



ORGANIZATION OF NEMATOLOGISTS OF TROPICAL AMERICA

ONTA NEWSLETTER

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

July 2026

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 in Puno (November 2026)	2
ONTA Foundation Students Invitation	7
From the ONTA President	8
From the ONTA Vice-President	9
From the ONTA Newsletter Editor	10
ONTA Members News	11
Congratulations	18
Obituaries	22
ONTA Gallery	28
New Books and Journals	29
ONTA Agenda	30
Invitation ONTA Foundation	31
Annual Fee ONTA Membership	31
ONTA Newsletter Invitation	32
Acknowledgements	32
ONTA Sustaining Members	33

ONTA Officers	34
Committees and Representatives	35



Fig. 2. Logo 56th ONTA Annual Meeting.

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

09 – 13 de noviembre

Capital del Folclore Peruano | Lago Titicaca


**CIENCIA E
INVESTIGACIÓN**


CULTURA


FOLKLORE

www.ontaperu.pe

CARTA DE BIENVENIDA

Estimados miembros y colegas de ONTA:

Es un honor y una gran satisfacción darles la bienvenida a Puno, Perú, sede oficial de la 56.^a Reunión Anual de la ONTA, que se realizará del 09 al 13 de noviembre de 2026.

Ubicada a orillas del Lago Titicaca, el lago navegable más alto del mundo, Puno constituye un escenario excepcional para el desarrollo de actividades científicas y académicas de alcance internacional, integrando una notable riqueza cultural, biodiversidad altoandina y un importante patrimonio histórico. Reconocida como la “Capital del Folclore Peruano”, la ciudad destaca por la preservación de sus tradiciones ancestrales, la diversidad de sus expresiones culturales y la hospitalidad de su población, elementos que contribuirán a enriquecer la experiencia de los participantes durante el evento.

El Comité Organizador está conformado por nematólogos peruanos con amplia experiencia académica y organizacional, comprometidos con la realización de una reunión científica de alto nivel orientada a promover el intercambio de conocimientos, la discusión de avances recientes en la nematología y el fortalecimiento de redes de cooperación científica internacional. La 56.^a Reunión Anual de la ONTA será realizada en el Hotel GHL Puno, una sede estratégica y de reconocido prestigio ubicada a orillas del Lago Titicaca, que ofrecerá las condiciones adecuadas de infraestructura, confort y capacidad logística para el desarrollo óptimo de las actividades científicas académicas y sociales del evento.

La programación científica incluirá conferencias magistrales, simposios temáticos, presentaciones orales, sesiones de pósteres, mesas de discusión técnica y espacios de interacción académica enfocados en los avances más recientes de la nematología agrícola, ambiental y aplicada. Asimismo, se desarrollarán actividades sociales y culturales que permitirán a los participantes conocer la riqueza histórica, gastronómica y cultural de la región altiplánica, incluyendo los paisajes del Lago Titicaca y las manifestaciones tradicionales que distinguen a Puno como uno de los principales referentes culturales del Perú. Confiamos en que esta reunión constituirá una valiosa oportunidad para fortalecer la colaboración científica, fomentar nuevas iniciativas de investigación y consolidar los vínculos académicos y profesionales entre los miembros de la ONTA y la comunidad nematológica internacional.



WELCOME LETTER

Dear ONTA members and colleagues,

It is an honor and a great pleasure to welcome you to Puno, Peru, the official host city for the 56th ONTA Annual Meeting, taking place from 09 to 13 November 2026.

Situated on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, Puno offers an exceptional setting for international scientific and academic activities, combining remarkable cultural richness, high-Andean biodiversity, and significant historical heritage. Recognized as the “Capital of Peruvian Folklore”, the city is distinguished by the preservation of its ancestral traditions, the diversity of its cultural expressions, and the hospitality of its people, elements that will help enrich the participants’ experience during the event.

The Organizing Committee is composed of Peruvian nematologists with extensive academic and organizational experience, committed to hosting a high-level scientific meeting aimed at fostering knowledge exchange, discussing recent advances in nematology, and strengthening international scientific cooperation networks. The 56th ONTA Annual Meeting will be held at the GHL Hotel Puno, a prestigious, strategically located venue on the shores of Lake Titicaca, which offers the infrastructure, comfort, and logistical capacity necessary for the successful execution of the event’s academic, scientific, and social activities.

The scientific program will feature keynote lectures, thematic symposia, oral presentations, poster sessions, technical panel discussions, and opportunities for academic interaction focused on the latest advances in agricultural, environmental, and applied nematology. Additionally, social and cultural activities will allow participants to experience the historical, culinary, and cultural richness of the Altiplano region, including the landscapes of Lake Titicaca and the traditional expressions that distinguish Puno as a major cultural hub in Peru.

We are confident that this meeting will provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen scientific collaboration, foster new research initiatives, and consolidate academic and professional ties between ONTA members and the international nematology community.

Plate 1. 56.^a Annual ONTA Meeting Activities and Local Organization Members.



ACTIVIDADES CULTURALES

Danzas típicas, presentaciones folklóricas, gastronomía regional y recorrido por la ciudad y sus alrededores.

Cultural activities: Traditional dances, folk performances, regional cuisine, and a tour of the city and its surroundings.



EXCURSIÓN TÉCNICA

Visitas a centros de investigación agrícola, campos experimentales y comunidades rurales vinculadas a la producción andina.

Technical excursion: Visits to agricultural research centers, experimental fields, and rural communities linked to Andean production.



LAGO TITICACA

Explora el lago navegable más alto del mundo, sus islas flotantes y la cosmovisión del pueblo aymara.

Titicaca Lake: Explore the highest navigable lake in the world, its floating islands, and the worldview of the Aymara people.

