2), sede de la **56^a Reunión Anual de ONTA**, que se llevará a cabo del **09 al 13 de noviembre de 2026**.

Ubicada a orillas del majestuoso **Lago Titicaca**, el lago navegable más alto del mundo a 3,802 m sobre el nivel del mar (m s. n. m), **Puno** es un destino emblemático del altiplano peruano que armoniza una rica **herencia cultural** con **paisajes naturales de extraordinaria belleza**. Reconocida como la **“Capital del Folclore Peruano”** (Fig. 3), esta ciudad se distingue por su espíritu festivo, la calidez de su gente y la profunda conexión de su identidad con las tradiciones andinas.

El **Comité organizador** está integrado por un equipo de **nematólogos peruanos** que desarrollan su labor en diversas instituciones nacionales e internacionales, comprometidos con la organización de un **evento de investigación, académico, y cultural de excelencia**.

Para que los asistentes puedan **vivir plenamente la cultura puneña**, se están preparando diversas **actividades sociales y culturales**, entre ellas un recorrido por la ciudad y sus alrededores, presentaciones de **danzas típicas** y una **degustación de gastronomía regional**. Estas experiencias permitirán disfrutar de la hospitalidad del pueblo altiplánico y fortalecer los lazos de camaradería entre colegas en un ambiente cordial y festivo.

En cuanto a la **excursión técnica**, se están considerando visitas a **centros de investigación agrícola, campos experimentales y comunidades rurales** vinculadas a la producción andina (Fig. 4). Nuestro propósito es ofrecer una variedad de experiencias para que los participantes elijan aquellas que mejor se adapten a sus intereses, ya sean **científicos, técnicos o culturales**.

Durante las conferencias, mientras compartimos conocimientos y avances en el campo de la nematología, esperamos que los asistentes también se den el tiempo de **descubrir la riqueza cultural, gastronómica e histórica de Puno**. Desde sus **festividades tradicionales** y su **artesanía ancestral**, hasta las **impresionantes vistas del Lago Titicaca**, la ciudad ofrece una fusión única de **tradición, identidad y belleza natural** que hará de esta **56^a Reunión Anual de ONTA un evento memorable, inspirador y lleno de significado**.

Es recomendable aclimatarse a la elevada altitud andina antes de su llegada a Puno, ya sea quedándose dos días antes del inicio de la reunión en un lugar de menor altitud a Puno o evitar el esfuerzo físico durante los primeros días de su llegada.

56th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)

El **Comité organizador** está integrado por un equipo de **nematólogos peruanos** que desarrollan su labor en diversas instituciones nacionales e internacionales, comprometidos con la organización de un **evento de excelencia**. El Presidente del Comité de Arreglos Locales es el Dr. Israel Lima Medina (Fig. 5) de la Universidad Nacional del Altiplano (Puno, Perú).

Miembros del Comité de Arreglos Locales

Alberto Anculle Arenas, Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa

Carolina Esther Cedano Saavedra, Universidad Nacional de Trujillo

Cesar Augusto Murgua Reyes, Universidad Nacional de Piura

Fanny R. Márquez Romero, Universidad Nacional Intercultural de Quillabamba

Jesús H. Arcos Pineda, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

Rosmery Bedregal, Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa

Rosario Y. Bravo Portocarrero, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

Graciela Ramírez Flores, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

Aurelio Ivan Ramos Flores, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

Victor H. Casa Coila, Universidad Nacional de San Agustín de Arequipa

Elizabeth L. Gutiérrez Olguin, Universidad Nacional del Altiplano

MÁS INFORMACIÓN EN:

<https://ontaperu.pe/>

Email: ontaperu@unap.edu.pe

Tel. Cel. +51 956838730

FROM THE ONTA-PRESIDENT



Fig. 6. Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha, ONTA President

Dear ONTA members,

I greet you all and hope you are in good health. Another year is coming to an end, and it is time to look back on all our achievements and be grateful for all we have done. Also, it is the time we must look to the future, and plan our actions, set new goals, always striving to improve as persons, as professionals, taking care of our environment and helping each other. As an ONTA member, I feel very proud to be part of this vibrant society and to have the privilege of serving as president. This year, 2025, we had the chance to meet in Cali, Colombia, for a very well-organized and planned Annual Meeting, with a scientific program that allowed us much learning and updating. For this, we thank Dr Carlos Castañeda and his entire team. We also had the opportunity to see old friends, share knowledge, and welcome new members. It was a unique experience! For the year 2026, while we eagerly await our next meeting in Puno, Peru, for the 56th ONTA Meeting, we will continue working for our society, doing our best

to maintain the traditions and seeking for innovations to keep it alive, active and growing!

I wish you and your families happy holidays and a prosperous new year!

Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha

Estimados miembros de la ONTA:

Los saludo a todos y espero que se encuentren bien de salud. Otro año llega a su fin, y es momento de reflexionar sobre todos nuestros logros y agradecer todo lo que hemos hecho. También es momento de mirar hacia el futuro, planificar nuestras acciones, establecer nuevas metas, esforzándonos siempre por mejorar como personas, como profesionales, cuidando nuestro entorno y ayudándonos mutuamente. Como miembro de la ONTA, me siento muy orgullosa de formar parte de esta vibrante sociedad y de tener el privilegio de presidirla. Este año, 2025, tuvimos la oportunidad de reunirnos en Cali, Colombia, para una Reunión Anual muy bien organizada y planificada, con un programa científico que nos permitió aprender y actualizarnos. Por ello, agradecemos al Dr. Carlos Castañeda y a todo su equipo. También tuvimos la oportunidad de ver a viejos amigos, compartir conocimientos y dar la bienvenida a nuevos miembros. ¡Fue una experiencia única! Para el año 2026, mientras esperamos con ansias nuestra próxima reunión en Puno, Perú, para la 56^a Reunión de la ONTA, seguiremos trabajando por nuestra sociedad, esforzándonos al máximo para mantener las tradiciones y buscando innovaciones que la mantengan viva, activa y en crecimiento.

¡Les deseo a ustedes y a sus familias felices fiestas y un próspero año nuevo!

Prof.^a. Mara Rúbia da Rocha

Prezados membros da ONTA:

Mais um ano está se acabando, estamos fechando mais um ciclo. Como sempre, é tempo de olharmos para trás, para todas as nossas conquistas e sermos gratos pelos caminhos que percorremos e pelas oportunidades que aproveitamos para crescer enquanto pessoas e profissionais. Ao mesmo tempo, devemos olhar para o futuro, para o que conquistamos até aqui e planejarmos nossas ações tentando sempre melhorar. Como membro da ONTA, me sinto orgulhosa e fazer parte desta vibrante sociedade e de ter o privilégio de estar atuando como presidente. Neste ano de 2025 tivemos a chance de nos encontrar em Cali, Colômbia, para um Annual Meeting muito bem organizado e planejado, com uma programação científica que

nos permitiu muito aprendizado e atualização. Por isso, agradecemos o Dr. Carlos Castañeda e toda sua equipe. Além disso, a oportunidade de rever velhos amigos, compartilhar conhecimentos e dar boas vindas a novos membros é uma experiência impar. Para o ano de 2026, enquanto aguardamos ansiosos pelo nosso próximo encontro em Puno, Peru, para o 56º ONTA Meeting sigamos trabalhando para nossa sociedade, fazendo o melhor para manter nossas tradições e trazer inovações.