NUESTRA ORGANIZACIÓN



Dra. Mara Rúbia da Rocha

ONTA PRESIDENTA

Lab. de Nematología, EA/UFG — Brazil



Dra. Carolina E. Cedano Savedra

ONTA VICEPRESIDENTA

Univ. Nacional de Trujillo — Perú



Dr. Israel Lima Medina

**PRESIDENTE ORGANIZADOR ONTA
PERU**

Univ. Nacional del Altiplano – Puno, Perú

ONTA COMITÉ EJECUTIVO**ONTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Ernesto San-Blas Ex-presidente <i>Universidad de O'Higgins — Chile</i>	Karla Medina Secretaria <i>Certis Biologicals — USA</i>
Renato N. Inserra Tesorero <i>Florida Dept. of Agriculture — USA</i>	Deborah Neher Listserv <i>University of Vermont — USA</i>
Julia Meredith Asistente Administrativa <i>Gainesville, Florida — USA</i>	Danny Humphreys-Pereira Editor en Jefe de Nematropica <i>Universidad de Costa Rica</i>
Rosa H. Manzanilla-López Editor Newsletter <i>CEPROBI-IPN — MÉXICO/UK</i>	Danny Coyne Miembro a Distancia <i>IITA — Kenya</i>
Carlos Castañeda Miembro a Distancia <i>University of Chile</i>	Janete Brito Gerente de Negocios <i>Florida Dept. of Agriculture — USA</i>

COMITÉ ORGANIZADOR LOCAL – PUNO, PERÚ**LOCAL ORGANIZER COMMITTEE – PUNO, PERU**

Jesús Arcos Pineda <i>Universidad Nacional del Altiplano</i>	Rosario Y. Bravo Portocarrero <i>Universidad Nacional del Altiplano</i>	Fanny R. Márquez <i>Universidad Nacional de Iquitos</i>
Aurelio Iván Ramos Flores <i>Universidad Nacional del Altiplano</i>	Víctor H. Casa Coila <i>Universidad Nacional de San Agustín</i>	Cesar A. Murguía Reyes <i>Universidad Nacional de Piura</i>
Elizabeth L. Gutierrez Olguin <i>Univiversidad Nacional del Altiplano</i>	Dustin Stewart Marin Gil <i>Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina</i>	
Graciela Ramírez Flores <i>Univiversidad Nacional del Altiplano</i>	Karen Barzola Tito <i>Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina</i>	
Jerson Romario Gomez Cahuana <i>Universidad Nacional del Altiplano</i>	Carolina E. Cedano Savedra <i>Universidad Nacional de Trujillo</i>	

AVISO IMPORTANTE: 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: It is advisable to acclimatize to the high Andean altitude before arriving in Puno, either by spending two days at a lower altitude before the meeting begins or by avoiding physical exertion during the first few days after your arrival.

DESCUBRE PUNO**DISCOVER PUNO**

Fig. 3. Discover Puno. A: Lago Titicaca; B: Danzas folclóricas; C: Festival Virgen de la Candelaria; D: Plaza mayor de Puno; E: Gastronomía Puneña. [A: Titicaca Lake; Folk dances; C: Virgen de la Candelaria Festival; D: Puno's Main Square; E: Puno cuisine.]

INFORMACIÓN Y CONTACTO**INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

Página Web	Correo	Teléfono
https://www.ontaperu.peru	ontaperu@unap.edu.pe ilima@unap.edu.pe	956 838 730

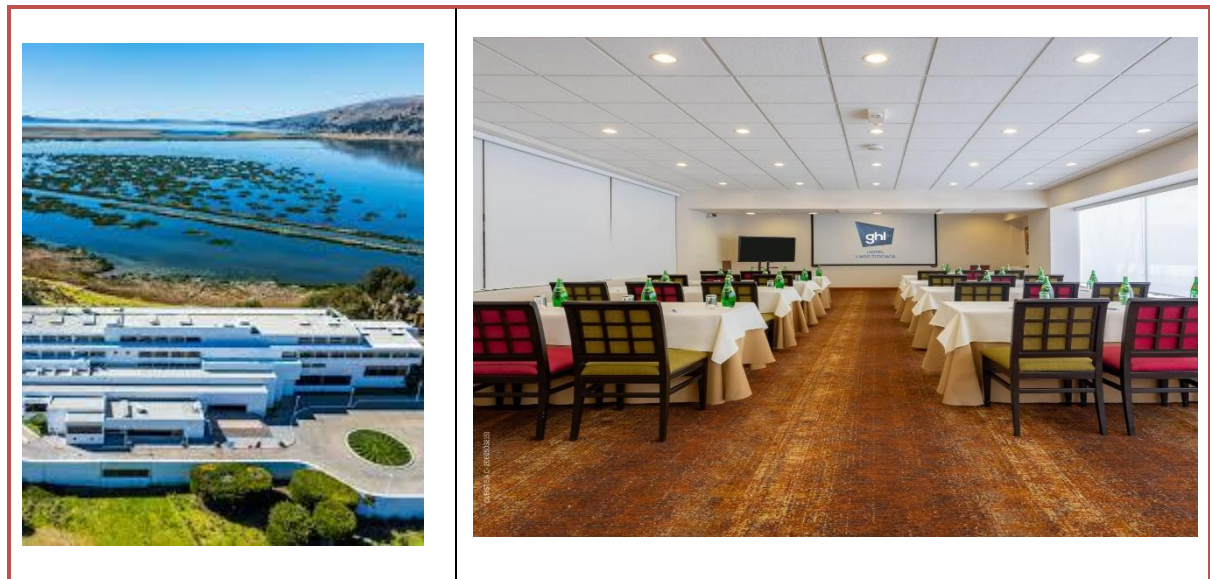


Fig. 4. Views of GHL Hotel in Puno. A: Panoramic view; B: Auditorium.

ONTA FOUNDATION STUDENTS INVITATION

56th ONTA Annual Meeting Puno, Peru, 09-13 November 2026

ROD RODRÍGUEZ-KÁBANA STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

Full time graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to participate in the **annual Rod Rodríguez-Kábana Student Poster Competition** sponsored by the ONTA Foundation. Guidelines for abstracts and posters are available at the Meeting website (<https://www.ontaperu.pe/presentacion>). Posters should be written and presented in English.



- **First place: US \$500.00**
- **Second place: US \$350.00**
- **Third place: US \$250.00**

Deadline for application submission: 08 September 2026.