Desejo a você e sua família boas festas e um próspero ano novo!

Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha

FROM THE ONTA VICE-PRESIDENT



Fig. 7. Dr Carolina Cedano, ONTA Vice-President

Dear ONTA members,

I send you my warmest greetings and best wishes for well-being, health, and prosperity for each of you and your dear families in this New Year. May 2026 be a year of personal harmony, family growth, and new professional achievements, and may it allow us to continue strengthening research, innovation, and the exchange of knowledge in the field of agricultural nematology, a key discipline for the sustainability of production systems worldwide.

In my capacity as Vice-President of ONTA, and as representative of the host country, I am pleased to cordially invite you to participate in our 56th Annual Meeting, which will take place from 09 to 13 November in Puno - Peru, a region of great agricultural diversity and ancient culture.

This meeting will be a valuable opportunity to share experiences, research results, strengthen international collaboration networks and continue to promote the scientific and professional development of our specialty, in an atmosphere of fraternity that also allows us to strengthen personal and cultural ties.

We look forward to your valuable participation and extend a warm welcome to Peru.

With esteem and consideration,

Dr Carolina Cedano

Estimados miembros de la ONTA:

Reciban un cordial saludo y mis mejores deseos de bienestar, salud y prosperidad para cada uno de ustedes y sus queridas familias en este Nuevo Año. Que el 2026 sea un año de armonía personal, crecimiento familiar y nuevos logros profesionales, y que nos permita seguir fortaleciendo la investigación, la innovación y el intercambio de conocimientos en el campo de la nematología agrícola, disciplina clave para la sostenibilidad de los sistemas productivos a nivel mundial.

En mi calidad de vicepresidenta de ONTA, y como representante del país anfitrión tengo el agrado de invitarlos cordialmente a participar en nuestra **56^a Reunión Anual**, que tendrá lugar del **9 al 13 de noviembre en Puno - Perú**, región de gran diversidad agrícola y cultura milenaria.

Este encuentro será una valiosa oportunidad para compartir experiencias, resultados de investigación, fortalecer redes de colaboración internacional y continuar impulsando el desarrollo científico y profesional de nuestra especialidad, en un ambiente de fraternidad que también permite estrechar lazos personales y culturales.

Esperamos contar con su valiosa participación y darles la más cordial bienvenida al Perú.

Con estima y consideración,

Dra. Carolina Cedano

FROM THE ONTA NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Fig. 8. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López.

Dear ONTA members,

It is a pleasure to be with you again and share the news from ONTA colleagues and friends as well as ONTA officers annual reports for 2025.

The 55th ONTA Annual Meeting in Cali, Colombia (01 – 05 September 2025) was a great success. In this issue, we include highlights and

pictures of the Cali meeting, which we hope can give readers a glimpse of the activities that were carried out. We would also like the opportunity to thank the members of the **Colombian Local Organizers Committee** and its President **Carlos Castañeda** for their work and dedication in organizing the meeting, with support of ONTA Vice-President (Mara Rúbia da Rocha), Past-President (Ernesto San Blas) and Executive Committee Members especially Julia Meredith and Renato Inserra.

The 56th ONTA Annual Meeting will be hosted in Puno, Peru, from 09 – 13 November 2026). Dr Israel Lima Medina (Fig. 5) of Universidad Nacional del Altiplano (Puno, Peru) is the President of the Local Organizers Committee.

We will be looking forward to meet you next November at the **ONTA's 56th Annual Meeting**.

Kind regards,
Rosa H. Manzanilla-López

55th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Dear ONTA members,

The 55th ONTA Annual Meeting took place in Cali (Colombia) from 01 – 05 September 2025. Those who attended will agree that it was an amazing meeting thanks to the hard work, interest and commitment of a dedicated group of Colombian nematologists working from Colombia and overseas (ONTA Newsletter Vol. 55 issue 1). The story behind the meeting started three years ago at the International Congress of Nematology in Antibes, France (May 2022) when the idea was born among Colombian graduate students, postdocs and professors present at the Congress. The first meeting of Antibes lead to the creation of a net of enthusiastic Colombian nematologists who regularly met regardless day time differences between Colombia, USA, Europe and China locations, in order to plan every detail of the scientific program, keynote speakers, field trips, venue, traditional dances and cultural activities (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9. Registration team (left) and University ballet (right) at the welcoming reception.

It was also an occasion to celebrate the Colombian nematology pioneers who were remembered in the talk given by Francia Varón Agudelo (Fig. 10). This meeting also served to create a strong link between ONTA Colombian local organizers and meeting participants, which we hope it will continue and help to build up nematology capacity not only in Colombia but neighbouring South American countries.



Fig. 10. Francia Varón Agudelo.

We would like to commend the local organisers Committee and President Prof. Carlos Castañeda for their great team work. It is worth mentioning Dr Renato Inserra (ONTA Treasurer) and Dr Julia Meredith's important role in financial assistance and support for the preparation of the meeting in Colombia (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11. Drs Julia Meredith and Renato Inserra.

It would be difficult to summarize knowledge, experiences and information presented through symposia, keynote presentations and posters but we include below some important highlights of the meeting (Figs 12-15).

Highlights 55th ONTA Annual Meeting

- **Delegates:** 149
- **Countries:** 19 countries; the largest number of delegates came from Colombia (46), Mexico (31), Chile (15) and Brazil (13)
- **Continents:** 3 (America, Europa and Asia)
- **Field trips:** Finca Cafetera in Sevilla (Valle del Cauca), Agrosavia (Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria) and CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture)
- **Papers (including posters and oral presentations):** 104
- **Scientific program sessions:** 8
- **Keynote speakers:** 5

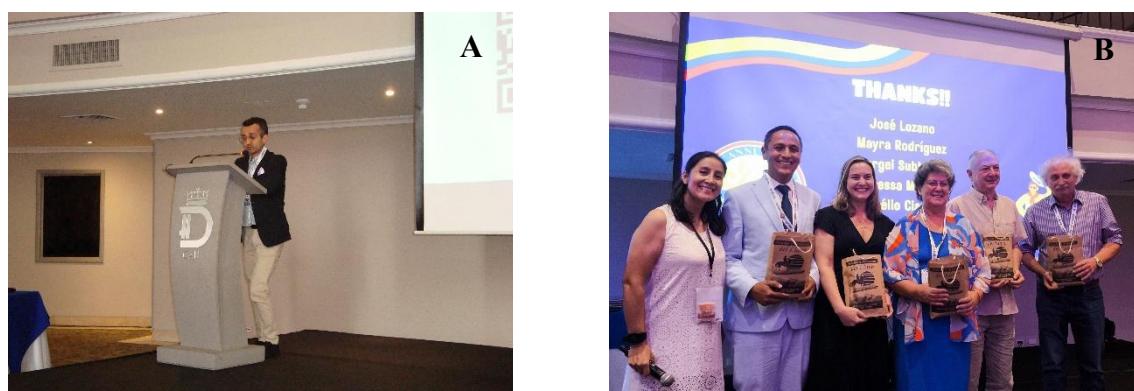


Fig. 12. From left to right: Dr Carlos Castañeda at opening ceremony (A); Dayanna Romero and keynote speakers José Lozano, Andressa Machado, Mayra Rodríguez, Aurelio Ciancio and Sergei Subbotin at the awards ceremony (B).

55th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)



Fig. 13. From left to right: Oral (A) and poster (B) sessions audience.

Student Awards – Rod Rodriguez-Kabana Poster Competition Winners:

- Santiago Andrés Manrique Barros (Colombia/Brazil) – First Place
- Andrés Felipe Pascagaza Pulido (Colombia/Belgium) – Second Place
- Christopher Okolo (Germany) – Third Place

Travel Grant Awards:

- Santiago Andrés Manrique Barros (Colombia/Brazil, PhD)
- Hilario Camarena de la Cruz (Peru/Brazil)
- Eduarda Thais Sonda (Brazil)
- Viviana Margarita Vega-Becerril (Mexico)



Fig. 14. Winners of the Rodrigo Rodriguez-Kabana best poster competition and travel awards. A (from left to right): Santiago A. Manrique Barros, Dr Carolina Cedano (ONTA Vice-President), Andrés Felipe Pascagaza Pulido, Christopher Okolo; B: Dr Mara Rúbia da Rocha (ONTA President), Viviana Margarita Vega-Becerril, Santiago A. Manrique Barros, Eduarda Thais Sonda, Hilario Camarena de la Cruz.

Honorary Member Award (2024)

- Mayra G. Rodríguez

Special Award (2025)

- Mara Rúbia da Rocha
- Carlos Castañeda
- Ernesto San Blas



Fig. 15. ONTA awards (from left to right): Drs Ignacio Cid del Prado-Vera, Carlos Castañeda, Mara Rúbia da Rocha, Ernesto San Blas and Mayra G. Rodríguez.

The field trip was a great experience for the delegates who visited CIAT, Agrosavia and/or a coffee plantation (Fig. 16). The awards ceremony and banquet were enhanced by professional salsa performances, music groups and for delegates the opportunity to dance. We highly appreciated the warmth and kindness of Colombian people who showed and shared with us their country and culture at the ONTA meeting and field trips.



Fig. 16. Field trip visits by ONTA members (clockwise from left to right): CIAT (A, B), Agrosavia and coffee plantation (C, D).

55th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)

The **Gala dinner speech** and **closing remarks** given by **Prof. Carlos Castañeda** are reproduced below. They summarize the experiences of participants at the 55th ONTA Annual Meeting (Fig. 17).

Gala Dinner Speech

Good evening, everyone. What a joy to see you all gathered here tonight, celebrating this meeting that we have prepared for you with so much care, effort, and dedication over the past months.

Today, after intense days of scientific discussions, sharing knowledge, ideas, and experiences, it is time to celebrate. To honor not only knowledge itself, but also the community that makes it possible. Because ONTA is not just an academic organization; it is a network of affection, collaboration, commitment, and a shared future.

Tonight is special. It is our gala dinner, and we wanted it to be an elegant, festive, and also moving occasion. A moment to give thanks, acknowledge, and enjoy.

We will soon be presenting awards for the best poster presentations. We know that many of our students and young researchers put their best efforts into their work, and we want to recognize this effort that brings our field to life.

We also want to express, once again, our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you: for coming, for your trust, for your contributions. To our keynote speakers, to those who presented papers, to those who participated with questions, to the students, and to the new faces joining this community.

To our sponsors – **Syngenta, Corteva, BASF, Biogen, Certis Biologicals, Microfertisa, and the ONTA Foundation** – thank you for your generous support and for investing in knowledge as the path to a more sustainable agricultural future.

To our organizing team, whom we have already mentioned and will mention again as many times as necessary, thank you for your passion, your energy, and your tireless dedication.

And tonight we also want to raise a toast. To Latin American nematology. To the friendships forged here. To the future collaborations that are already beginning to take shape. To the knowledge that grows when it is shared. And to all the people who, with their presence, have made this congress truly unforgettable.

So... cheers! Welcome to this celebratory evening, enjoy the surprises we have prepared, and may the party continue as long as joy takes us!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

55th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING (cont.)

Closing remarks

Good morning, everyone.

With hearts full of gratitude and emotion, we gather this morning to officially close the 55th Annual Meeting of ONTA, here in Cali.

These have been intense days of science, exchange, learning, and also of reunions and new friendships. We have shared results, challenges, proposals... but above all, we have reaffirmed that nematology remains alive, active, and constantly growing in our region.

I want to thank, once again, everyone who made this congress possible: those who traveled from afar to join us, the speakers, the students, our sponsors, the keynote speakers, the moderators of each session, the local team, and the ONTA Committee for their unwavering support.

Thank you also for the words, the hugs, the joy, and the willingness to build together.

This meeting doesn't end today. What began here continues in joint projects, strengthened networks, and the renewed motivation that each of you takes back home.

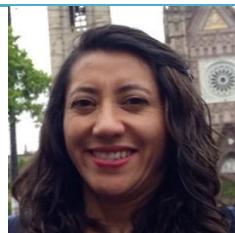
From Colombia, we say: thank you for coming, for your trust, for being part of this story! We'll meet again very soon... we hope to see you all in Puno, Peru!

Safe travel home, and until next time!



Fig. 17. Dr Andrea Chacon farewell words to ONTA members (A) and banquet party (B).

A BIG THANK YOU TO LOCAL COLOMBIAN ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE



Adriana Saenz



Francia E. Varon



Oscar A. Guzman



Claudia Holguin



Donald Rascos-Ortiz



Eyder D. Gomez.

Young researchers



Julie G. Chacon-Orozco



Maria Gonzalez-Trujillo



Lizzete D. Romero



Andrea Chacon



Ricardo Machado



Carlos Molina

Co-leaders

Senior researchers



Laura Mayorga



Carlos Castañeda



Paula Agudelo



Jose Lozano.

Fig. 18. Members of the Local Colombian Arrangements Committee. First and second rows: Adriana Sáenz Aponte: Laboratorio Control Biológico, Departamento de Biología, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá (Colombia); Francia E. Varon de Agudelo: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Palmira (Colombia); Oscar A. Guzmán: Departamento de Producción Agropecuaria, University de Caldas, Manizales (Colombia); Claudia Holguin: Research Center La Suiza, Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria, AGROSAVIA, Santander (Colombia); Donald Riascos-Ortiz: Research Center Obonuco, Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria, AGROSAVIA, Nariño (Colombia) and Eyder D. Gomez Lopez (Universidad Nacional de Colombia). Young researchers and co-leaders: Julie G. Chacon-Orozco: Laboratório de Controle Biológico, Instituto Biológico, São Paulo-Brasil; María Del Mar González-Trujillo: Institute of Grapevine and Wine Sciences (ICVV), Logroño (España); Laura T. Mayorga: Nematology lab-GCREC, University of Florida, Florida (USA); Lizzete Dayana Romero Moya: State Key Laboratory for Biology of Plant Diseases and Insect Pests, Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing (China); Andrea Chacon-Hurtado: Chemical and behavioral ecology, University of Liège, Liège (Belgium); Carlos Castañeda-Alvarez: Laboratorio de Nematología, Departamento de Sanidad Vegetal, Universidad de Chile, Santiago (Chile). Senior researchers: Ricardo Machado: University of Neuchatel, Neuchatel (Switzerland); Carlos Molina: e-nema GmbH, Raisdorf (Germany); Paula Agudelo: CAFLS Administration Office, Plant and Environmental Sciences Department, Experiment Station (USA); Jose Lozano Torres: Laboratory of Nematology, Wageningen University and Research (The Netherlands).