Please send a copy of your abstract by email to Dr Janete Brito (Chair of the ONTA Foundation) at <janete.brito@fdacs.gov>.

Before submitting your abstract, please check if you have written “ONTA Student Poster Competition” on the subject line of the e-mail. Also, please note that you **MUST** submit a copy of your abstract directly via the Meeting website. If you have any questions, please contact Dr Janete Brito. Awards will be given during the ONTA Honors and Awards Banquet.

Student Travel Awards

Deadline for application submission: 08 September 2026.

The ONTA Foundation is once again requesting applications for **Student Travel Awards** to attend the 56th ONTA Annual Meeting in Puno, Peru. Full time graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to compete. Each award will be in the amount of US \$800.00.

To be eligible for these awards, an individual must present an oral presentation or be part of the Student Poster Competition, submit an abstract, travel award application form, one page biographical sketch and an acknowledgement letter from the major professor.

To apply for these Travel Awards, please submit the requested information (abstract, travel award application form, biographical sketch, major professor acknowledgement) to Dr Janete Brito (Chair of the ONTA Foundation) at <janete.brito@fdacs.gov>. Please note that you **MUST** also submit a copy of your Abstract directly via the Meeting website (<https://www.ontaperu.pe/presentacion>). The winners will be selected based on scientific merit, with some consideration of economic need. Please submit applications as soon as possible to allow the ONTA Foundation Committee sufficient time to make the award announcements. Applications can only be made in English.

FROM THE ONTA-PRESIDENT



Fig. 5. Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha, ONTA President.

Dear ONTA members,

We are happy to announce that the arrangements for our next meeting (56th ONTA Annual Meeting) in Puno, Peru, is well advanced thanks to Dr Israel Lima Medina, from University Nacional del Altiplano and his diligent team. The organizing scientific committee is finishing the program that will be available soon. Registrations and abstract submissions are open. You can find more information on the web site

(<https://www.ontaperu.pe>) and follow “onta_peru2026” on Instagram.

In the meantime, the ONTA Executive Committee have been meeting and trying to get improvements to our organization. We are updating the specific committees and for that we would like to welcome and thank for accepting the invitations: Carlos Castañeda-Alvarez, Walter Peraza Padilla, Sergei Subottin, Ernesto San Blas, Helen Guardia. We also would like to acknowledge the former members who gave their time and collaborated with ONTA: Alejandro Esquivel, Paula Agudelo, Wilfrida Decraemer, Terrence L. Kirkpatrick, Kimberly Rowe, Patrick Quénéhervé, Juan Carlos Magunacelaya, Jim Rich, Jenny Escobar, Donald Dickson, Gustavo Fallas Meji, Lee Simmons and Prem Warrior.

Another action we took was to hire Jaquelin (Jacki) Beacham, as a business officer, who will take charge of ONTA administrative functions. We welcome Jacki to our team and thank her for accepting the challenge. In the near future we hope to get our web site updated with all the changes about the committees and try to include some news and useful files for all nematologists.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Puno!

Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha

FROM THE ONTA VICE-PRESIDENT



Fig. 6. Dr Carolina Cedano, ONTA Vice-President.

Dear ONTA members,

Please accept warm and cordial greetings from Peru, the host country for the 56th Annual Meeting, which will take place from November 9 to 13 of this year in the city of Puno.

I am pleased to inform you that the Organizing Committee, chaired by Dr. Israel Lima, has been working with great care and dedication on the academic and scientific program, aiming to ensure the success of this important gathering and to foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences within our specialty.

We also remind you of the importance of registering in advance, by the end of August, to qualify for the applicable discount. Likewise, we invite you to submit your research abstracts within the established deadlines.

Kind regards,

Dr Carolina Cedano

ONTA Vice-President

Estimados miembros de la Organización de Nematólogos de los Trópicos Americanos (ONTA):

Reciban un cordial y afectuoso saludo desde el Perú, país anfitrión de la **56.ª Reunión Anual**, que se llevará a cabo del **9 al 13 de noviembre** del presente año en la ciudad de Puno.

Me complace informarles que el Comité Organizador, presidido por el Dr. Israel Lima, viene trabajando con gran esmero y dedicación el programa académico y científico con el propósito de garantizar el éxito de este importante encuentro y promover el intercambio de conocimientos y experiencias en nuestra especialidad.

Asimismo, les recordamos la importancia de realizar su registro con anticipación, hasta fines del mes de agosto, para acceder al descuento correspondiente. De igual manera, los invitamos a enviar los resúmenes de sus investigaciones dentro de los plazos establecidos.

Puno, reconocida como la capital del folclore peruano, y el majestuoso Lago Titicaca, cuna de la civilización inca, los esperan con los brazos abiertos para que, durante su estadía, puedan disfrutar de su riqueza cultural, festiva y gastronómica.

Será un honor contar con su valiosa participación en este evento que, sin duda, fortalecerá nuestra comunidad científica.

Cordialmente,

Dra. Carolina Cedano
ONTA Vice-Presidente

FROM THE ONTA NEWSLETTER EDITOR

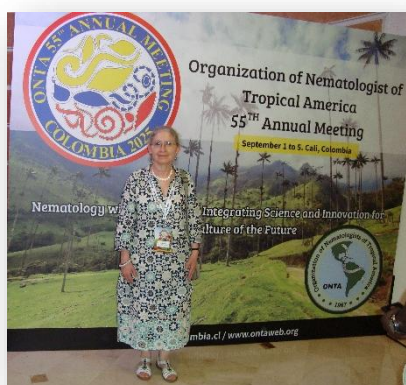


Fig. 7. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López.

Dear ONTA members,

It is a pleasure to be again with you and share the nematology news kindly sent by ONTA Officers, colleagues and friends. We are pleased to inform you that ONTA's President, Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha, has kept frequent communication with the Executive Committee (EC) members through EC online meetings to address important issues for our Organization related to management, finances, the organization of this year ONTA's annual meeting, and ongoing arrangements for the next International Congress of Nematology (ICN) in Punta Varas, Chile (September 2028), which ONTA is backing up. Hence the invitations to Dr Israel Lima Medina, President of the local organizers of the 56th ONTA Annual Meeting (Plate 1) in Puno, Peru (09 – 13 November 2026), and to Dr Ernesto San-Blas President of the ICN local arrangements committee.