Treasurer Report November 2024-November 2025

Gainesville FL, 30 November 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I have completed the treasurer's report for 2025. It includes the incoming contributions and expenses incurred by ONTA from November 2024 to November 2025. Deposits received are from regular and sustaining membership dues.

ONTA FL, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization; however, a tax return is required for the previous year, and a corporation report must be filed for the current year. I filed electronically the federal tax return for 2024 and the corporation report for the state of Florida for 2025.

Total incurred expenses were **US\$ 3,717.44** and include those for *Nematropica* and Crossref DOI (US\$ 1937.33), website maintenance (**US\$ 1320.86**), plaques Annual Meeting Colombia (**US\$ 398.00**) and fees for 2025 Annual Report with the State of Florida (**US\$ 61.25**).

The number of contributions received was **US\$ 3,324.23** and include a sustaining contribution of **\$US 500.00** received from Certis Biological and **US\$ 2,824.23** of regular contributions from members.

ONTA has maintained a positive balance for this year with an increased income of about **US\$ 14,000**. This increase is derived from the organization of 55th Annual Meeting in Cali, Colombia, under the leadership of Prof. Carlos Castañeda. The financial skill of Dr Julia Meredith in assisting Prof. Castañeda with the financial transactions for the preparation of the meeting in Colombia played an important role in the financial success of this important ONTA event.

The efforts of Dr Larry Duncan in adjusting ONTA's website and Dr Deb Neher in managing ONTA's official communications list are greatly appreciated. I thank them for their valuable time, detailed work, dedication and loyalty to ONTA. I extend my gratitude to Certis Biological (Dr Karla Medina) for the generous contribution received.

ONTA's financial status is sound as it enters 2026. More contributions from sustaining members, corporate and personal are needed to support ONTA activities and future challenges.

Please contact me if you need more explanation concerning this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Renato Inserra

ONTA Treasurer

ONTA Officers Annual Reports (cont.)

Business Manager Report (November 2024 – August 2025)

Total formatting charges for *Nematropica* (2024) Vol. 54, single issue amounted to **US\$ 2,981.00**. The total number of articles published in this issue was fourteen, totally **US\$ 2,856.00**. The total amount charged for formatting each article was **US\$ 204.00**. The other costs of this issue were **US\$ 25.00**, which reflects repagination and posting online Abstracts of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America, preparation of the Table of Contents (**US\$ 50.00**), edit Table of Contents/addendum to abstracts (**US\$ 25.00**), front matter and inside cover (**US\$ 25.00**).

The other costs of this issue were **US\$ 25.00**, which reflects repagination and posting online Abstracts of the 54th Annual Meeting of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America, preparation of the Table of Contents (**US\$ 50.00**), edit Table of Contents/addendum to abstracts (**US\$ 25.00**), front matter and inside cover (**US\$ 25.00**).

Starting with this issue all articles published in *Nematropica* will be assigned a DOI.

Respectfully,

Dr Janete A. Brito
ONTA Business Manager

ONTA Secretary Report 2024-2025

Karla Medina Ph.D.
ONTA Secretary

31 August, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The report includes membership numbers to include memberships paid on 2024 and up to date 31 August, 2025. Data are presented below (Table 1, Fig. 19) to show the total paid memberships by year, including the standing number of exempt members or Honorary members.

Table 1. Active members of ONTA.

ONTA Members	2024	2025
Honorary members (HM)	40	40
Paid Memberships	77	62
2024 & 2025		(21)
Total	114	102

Fig. 19. ONTA membership payments per country (2025).



VOL 55 ISSUE 2

ONTA Officers Annual Reports (cont.)

2025 Listserv Manager Report

During the past 12 months, I circulated 23 messages to the ONTA membership through the official listserv. The posts related to annual meetings, job postings, and membership information.

If you would like to post a message to the listserv, please email me the message drafted in both Spanish and English if possible. The listserv engine can only use plain text in the messages. Therefore, if you want graphics included, please embed them into a PDF that can be attached to a text message.

Sincerely,

Deb Neher (dneher@uvm.edu)

2025 ONTA Newsletter Editor Report

Dear Executive Committee Members,

A total of two semestral issues of the ONTA Newsletter were published online during the period of December 2024 until July 2025. The corresponding volume and issues were as follows: the second issue of Vol. 54 (2) and the first issue of Vol. 55 (1). They were prepared and posted on the ONTA website (<http://www.ontaweb.org>) for access by ONTA members.

The editor would like to thank all ONTA Newsletter contributors for sending and sharing information and images through the year of 2024-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
ONTA Newsletter Editor

An engineering perspective to the formulation of entomopathogenic nematodes

Fig. 20. Dr Carlos I. Cortés-Martínez.

By Dr Carlos I. Cortés-Martínez

The development of entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN) into available, effective and commercially viable user-friendly products, is a crucial factor for EPN adoption by small- or large-hold farmers in programs for pest management of insects whether in low- or high (technologically advanced) input agricultural systems.

The development of 'EPN biopesticide technology' requires fully disclosed inventions to be protected through granted patents on behalf of inventors and companies. Within this intellectual property domain, formulation is top among technological categories of the EPN biopesticide industry. However, a recent review (Cortés-Martínez *et al.*, 2025) has shown that over a period of 38 years patenting formulation inventions has resulted in only 80 patents being granted through this period.

The formulation of EPN is a complex technological task that requires updated knowledge of materials, equipment, processes, and techniques from multiple disciplines and a creative thinking for their integration in innovative solutions that will improve storage,

transport, use and effectiveness of EPN biopesticides in crop fields.

In Mexico, scientific and technological research on the formulation of *Steinernema* species is being conducted in two academic and research institutions: the Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación para el Desarrollo Integral Regional Unidad Oaxaca of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional and the Instituto Tecnológico del Valle de Etila of the Tecnológico Nacional de México.

A solid formulation based on EPN *Steinernema glaseri* and *S. carpocapsae* has been studied from an engineering perspective to systematize processes and bioprocesses. The creation of tailored solutions for formulation constitute the main research goal. The process involves product formulation and application, the development of mechanical formulation equipment, the application of mathematical tools to optimize composition, and experimental approaches to select friendly materials.

From this perspective, a mechanized process is being developed to formulate and consistently produce the quantities required for EPN inundative applications. This process is based on the principles of laminar flow and compaction of powders to elaborate a pellet-type formulation.

Understanding the desiccation process for the effective induction of infective juvenile (IJ) anhydrobiosis has led to studies of the phenomenon using mathematical models based on diffusion and convection of moisture within the pellet-type formulation. To integrate performance criteria of storability, durability, effectivity, and usability into the EPN formulation process, an experiment-based screening approach is being implemented.

ONTA Members Research News (cont.)

The available scientific, technological, and technical knowledge aims to solve practical challenges for making EPN reliable products and seems to offer new horizons for EPN biopesticide development.

At the Instituto Tecnológico del Valle de Etla, research is ongoing to develop a biopesticide based on EPNs protected with metallic nanoparticles against UV radiation. The main findings include sustained survival and pathogenicity of *S. glaseri* IJs suspended in deionized water with zinc oxide nanoparticles, even after exposure to UV of 240 nm. *Steinernema glaseri* IJs can remain viable in an alginate pellet formulation containing zinc oxide nanoparticles for up to four months at room temperature (unpublished data).

At the nano- and micro-scales, a diverse range of materials have been developed.

Nevertheless, several of their potential benefits remain unexplored within EPN formulation science. Therefore, novel research directions could emerge regarding the use of nanomaterials as formulation adjuvants. Eventually, if their safety for humans is validated, usage guidelines could be integrated into agriculture regulations.

References

- Cortés-Martínez, C.I., Ruiz-Vega, J., Chavarría-Hernández, N. and Aquino-Bolaños, T. (2025). Thirty-eight years of patenting for the progress in biopesticides based on entomopathogenic nematodes: a mini-review. *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection* 132(4): 119. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41348-025-01116-y>

Mexico

The Center for the Development of Biotic Products (CeProBi) of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico (IPN) organized the Symposium: “Fungi and nematodes as agents for the biological control of pests and diseases (Los hongos y nematodos como agentes para el control biológico de plagas y enfermedades)” The symposium took place from 19 – 20 November 2025 at Martín de la Cruz Auditorium (Yautepec, Morelos, Mexico). It was a free-of-charge event and open to the public in general who could attend in person or follow online. Topics presented at the symposium are subject to ongoing research at different institutes; further more, some biological-based products are already under development in joint partnership between academia and industry. The main aim is to develop products that can contribute to a sustainable management of crop pests and diseases in Mexico and Latin America. The symposium covered: (i) nematophagous endophytic fungi used as biological control agents for plant-pathogenic nematodes, (ii) antagonistic fungi that contribute to the natural defense of plants to maintaining soil health, (iii) entomopathogenic endophytic fungi, (iv) entomopathogenic nematodes and symbiotic bacteria for the control of insect pests, and (v) species of acari



Fig. 21. CeProBi symposium speakers (from left to right) A: Drs Gabriela Sepúlveda-Jiménez, Ma. Gabriela Medina-Canales, Jairo Cristóbal-Alejo, Rosa H. Manzanilla-López, Bertha Tlapal-Bolaños, Edith Estrada-Venegas, Armando Equihua-Martínez, Alejandro Tovar-Soto, Patricia Navarro; B: Drs Edith Estrada-Venegas, Armando Equihua-Martínez, María Teresa Santillán-Galicia, Ariel W. Guzmán-Franco, Jairo Cristóbal-Alejo.

and insect forest pests of importance in Mexico. Experts shared their experiences in research, fieldwork, start-ups and industry. Attendees included academics, students, government officers and farmers interested in updating their knowledge on biological control agents and their use in a sustainable agriculture. Invited speakers (Fig. 21) included M.Sc. Daniel Méndez-Astudillo (CeProBi) and Adriana Pérez-Ramírez (IDAGRO), Drs Edith Estrada-Venegas (Post-graduates College (CP)), Ariel W. Guzmán-Franco (CP), Bertha Tlapal-Bolaños (Autonomous University of Chapingo), Gabriela Sepúlveda Jiménez (CeProBi) and ONTA members Patricia Navarro (INIA, Chile), Ma. Gabriela Medina-Canales (Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas-IPN), Jairo Cristóbal Alejo (Tecnológico Nacional de México Campus Conkal, Yucatan) and Rosa H. Manzanilla-López (CeProBi).

The day after the symposium, Dr Patricia Navarro (Chile) was also invited to give a talk entitled “Entomopathogenic nematodes and their application” to students and professors of the Laboratory of Nematology at the National School of Biological Sciences of the IPN (Mexico City, 21 November 2025). The talk was very interactive and was well received by the students (Fig. 22).





Fig. 22. A: Students and staff members of the Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas-IPN (Mexico City) who attended the talk given by Dr Patricia Navarro; B: Drs Ma. Gabriela Medina-Canales and Patricia Navarro.

Across the Atlantic

Spain – Dr Federico López-Moya (Alicante University)

International collaboration for the biological control of plant-pathogenic nematodes

Last July (2025), the Plant Pathology Laboratory at the University of Alicante (Spain) hosted Laura Mayorga (Fig. 23), a doctoral student from the University of Florida (USA). Laura is conducting her doctoral thesis under the supervision of Dr Johan Desaeger, and focusing on the use of biological control agents for the sustainable management of plant-pathogenic nematodes. During her stay in Alicante, she worked on studying the potential of nematophagous fungi as a source of volatile organic compounds capable of contributing to more efficient management of plant-pathogenic nematodes. Her experiments, which were conducted in *in vitro*, allowed advances in research on the identification and characterization of volatile metabolites using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry techniques. The results of this work will serve as a basis for the development of new compounds with nematocidal activity, which will be evaluated in future field trials.

This stay has also provided a valuable opportunity for scientific exchange between the University of Alicante and the University of Florida, resulting from a collaboration that was initiated at the ONTA (Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America) meeting held in Cairo in 2023.



Fig. 23. A: Dr Johan Desaeger, M.Sc. Laura Mayorga and Dr Karla Medina; B: Dr Federico López-Llorca; C: a view of the campus of the University of Alicante, Spain.

CONGRATULATIONS

Prof. Roland Perry: new Honorary Member of the Society of Nematologists



Fig. 24. Dr Roland Perry.

Dr Roland Perry became a **Honorary Member of the Society of Nematologists (SON)** at the 64th Annual Society of Nematologists in Victoria, British, Columbia (13-17 July 2025).

Dr Roland Perry completed his undergraduate training in Zoology at Newcastle University in the UK, and his Ph.D. from the same institution in 1976. His research during that time established himself as a world leading expert in the physiology of plant-parasitic nematodes by studying desiccation survival of *Ditylenchus*.

After completing his Ph.D., Rolo moved to Keele University, UK, where he taught Parasitology. After three years at Keele, he began his career-long position at Rothamsted Experiment Station (now Rothamsted Research) where he established critical information on the physiology, biochemistry and behavior of economically important nematodes. This information helped to underpin control strategies that relied on disrupting the nematode life cycle, through exploring nematode hatching factors, invasion mechanisms, sensory perception and survival

physiology. He did not slow down after retirement, and moved to the University of Hertfordshire, UK as a Senior Visiting Research Scientist. Additionally, he holds Guest Professor positions at Ghent University (Belgium) and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing (China). Also, he has established a research cooperation at the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (Japan). Rolo is actively teaching and supervising students. He has developed and taught ten different courses at four institutions on nematology and has given more than 40 guest lectures in over 12 countries since 2000.

Dr Perry's contributions to developing educational material are unparalleled. *Plant Nematology*, in its 3rd edition, has become a seminal textbook for any nematology student, graduate or undergraduate. The 14 books in the *Nematology Monographs and Perspectives* series that Dr Perry co-edited from volume 3 are equally unmatched in their utility in providing researchers high quality, accessible information on various important genera and topics in nematology.

Perhaps Rolo's most impactful role has been his service as joint Editor-in-Chief of *Nematology*, editing and polishing each article, which he has done since 2004. He has also held the role of Chief Editor of the *Russian Journal of Nematology* for over twenty years.

Amongst Dr Perry's many accolades are numerous Fellowships, including those of the Society of Nematologists, the European Society of Nematologists, and the Association of Applied Biologists, as well as Honorary Member of the Russian Society of Nematologists.

Dr Perry is more than worthy of being elected an Honorary Member of the Society of

Nematologists in 2025 as there is not a nematology student or researcher that has not been impacted by his dedication and passion for nematology and for his exceptional

contributions to research and education in our discipline.

Source: Society of Nematologists



Plate 1. First and second row: Registration and welcoming reception; third row: Opening ceremony (Julia Meredith, Mara Rúbia) and key note speakers (Matthias Gaberthüel (Syngenta) And José Lozano-Torres); fourth row: symposia presentations.