As we approach our 56th ONTA Annual Meeting, Dr Israel Lima Medina (Plate 1) and his team have prepared a detailed brochure about the organization, scientific program, registration, abstracts, accommodation, transport and travel information that can be accessed at ONTA's Website.

ONTA colleagues Drs Aurelio Ciancio and Mariella M. Finetti Sialer (*Consiglio*

Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR, Italy) shared the experiences at the 'Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Costa Rica, as part of an academic exchange (March – April 2026). Profs Luis Lopez-Llorca and Federico Lopez-Moya sent news of the First Annual Meeting of the EU funded project CROPSAFE (Crop Protection Strategies for the Transition to Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture (Horizon-JU-CBE-2024-RIA-03 Sustainable, bio-based alternatives for crop protection)) that was held in June at the University of Alicante, Spain.

We extend congratulations to Dr Soledad Verdejo Lucas for assuming the Spanish Nematology Society (SEN) presidency for the next two years. The SEN (Sociedad Española de Nematología) held its 4th Annual Meeting at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Lugo, Spain (25 – 26 June 2026). The SEN has closer links with ONTA with some members belonging to both societies.

We also congratulate Prof. Alejandro Tovar-Soto (National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico) and Prof. Luis Lopez-Llorca (University of Alicante, Spain) on their retirement after a life career dedicated to agricultural nematology, microbiology, and biological control.

We honor and remember ONTA members who have passed away recently including Dr Jesse Román-Toro (16th January 2026), Prof. Emeritus of the College of Agriculture, Mayagüez Campus, University of Puerto Rico; Engineer Eleodoro Herrera Alvarino "Lolo" (3rd October 2025) and Dr Ana María Cassasa Padron (13th April 2026).

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

Kind regards,
Rosa H. Manzanilla-López

Visit to Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Costa Rica**Mariella M. Finetti-Sialer**

During March and April 2026, the *Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza* (CATIE), in Costa Rica, received the visit of two researchers from the *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* (Italy): Drs Aurelio Ciancio and Mariella M. Finetti Sialer, who experienced a highly enriching academic and exchange experience at CATIE.

Their participation at CATIE integrated naturally into the every day scientific life of the center, providing knowledge in key areas such as nematology and molecular biology. Thanks to their collaboration, laboratory activities were reactivated and valuable support was provided to master's students in the development of the experimental part of their thesis (Fig. 8).

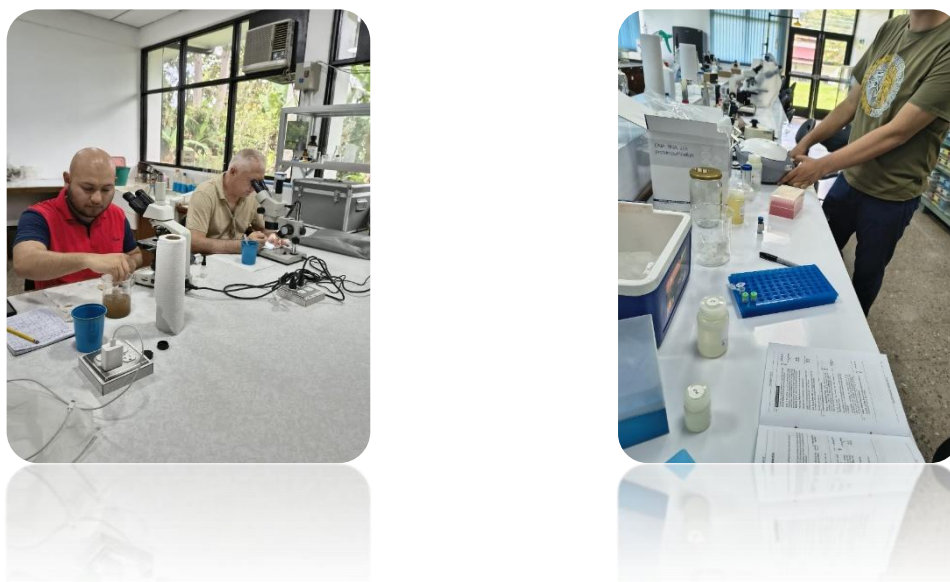


Fig. 8. Visit to CATIE. A: Nematology lab; B: Molecular biology tests hands on.

The visit also opened new opportunities for joint research with CATIE. In particular, studies will begin on metagenomic analysis in banana crops subjected to different nutritional regimes, as well as the evaluation of innovative methodologies for the molecular analysis of tropical plants.

Dr Ciancio also actively participated in the Wallace 2026 Conference (Fig. 9A), sharing experiences with international experts such as Richard A. Sikora, Carsten Brühl and the general director of CATIE, Luis Pocasangre. In this context, the One Health approach was promoted in collaboration with the FAO and the IICA, which integrates human, animal and environmental health.

Visit to CATIE (cont.)



Fig. 9. A: Dr Aurelio Ciancio's presentation at the Wallace Conference; B: Inauguration of the 2026-2027 academic year.

Finally, Dr Ciancio also participated in the inauguration activities of the academic year 2026-2027 (Fig. 9B), thus strengthening cooperation ties and designing future joint initiatives between institutions. All of this set in an incomparable beautiful environment (Fig. 10), as the university campus is located about 5 km south of the center of Turrialba in Costa Rica, which is part of the area of influence of the 'Reventazón' Model Forest in the province of Cartago.



Fig. 10. Visit to the coffee tree collection.

Visita al Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Costa Rica

Mariella M. Finetti-Sialer

Durante los meses de marzo y abril, el *Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza* (CATIE), en Costa Rica, contó con la visita de dos investigadores del *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* (Italia), Aurelio Ciancio y Mariella M. Finetti Sialer, en una experiencia de intercambio académico altamente enriquecedora.

Su participación se integró de forma natural en la vida científica del centro, aportando conocimientos en áreas clave como la nematología y la biología molecular. Gracias a su colaboración, se reactivaron actividades de laboratorio y se brindó un valioso apoyo a estudiantes de maestría en el desarrollo de sus tesis experimentales (Fig. 8).