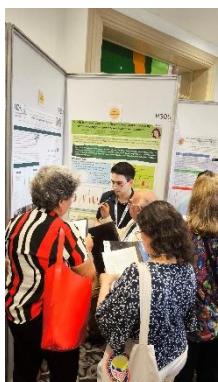
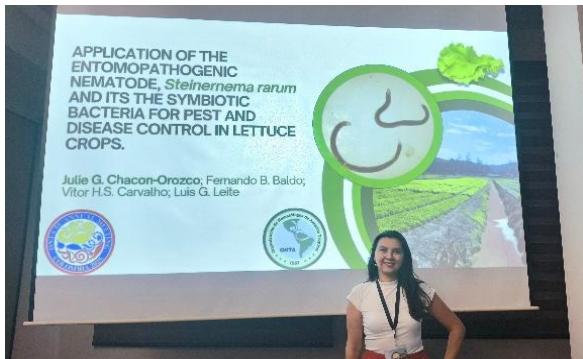


Plate 2. First row (from left to right): oral presentations; second row: lunch and poster session; third and fourth row: poster session and visit to coffee plantation.

ONTA GALLERY



Plate 3. Visit to CIAT (first and second row); Agrosavia (second row right corner), field demonstrations and breeding programs (third row); 'Palm weevil' *Rhynchophorus palmarum* culture and monitoring trap (fourth row).

ONTA GALLERY



Plate 4. First and second row: banquet; third row: key-note speakers (from left to right: José Lozano-Torres, Mayra Rodríguez, Aurelio Ciancio, Sergei Subbotin and Dayana Romero); Andrea Chacón giving a thanks message from Local organizers; fourth row: farewell speech by Dr Carlos Castañeda.



Fig. 25. ONTA delegates group picture.

Thanks Cali, and see you next in Puno in November 2026!

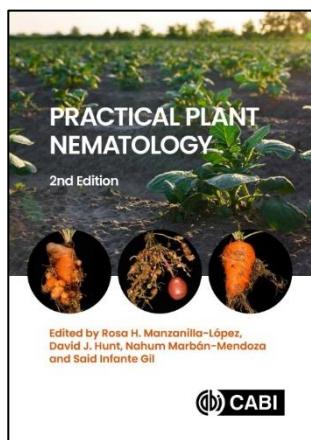


Fig. 26. *Practical Plant Nematology Second Edition*. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López, David J. Hunt, Nahum Marbán-Mendoza and Said Infante Gil (Eds.), CABI 2025.

The first edition of the book *Practical Plant Nematology* (Mundipressa, Mexico, 2012) was widely used by different professionals, as well as text book in nematology courses and phytosanitation diagnostics training. Responding to suggestions and feedback from end-users the second edition includes new and recent advances in nematology. The second edition, published by CABI in December 2025, can be acquired or accessed in hardback, ePDF or Epub formats. Full unlimited online free access at:

<https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/book/10.1079/9781836990413.0000>.

The book covers, at an introductory level, the various aspects that lie at the foundations of plant nematology to provide a practical overview of this area of crop protection and phytopathology at a level sufficient for the majority of users (nematology beginners to more advanced specialists). For those who wish to pursue a particular topic further, additional information sources are indicated wherever possible.

The book is divided into three parts and 24 chapters (670 pp), each chapter written by

expert nematologists. The first part of the book covers the biology, morphology, taxonomy and practical aspects of symptomatology, sampling, preparation and identification of nematodes using both classical and molecular approaches. This section is also intended to provide useful guidelines for those wishing to begin working with plant-parasitic nematodes.

The second part of the book deals with the taxonomy, diversity and bionomics (e.g., biology, ecology, management) of the most economically important plant-parasitic nematode groups. Keys to major taxa and genera are provided and are followed by sections that summarize and illustrate the diagnostic features of major plant-parasitic genera and species. The importance of soil nematodes to ecosystems and agroecosystems is increasingly recognized in soil health and soil web studies, areas where nematodes are key players. The inclusion of a chapter dedicated to the diagnostics of the major groups of free-living soil nematodes is therefore important, this chapter also serving to provide a more complete picture of the highly diverse soil nematode fauna.

The third part of the book deals with the ecological (e.g., nematodes as bioindicators), biochemical and molecular processes involved in plant-nematode interactions, and with the chemical and non-chemical methods used to manage nematodes as part of an integrated pest management approach. Statutory measures dealing with quarantine issues and knowledge dissemination aspects (farmer schools and participatory research) are also included to demonstrate the need for a more holistic approach when dealing with plant-parasitic nematodes. Finally, a statistics chapter outlining the planning and analysis of experiments is provided, this being an area where many students frequently require advice and support.

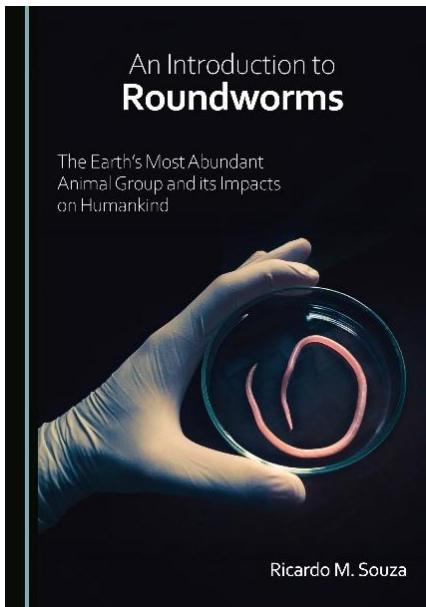


Fig. 27. An Introduction to Roundworms. The Earth's Most Abundant Animal Group and its Impacts on Humankind. Ricardo M. Souza, Cambridge Scholar Publishing.

The book 'An introduction to roundworms' (2025) is aimed at a general public and covers the impact and role of 'roundworms' (nematodes) on agriculture, human health, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The book explains the importance of nematodes as well as their use as biological models, environmental monitoring tools, and biological control agents of agricultural and urban pests. Supplementary material provides selected information on nematode life cycles and behavior, a narrated computer animation on the morphology and evolution of nematodes, and links to additional learning resources.

Dr Ricardo M. Souza is affiliated with the State University of Northern Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he leads a research group focused on roundworms. More information at <https://cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-0364-5945-1/>

New books and journals (cont.)

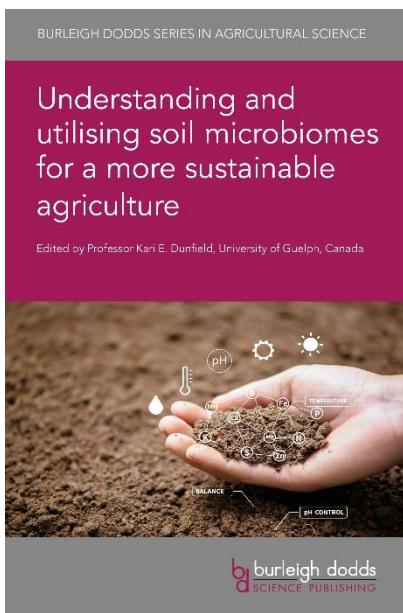


Fig. 28. Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing.

Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing are delighted to announce the publication of their new title 'Understanding and utilizing soil microbiomes for a more sustainable

agriculture', edited by **Professor Kari E. Dunfield**, University of Guelph, Canada.

In recent years, a new wave of research into understanding soil microbiomes has emerged, with stakeholders across the supply chain recognizing the fundamental importance of these communities in optimizing both crop and soil health. Despite these advancements, many soil microorganisms and their ecological functions remain only partially understood.

This new book summarizes the wealth of recent research in this important area. It reviews advances in techniques for analyzing soil microorganisms, the composition and dynamics of soil microbial communities, the ecosystem services they support and how they can be enhanced.

Find out more about this new book [here](#).
<https://www.bdspublishing.com/>

ONTA AGENDA

Symposium of the European Society of Nematologists: 01 June – 05 June 2026



Fig. 29. Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands (Image ESN website image).

Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands will host the ESN symposium focusing on advancing nematology with themes like host-parasite interactions (Fig. 30), with bursaries available for student members. Key information, registration, and abstract submission details can be found on the dedicated symposium website, www.esn2026.nl

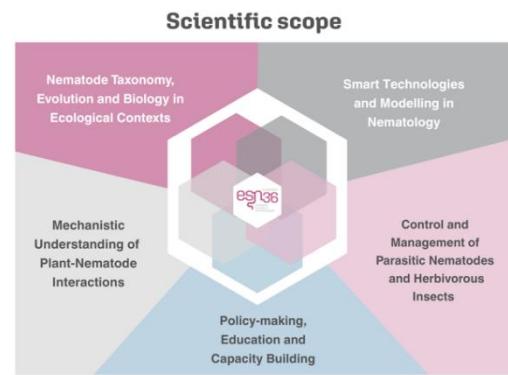


Fig. 30. ESN Symposium scientific scope.

Society of Nematologists: 06 – 10 July 2026.

‘Legacies and Futures: Nematodes in a changing world’. More information about the event, including registration and abstract submission details, can be found on the official [Society of Nematologists website](https://nematologists.org/SON2026).

(<https://nematologists.org/SON2026>)



Fig. 31. Baltimore, Maryland, USA (Image SON website).

Brazilian Society of Nematology: Recife, Brazil, 01-04 August, 2026. For further details, you can visit the official [Sociedade Brasileira](http://sociedadebrasileira)

de Nematologia website or contact the society via email at secretariadasbn@gmail.com

INVITATION

ONTA FOUNDATION



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 (Fig. 32); 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.



Fig. 32. Dr Janete Brito.

ANNUAL FEE ONTA MEMBERSHIP: INCREASE NOTICE

An increase in the membership fee was recently approved by ONTA members and Executive Committee; we share below the message sent by ONTA President about the new annual fee membership cost.



Fig. 33. ONTA President Mara Rúbia da Rocha.

Dear ONTA members,

I hope this message finds you all well.

We recently approved an increase in our annual membership dues, changing from US\$ 40.00 to US\$ 60.00 for regular members but maintaining US\$ 40.00 for students and post-doctoral members. We would like to thank you for voting and understanding the need for the update, considering that we had the same membership values for over 20 years. It is important to have your participation in the decisions made and that you keep supporting ONTA. We also would like to ask you to talk to your colleagues and students, and encourage them to become members of this vibrant society of nematology.

Best regards,

Mara Rubia Da Rocha
ONTA President
28 November 2025

ONTA MEMBERSHIP (cont.)

Estimados miembros de ONTA:

Espero que este mensaje los encuentre bien. Recientemente aprobamos un aumento en nuestra cuota anual de membresía, pasando de US\$ 40.00 a US\$ 60.00 para miembros regulares y manteniendo US\$ 40.00 para estudiantes y miembros posdoctorales. Les agradecemos su voto y su comprensión de la necesidad de esta actualización, considerando que hemos mantenido los mismos costos de

membresía durante más de 20 años. Es importante contar con su participación en las decisiones que se toman y que sigan apoyando a ONTA. También les pedimos que hablen con sus colegas y estudiantes y los animen a unirse a esta vibrante sociedad de nematología.

Atentamente,
Mara Rúbia Da Rocha
Presidenta de ONTA
28 de noviembre 2025

ONTA NEWSLETTER INVITATION

Dear ONTA member,

Do you have a passion for nematodes and nematology? Would you like to share nematology news and pictures 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 hear about your local nematology events and news.

Thanks,
Rosa (ONTA Newsletter editor)



Fig. 34. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ONTA Newsletter editor would like to thank all ONTA Newsletter contributors for kindly sending and sharing information and images.

Errata ONTA Newsletter Vol 55 Issue 1

We would like to correct the information published in the ONTA Newsletter (Vol 55 Issue 1, p. 6) about the number of ONTA Annual meetings held in Colombia prior to 2025. The ONTA Annual Meeting was only organized once in Bogota (1970). The 13th ONTA Annual meeting was held in **Guayaquil, Ecuador, 22-26, from June 1981 and not in Colombia (see text below)**.

“In the area of international scientific collaboration, the Organization of Nematologists of the American Tropics (ONTA) has held two meetings in Colombia. The first took place in 1970, in Bogota, in conjunction with the Plant Breeding Conference. The second was in 1981, at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Palmira, and was jointly organized by the Colombian Association of Plant Pathology (ASCOLFI) and the Caribbean Division of the American Phytopathological Society (APS)”.

Christmas and New Year Season Greetings

Dear ONTA members,

On behalf of the ONTA Executive Committee and the ONTA Foundation we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Estimados miembros de la ONTA:

A nombre del Comité Ejecutivo de la ONTA y de la Fundación ONTA les deseamos una Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo.



Fig. 29. Christmas and New Year card. Courtesy MSc Walter Peraza (Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.)

ONTA SUSTAINING MEMBERS

ONTA gratefully recognizes the long-standing support received in 2025 from Dr Luis Payan (Syngenta). ONTA is very appreciative for the sustaining members contributions received in 2025 from AgBiome, and in previous years from Adama, Amvac, Bayer, CERTIS Biologicals, Corbana, Corteva Agriscience, E-Nema, Ebio-Pioneer Chemicals, FMC, Koppert Biological Systems, Market ARM International hoping that they will maintain their interest in helping ONTA activities.



ONTA OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: **Mara Rúbia Da Rocha**, Laboratorio de Nematologia-EA/UFG, Brazil. Tel (62) 3521-1531; email: <darochamarubia@gmail.com>.

VICE-PRESIDENT: **Carolina Cedano**; Facultad de Ciencias Agropecuarias en la Universidad Nacional de Trujillo, La Libertad-Perú; email: carolinacedanosaavedra@gmail.com.

PAST-PRESIDENT: **Tristan T. Watson**. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter), FL; Tel.: 1-941-243-1397; email <TWatson@AgCenter.LSU.edu>.

SECRETARY: **Karla Medina**. Director of Field Development, Certis Biologicals, Remote office: Stagecoach Trl, Wimauma, FL 33598 (USA), Tel. (work mobile): 614-702-1384; email: <karlamedina11@gmail.com>.

LISTSERV: **Deborah Neher**. Department of Agriculture Landscape and Environment, University of Vermont, 63 Carrigan Drive, Burlington, VT USA 05405. Tel. Mobile: +1-802-922-8315; e-mail: <dneher@uvm.edu>.

TREASURER: **Renato N. Inserra**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Nematology Section, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville FL 32614-7100, USA. Tel: 1-352-395-4755; FAX: 1-352-395-4614; e-mail: <Renato.inserra@fdacs.gov>.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Julia Meredith, PO Box 140357, Gainesville, Florida 32614-0357, USA; e-mail: <jmeredith@cox.net>.