La estancia también abrió nuevas oportunidades de investigación conjunta. En particular, se iniciaron estudios sobre el análisis metagenómico en cultivos de banano sometidos a distintos regímenes nutricionales, así como la evaluación de metodologías innovadoras para el análisis molecular de plantas tropicales.

El Dr. Ciancio tuvo además una activa participación en la Conferencia Wallace 2026 (Fig. 9A), compartiendo espacio con expertos internacionales como Richard A. Sikora, Carsten Brühl y con el director general del CATIE, Luis Pocasangre. En este contexto, se impulsó el enfoque *One Health*, promovido en colaboración con la FAO y el IICA, que integra la salud humana, animal y ambiental.

Finalmente el Dr. Ciancio también formó parte de las actividades de inauguración del año académico 2026-2027 (Fig. 9B), reforzando los lazos de cooperación y proyectando futuras iniciativas conjuntas entre las instituciones.

Todo esto en un marco de belleza incomparable (Fig. 10), ya que el campus universitario se encuentra situado a unos 5 km al sur del centro de Turrialba en Costa Rica, y forma parte del área de influencia del Bosque Modelo Reventazón en la provincia de Cartago.

Across the Atlantic

Spain

CROPSAFE: Crop Protection Strategies for the Transition to Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture (Horizon -JU-CBE-2024-RIA-03 Sustainable, bio-based alternatives for crop protection)

First Annual Meeting 17-19 June 2026, University of Alicante, Spain

The European Union funded project CROPSAFE aims to develop bioactive materials from non-edible biomass to replace harmful agrochemicals in essential crops such as tomatoes, potatoes, and bananas. The project's consortium is integrated by 15 partner organizations, the Project Coordinator Prof. Luis Vicente Lopez-Llorca (University of Alicante) and 6 members of the External Advisory Board. The first annual meeting was held at the University of Alicante, Spain (17-19 June 2026) and was organized by the Project coordinator and Associate Prof. Federico Lopez-Moya of the Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Dept. of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry and Dept. of Biochemistry (Fig. 11). The first day of the meeting, after welcoming project participants, Federico Lopez-Moya gave a summary of the 10 work packages and milestones progress achieved by project participants during the first year, followed by the online participation of Michele Ghidotti (CBE-JU, EU). The project's 10 work packages detailed progress was covered in the presentations given by partners, each partner presentation being followed by an open discussion. It is worth mentioning CROPSAFE emphasis relies on the need to understand the modes of action of bio-compounds, biological control agents and their interactions with crops and the environment as well as the importance of collaboration with various partners, including biorefineries and formulation experts, and the necessity of engaging stakeholders to ensure the project's success.

Partners presented their research work on biocontrol fungi and chitosan for pest management (including root-knot and cyst nematodes), as well as a focus on lignin supply and wood-based chemicals. Overall, the discussions, for example, covered effective testing protocols, potential risks associated with the project development and troubleshooting strategies. Overall, the first annual meeting underscored CROPSAFE collaborative efforts and innovative approaches being undertaken to advance sustainable agricultural practices.



Fig. 11. CROPSAFE partners group picture (Alicante, Spain, 17-19 June 2026).

Across the Atlantic (cont.)

On the third day of the CROPSAFE meeting participants visited the Elche Agricultural Experimental Station where they attended a workshop of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Workshop presentations were given by IPM experts (Fig. 12) on topics such as the development and production and application of biocontrol agents (Leopoldo Hidalgo, BioTor, Nicaragua); innovative IPM of insect crop pests. Push and pull and other strategies (Francesco Porcelli, University of Bari, Italy); Fusarium wilt of banana: efforts to combat a disease of global significance (Altus Viljoen, Stellenbosch University, South Africa); the cell biology of appressorium-mediated plant infection by the rice blast fungus (Marisela Garduño Rosales, TSL, Norwich, UK); innovative IPM of plant-parasitic nematodes (Solveig Hauckeland, NBIO, Norwich, UK); innovative IPM of banana pests and diseases (Luis Pocasangre, CATIE, Costa Rica); a woody holobiont confronting a vascular pathogen (Jesús Mercado-Blanco, CSIC, Granada, Spain).



Fig. 12. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Workshop. A: Dr Leopoldo Hidalgo; B: Dr Luis Pocasangre; C: Jesús Mercado-Blanco; D: Prof. Luis Lopez-Llorca and Dr Aurelio Ciancio.

Fourth Annual Meeting of the Spanish Society of Nematology (25-26 June 2026, Lugo, Spain)

By Prof. Luis Lopez-Llorca

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Spanish Nematology Society (Sociedad Española de Nematología) took place at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Lugo, Spain (Fig. 13), on June 25 and 26, 2026, bringing together nematology experts from across Spain as well as colleagues from Portugal. Oral presentations and posters were showcased. The diverse range of topics that were dealt with included nematode diversity and functional structure in crops, novel molecular detection techniques for emerging pathogenic nematodes in Europe, the combination of biological control agents and chitosan, and the nematocidal role of apiary biomass. Several talks and posters addressed various aspects of entomopathogenic nematodes. Of particular note was the participation of invited representatives from the company Antoine, who have developed a method for the automated detection and identification of nematodes using AI models.

Noteworthy were the lectures on parasitic nematodes of veterinary importance and a fantastic practical workshop on parasitic nematodes of terrestrial animals. This workshop included demonstrations of extraction and observation techniques using samples of these parasite species, carried out by the congress participants.

The gathering fostered a fascinating debate regarding the frontiers of nematology and the role of the newly established SEN in promoting the field within the scientific community and society at large. During the meeting, the SEN's Board of Directors was renewed, with Dr Soledad Verdejo Lucas assuming the presidency for the next two years. We extend our thanks to Dr M. Celia Besteiro Rodriguez from the University of Santiago de Compostela (Lugo campus) and her colleagues for organizing an excellent scientific meeting, which also featured a fascinating guided tour of Lugo's historic center and beautiful city walls, as well as a concert of Baroque and traditional Galician music.

Luis V. Lopez Llorca
Outgoing President of the SEN
June 2026



Fig. 13. Delegates attending the Fourth Annual meeting of the Spanish society of Nematology (25-26 June 2026 Lugo, Spain).

CONGRATULATIONS

United Kingdom

Dr Matthew Back's promotion

Congratulations to Dr Matthew Back at Harper Adams University (Figs 14, 15) who was recently promoted to full professor in recognition of his research on non-chemical management of plant-parasitic nematodes and his teaching of Plant Pathology at all the different levels of university education.

Prof. Back has been Senior Lecturer in Plant Pathology & Nematology Centre for Integrated Pest Management (CIPM) at Harper Adams University (Newport, Shropshire, UK), and member of the Nematology Group of the Association of Applied Biologists (AAB) of the UK. He is co-organizer of the Potato Cyst Nematode Management symposium at Harper Adams. The symposium is periodically organized in collaboration with the AAB. Prof. Back is also a long standing contributor to the ONTA Newsletter.



Fig. 14. Prof. Matthew Back with current and former students at the Annual Advances of Nematology of the AAB (Linnean Society, London, UK).



Fig. 15. Prof. Matthew Back with PhD students at the European Society of Nematology. From right to left: Ronald Manjoro whose project focuses on chitinous amendments for PCN control; Prof. Matthew Back; Francis Kawalya whose project focuses on partial biofumigation; Regan Harding-Smith investigating grass endophytes.

CONGRATULATIONS

Prof. Alejandro Tovar-Soto

Fig. 16 . Prof. Alejandro Tovar-Soto.

Congratulations on his retirement to Prof. Alejandro Tovar-Soto (Figs 16, 17A) after more than four decades dedicated to teaching and research on Agricultural Nematology. He earned his degree in Chemical Bacteriology and Parasitology by the National School of Biological Sciences of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico (ENCB-IPN) and got his master and doctoral degrees in Phytopathology at the Postgraduates College (CP Montecillos Campus, Mexico). Most of his professional career was dedicated to teaching and conducting scientific research at the IPN starting his nematology teaching in 1981 as an assistant to Dr Fernando de la Jara Alcocer in the Department of Parasitology at ENCB-IPN.

Since 1981 he served as a tenured professor of Agricultural Nematology and later on of Applied Plant Nematology. He has been post-graduates professor and supervisor for over 20 years at the ENCB-IPN as well as a visiting professor at the Development of Biotic Products Center (CEPROBI-IPN). Since 2002, he has been an active member of the National

System of Researchers (SNII) of the Secretariat of Science, Humanities, Technology and Innovation (SECIHTI). As a SNII member he has reviewed research projects, study programs for the National Graduate Program (PNP), and postdoctoral fellowships, among others.

Alejandro has published articles in national and international scientific journals and book chapters related to Agricultural Nematology. He has directed and participated in research projects in conjunction with other institutions. Throughout his career, he supervised numerous undergraduate and graduate students theses and presented scientific papers at national and international congresses. He served as an active member of several scientific societies, including ONTA (Organization of Nematologists of Tropical Nematology), and as a reviewer and associate editor of scientific journals. Since 2011, he has collaborated in the organization and coordination of the annual pre-congress course on Plant Pathogenic Nematodes organized by the Mexican Society of Phytopathology.

Alejandro has been Deputy Head of the Parasitology Department at the ENCB-IPN, Social Service Coordinator, and Head of the Agricultural Nematology Laboratory in the Parasitology Department. Through his professional career he has received numerous awards. Furthermore, thanks to his long teaching career, he was awarded the “Maestro Rafael Ramírez” (2011) and the “Juan de Dios Bátiz” (2015) medals by the IPN. The medal “Maestro Manuel Altamirano” was awarded to him by the Mexican Ministry of Public Education (SEP) in (2021). On the 15 of April 2026 he became a retired member of the IPN and Dr Maria Gabriela Medina-Canales (Fig. 15), a former graduate of Prof. Tovar-Soto, was appointed the new head of the Laboratory of Agricultural Nematology.

Congratulations (cont.)



Fig. 17. A: Prof. Alejandro Tovar-Soto (front row center) and students at the National School of Biological Sciences of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico (ENCB-IPN); B: Poster session at Cali ONTA Annual meeting 2025 (from right to left): Prof. Maria Gabriela Medina Canales; Viviana M. Vega Becerril and Rosa H. Manzanilla-López.

CONGRATULATIONS

Prof. Luis Lopez-Llorca's Last Lecture

Prof. Luis Vicente Lopez-Llorca ('Luis Vi') on the 17th June 2026 announced his retirement at the first annual meeting of the CROPSAFE Project (Fig. 18). To mark this achievement, he gave a memorable presentation entitled 'Last lecture': On Fungi, Nematodes, Plants, Insects, Human Beings, and Other Beasts' in which he shared with the audience his personal story, journey and key experiences behind a life dedicated to research and teaching¹. In Luis Vi own words: *"My dear colleagues, students, friends and family. Many thanks for joining me on such a special occasion. Research and Teaching have been very dear to me for more than forty years. They have been both my work and my hobby. I would like to share with you the human and scientific issues that these forms of creativity have for me."*



Fig. 18. Prof. Luis Lopez-Llorca's lecture "On Fungi, Nematodes, Plants, Insects, Human Beings, and Other Beasts".

In words of Prof. Lopez-Moya: 'Luis Vi career has covered more than four decades of dedication to research, over 160 scientific publications, thousands of international

citations, and a body of scientific work that has established the University of Alicante of Spain as a global reference in the study of nematophagous fungi, endophytes, and biological control. The scientific contributions made by his research team have helped to shift paradigms in fields as diverse as fungal ecology and plant-fungus interactions, and have highlighted the endophytic *Pochonia chlamydosporia* and parasitic nature of the fungus in the biological control of nematodes and insects, and the biotechnological application of beneficial microorganisms'.