NEMATROPICA EDITOR-IN CHIEF: **Danny Humphreys-Pereira**, University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica <danny.humphreys@ucr.ac.cr>.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: **Rosa H. Manzanilla-López**, 16 Coleswood Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1EQ, United Kingdom. E-mail: <rosa.manzanilla@gmail.com>

MEMBERS AT LARGE: **Danny Coyne**, IITA, Kasarani, P.O. Box 30772-00100, Nairobi, Kenya; e-mail: <d.coyne@cgiar.org>; **Carlos Castañeda-Alvarez**, Laboratory, Department of Plant Health, University of Chile, 11315 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santiago, Chile, Email: carlos.castaneda@uchile.cl. Tel: +56 2 2297 85821.

BUSINESS MANAGER: **Janete Brito**, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Nematology Section, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville FL 32614-7100, USA. Tel: 1-352-395-4752; FAX: 1-352-935-4624; e-mail: <Janete.brito@fdacs.gov>

COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE: **William Crow**, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, P.O. Box 110620, Gainesville FL 32611-0620, USA; e-mail: <wtcr@ufl.edu>.

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE: **Janete Brito (Chair)**, see address under Executive Committee; **Larry W. Duncan**, University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred FL 33850-2299, USA; Tel: 1-863-956-1151; FAX: 1-863-956-4631; e-mail: <lwduncan@ufl.edu>; **Jim Rich**, University of Florida, 155 Research Road, Quincy FL 32351-9500, USA. Tel: 1-850-875-7130; FAX: 1-850-875-7148; e-mail: <Jimmymr@pineland.net>. **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana**, Department of Plant Pathology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849-5409, USA. Tel: 1-334-844-4714; FAX: 1-334-844-1948; e-mail: <rrodrigu@acesag.auburn.edu>. **Lee Simmons**, 504 Capstone Lane, Tallassee AL 36078, USA; email: <lsimmons@agbiome.com>.

HONORS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE: **Larry Duncan (Chair)**, see address under Foundation Committee. **Alejandro Esquivel**, Lab. Nematología, Escuela de Ciencias Agrarias, Universidad Nacional, AP 86-3000, Heredia, Costa Rica. Tel: 277 32 99; FAX: 261 00 35; e-mail: <aesquive@una.ac.cr>. **Ignacio Cid del Prado**, Colegio de Postgraduados Montecillo. Km 36.5 Carretera México-Texcoco, Montecillo CP 56230. Texcoco, Edo. México. Tel: 595-20200 Ext. 1667; FAX: 015959520200 Ext. 1632; <email: icid@colpos.mx>. **Paula Agudelo**, School of Agricultural, Forest, and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University. Clemson, SC, USA; e-mail <pagudelo@clemson.edu>. **Wilfrida Decraemer**, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Vautier Street 29, B1000 Brussels, Belgium; email: <Wilfrida.Decraemer@Ugent.be>.

NEMATROPICA EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: **Danny Humphreys-Pereira**, University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica <danny.humphreys@ucr.ac.cr> (see address under *Nematropica* EIC). **Louise-Marie Dandurand** (Past EIC), Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology, University of Idaho, 875 Perimeter Drive MS 2329, Moscow, ID 83844 <lmd@uidaho.edu> and **Inga Zasada** (Past EIC), USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory, 3420 NW Orchard Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330 <inga.zasada@usda.gov> (Past EIC). **Johan Desaeger**, University of Florida, Wimauma, FL <jad@ufl.edu> (Senior Editor). **Travis Faske**, University of Arkansas, Lonoke, AR <tfaske@uark.edu> (Senior Editor). **Claudio Marcelo Oliveira**, Instituto Biológico, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil <marcelonematologia@gmail.com> (Senior Editor, Portuguese). **Tristan Watson**, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA <twatson@agcenter.lsu.edu> (Senior Editor).

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: **Rosa H. Manzanilla-López (Chair)**, (address under Executive Committee); **Danny Humphreys-Pereira** (see address under *Nematropica* EIC); **Louise-Marie Dandurand** (Past EIC) and **Inga Zasada** (Past EIC), (see address under *Nematropica* Editorial Committee). **Terrence L. Kirkpatrick**, (see address under *Nematropica* Editorial Committee). **Kimberly Rowe**, Arkansas Plant Pathology, University of Arkansas, Department of Plant Pathology, Hope, AR 71801 USA; Tel: 870-438-2044; e-mail: <krowe@uaex.edu>

COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES (cont.)

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: **Rosa H. Manzanilla-López (Chair)**, (address under Executive Committee); **Renato N. Inserra**, (address under Executive Committee). **Larry Duncan** (address under Foundation Committee). **Patrick Quénéhervé** (Chair), ORSTOM Laboratoire de Nématologie, BP 8006-97259 Fort de France Cedex, Martinique (French West Indies); Tel: 596-645750; FAX: 596-717316; e-mail: <queneherve@ird-mq.fr>. **Juan Carlos Magunacelaya**, Avda. Brasil 2950, Valparaiso 4059, Chile, Tel: 56 2 678 5821; e-mail: <jmagunac@ucv.cl>. **Jim Rich**, University of Florida, 155 Research Road, Quincy FL 32351-9500, USA; Tel: 1-850-875-7130; FAX: 1-850-875-7148; e-mail: <Jimmyr@pineland.net>

SUSTAINING MEMBER COMMITTEE: **Johan Desaeger (Chair)**, University of Florida, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center 14625 CR 672, Wimauma, Florida 33598, USA Tel: 1-813-633-4123 or 813-431-6246; e-mail: <jad@ufl.edu>. **Luis A. Payan (Co-Chair)**, Syngenta Crop Protection, PO Box 18300, Greensboro NC 27409, USA Tel: 336-632-6000; e-mail: <luis.payan@syngenta.com>. **Janete A. Brito** (see address under Executive Committee). **Donald W. Dickson**, University of Florida, Entomology and Nematology Department, Gainesville, FL 32611-0620, USA Tel: 352-392-1901 (135); e-mail: <dwd@ufl.edu>. **Jenny Escobar**, Junin 116 y Panama, Guayaquil Guayas 09-13293, Ecuador; e-mail: <jenny.escobar@bayercropscience.com>. **Gustavo Fallas Meji**, Apartado 4595-1000, Edificio Rodfon C5 y Av.1, San Jose, Costa Rica. E-mail <gfallas@chiquita.com>. **Jimmy Rich**, (See address under Nominations Committee). **Lee Simmons**, (see address under ONTA Foundation committee). **Prem Warrior**, Valent BioScience Corporation, 6131 RFD, Oakwood Road, Long Grove, IL 60047, USA Tel: 1-847-968-4901; Fax: 1-847-968-4970; e-mail: <prem.warrior@valent.com>

WEB PAGE COMMITTEE: **Larry W. Duncan** (address under Foundation Committee and Honors and Awards Committee). **Jimmy Rich** (See address under Nominations Committee).

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE IFNS: **Aurelio Ciancio**, Istituto per la Protezione Sostenibile delle Piante, C.N.R., Sezione Bari, via Amendola 122-D, 70126 Bari, Italy; Tel: 39-80-5929-221; FAX: 39-80-5929-230; e-mail: <aurelio.ciancio@ipsp.cnr.it>. **Rosa H. Manzanilla-López** (address under Executive Committee).