His retirement was an occasion not only to celebrate the scientist and the teacher but the person as it was pointed out during the speech given by Dr Federico Lopez-Moya on behalf of the audience, friends, colleagues, and the many students who had attended the laboratory and lectures of Prof. Luis Vi: *"Luis Vi has not been merely a professor at the University of Alicante. He has not been just a brilliant researcher or an exceptional thesis supervisor. For many of us, Luis Vicente has embodied a way of understanding science and a way of understanding life."* Dr Federico ('Fede') kindly allowed to share his speech with the ONTA Newsletter readers and we present below some selected fragments of it.

Prof. Luis Vi founded the FitoLab (the Phytopathology laboratory), which, according to Federico, it has been: *"A place where experiments were discussed in front of a whiteboard, where successes were celebrated, and where lessons were learned from failures (of which there were many). A place where field trips, conferences, meals, mountain outings, laughter, and even difficult moments were shared. A place where friendship and science grew together"*.

CONGRATULATIONS (cont.)

“The prologue to the Fitolabook (authored by Prof. Luis Vi <http://hdl.handle.net/10045/122188>)¹ states something that perfectly encapsulates your legacy: that hyper-competitiveness can be replaced by camaraderie; that team spirit can be more important than individualism; and that scientific excellence can be achieved without sacrificing human values.

Luis Vi always understood that a doctoral thesis was much more than a scientific project. It was a stage of personal growth. It was an adventure. It was a journey.

That is why Fitolab, your home, was never just a laboratory.

It was a scientific family.

And congratulations on an extraordinary career.

Fitolab will carry on, with your name in its DNA”.



Fig. 19. Fitolabbook covers (ONTA Newsletter 2022, Vol. 52(1): 22-25.)

¹Prof. Lopez-Llorca's last lecture can be accessed at Repository University of Alicante (RUA) in Catalan, English, Italian and Spanish versions <<https://hdl.handle.net/10045/169112>>. See also: “Fields of gold, a tale on nematodes and fungus” by Luis V. Lopez-Llorca (2022) ONTA Newsletter Vol. 52(1): 22-25.

Dr Jesse Román-Toro
1931-2026



Dr Jesse Román-Toro, Prof. Emeritus of the College of Agriculture, Mayagüez Campus, University of Puerto Rico, passed away on January 16, 2026, at the age of 94. Jessé grew up in Capo Rojo, Puerto Rico. In 1956, he

earned his Bachelor of Science in zoology and chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. After graduation, he worked as research assistant at Department of Entomology, Agricultural Experiment Station (AES), Río Piedras until 1958 and received his first training in Nematology directly from Dr Gotthold Steiner, one of the Founding Fathers of Plant Nematology in the United States and a promoter of studies in Tropical Plant Nematology in Puerto Rico. Soon after, he entered Auburn University, Alabama and specialized in nematology obtaining a Master of Science in 1959. He returned to Río and continued his studies in Nematology until 1965 when he took a leave of absence to enroll in a Ph.D. program at the Department of Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC, where he had the opportunity to conduct taxonomical and genetic studies under the supervision of Drs. Hedwig Hirschmann and Anastasios Triantaphyllou. He acquired expertise in the identification of root lesion nematodes and characterization of genetic features of nematodes. Results of some of these studies were published in 1969, in the first volume of the *Journal of Nematology* (1,4). He obtained a Ph.D. degree in Plant Nematology in 1968.

At his return to Puerto Rico, Dr Román became Director of the Puerto Rico AES, where he conducted nematological research and engaged in teaching activities as Professor of

Nematology. He chaired the Department of Entomology and served as Technical Assistant to the Director and as Associate Director of Research of the University of Puerto Rico. In 1986-1987, he held the position of Dean of the College of Agriculture Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, and from 1988 to 1989, he was promoted to Associate Dean and Deputy Director of the AES. He acquired the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus in 1990 for excelling in research and teaching activities. He published more than 60 papers and one of the first books in Tropical Plant Nematology written in Spanish, titled “*Fitonematología Tropical*”. This book has been used throughout Latin American Universities and Research Institutions.

During his career as scientist, educator and leader, Dr Román played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA). He was an avid supporter and carried out the first incorporation of ONTA, which gave it legal status as a not-for-profit organization (Fig. 20).



Fig. 20. Dr Jesse Roman and his wife Zaida celebrating the 50th anniversary of ONTA (Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, 2017).

Dr Román trained many excellent nematologists and promoted and participated in numerous nematology courses in Latin America. His expertise in Tropical Plant Nematology is acknowledged internationally.

Jesse was an amiable, helpful, extrovert person who made a substantial contribution to Nematology and especially to Tropical Plant Nematology.

He is survived by his wife Zaida, his son Jesse (Fig. 21), his daughter-in-law Millie, his granddaughters Veronica and Victoria, his grandsons-in-law Adam and David, and his great granddaughter Liana.

This tribute was prepared by Jesse Roman-Rodriguez, son, and colleagues who had the privilege of enjoying his scientific knowledge and friendship.



Fig. 21. Dr Jesse Roman between his son, Jesse Roman and wife Zaida.

The obituary of Dr Jesse Roman was kindly submitted to the ONTA Newsletter by Dr Renato Inserra.

Engineer Eleodoro Herrera Alvarino (1942-2025)

Fig. 22. Eng. Eleodoro Herrera A.

On 3rd October 2025 passed away our dear colleague and friend, Engineer Eleodoro Herrera Alvarino (Fig. 22). Eleodoro, known as “Lolo” to friends and family, was born in Lima on 12th October 1942, the youngest of five siblings. He completed his schooling at the Hipólito Unanue school in Lima and pursued his professional education at the National Agrarian University La Molina, where he earned a degree in Agronomy in 1971 after successfully defending a comprehensive thesis on nematode control.

In 1972, he began working at the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) in La Molina, within the Ministry of Agriculture’s Directorate of Agricultural Research. In 1975, he pursued postgraduate studies at the Central University of Venezuela in Maracay. Subsequently, he resumed his work

at INIA as Head of the Nematology Department, continuing his extensive trials and studies on nematodes affecting various important crops, such as potatoes, cotton, banana, olives, asparagus, grapevine, and citrus, while traveling to various experimental centers across Peru’s coastal, highland, and jungle regions (Fig. 23).

Each of his projects was duly reported to the INIA, and many were published in *Nematopica*, the journal of ONTA (Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America), an organization of which he was a member and Regional Representative for Peru, and whose annual meetings and congresses he endeavored to attend. One of his studies led to the discovery of a new nematode species named *Malenchus herrerae*, which was described in collaboration with Dr Manuel Mundo-Ocampo, a prominent Mexican nematologist.

Whenever the National Agrarian University required it, Lolo provided support for the practical component of the nematode course. He served as an advisor to major organizations such as the CIP (International Potato Center). In the 1990s, he worked as a full-time technical consultant on agricultural health for ADEX-AID, focusing on garlic nematode control in the Arequipa region, the crop’s primary production hub, as well as for the Citrus Program in the Piura region.



Fig. 23. Eng. Eleodoro Herrera conducting different field work activities.

Obituary Eng. Eleodoro Herrera (cont.)

After retiring from public service, Lolo dedicated himself to advising various agro-industrial entities on a range of crops, successfully testing various biological products for nematode control.

He was a staunch advocate of pure research and fieldwork, always focused on the values he cherished; even during the years of his long illness, he made time to advise and counsel former colleagues and friends on matters within his area of expertise.

A lover of creole music, ‘salsa’, and ‘boleros’, he enjoyed spending his free time singing and playing the guitar and ‘cajón’. He left a mark on his profession and created indelible memories that his family will cherish forever.

The ONTA Newsletter is grateful to Peruvian colleagues and Dr Carolina Cedano Savedra for sharing Lolo’s obituary.

In Memoriam Ana María Casassa Padrón

Fig. 24. Dr Anita M. Cassasa Padrón

The nematological and phytopathological communities of Latin America deeply mourn the passing of Dr Ana María Casassa Padrón (16 February 1960 – 13 April 2026), a distinguished researcher, professor, and extension specialist at the University of Zulia (LUZ), Venezuela, whose career was devoted to the advancement of plant protection and, especially, nematology applied to tropical crops.

Dr Casassa (Figs 24, 25) earned her degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Zulia in 1984. Early in her career, she embarked on an extensive program of research and extension focused on the integrated management of pests and diseases affecting fruit crops in western Venezuela. In 1992, she joined the Institute of Agronomic Research of the Faculty of Agronomy at LUZ and subsequently became a member of its Academic and Research Staff, where she developed an outstanding academic career, eventually attaining the rank of Full Professor. Her scientific work was closely linked to the study of plant-parasitic nematodes associated with tropical fruit crops, particularly guava.

During the 1990s, she conducted pioneering research on the nematode fauna associated with guava, identifying species and

racas of *Meloidogyne* occurring in commercial production systems, assessing the damage caused by these pathogens, and developing management strategies to mitigate their impact. Later, she expanded her research to include the genetic resistance of *Psidium* species and cultivars to *Meloidogyne* spp., the genetic characterization of resistant plant materials, and the search for sustainable alternatives for the management of these pathogens.

In her later years, Dr Casassa promoted an innovative line of research focused on the early diagnosis of *M. enterolobii* infestations using infrared spectroscopy (FTIR-ATR). She developed rapid, inexpensive, and non-destructive methods to detect chemical alterations associated with nematode infection before the appearance of visible symptoms. These studies represent a valuable contribution to the modernization of phytosanitary diagnostic systems in fruit crops.

Dr Casassa also played a key role in strengthening nematology in Latin America. She was an active member of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA) since 1993 and served as Venezuela's representative during the last ten years. She was also a founding member of the Venezuelan Society of Nematology, contributing continuously to the training of human resources, the promotion of research, and the consolidation of scientific collaboration networks. Her academic work included the mentoring of numerous undergraduate and graduate students, integrating teaching, research, and university extension with a profound social and scientific commitment.

Dr Ana María Casassa Padrón leaves an extraordinary legacy in nematology, phytopathology, and tropical agriculture. Her scientific achievements, dedication to teaching, and remarkable human qualities will continue to inspire future generations of nematologists and plant protection specialists. **Rest in peace.**

Obituary Ana María Casassa Padrón (Cont.)

We thank Gladys Castellano, Alba Nava, Evelyn Pérez-Pérez, Rosa Razz, Fátima Urdaneta, Lilia Urdaneta, and Ernesto San-Blas for kindly preparing and sharing Anita's obituary.



Fig. 25. Dr Anita M. Cassasa Padrón.



Fig. 26. ONTA's banquet Annual Meeting (Quito, Ecuador, 20210). Eleodoro 'Lolo' Herrera next to Betty Tello (right to left back row).



Fig 27. ONTA Annual Meeting at La Serena, Chile (2013). From right to left: Javier Franco, Soledad Verdejo Lucas and Jenny Escobar.

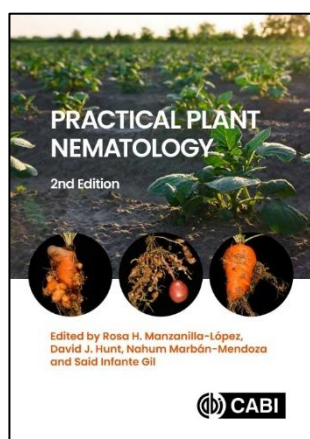


Fig. 28. *Practical Plant Nematology Second Edition*. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López, David J. Hunt, Nahum Marbán-Mendoza and Said Infante Gil (Eds.), CABI 2025.

The second edition of the book *Practical Plant Nematology*, 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.

Brazilian Society of Nematology: Recife, Brazil, 01-04 August, 2026. For further details, you can visit the official [Sociedade Brasileira 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. 29); 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. 29. 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. 30. 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

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. 31. 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.

ONTA SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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.



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SUSTAINING MEMBER COMMITTEE: **Johan Desaegeer (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); **Carlos Castañeda** (address under members at Large), **Fahiem El-Borai Kora**. Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, 14625 CR 672, Wimauma, FL 33598; Tel. office: 1813-419-6612, Mobile: 1863-513-8095; email: <Fahiem@ufl.edu>; **Helen Guardia**, Agricola Blue gold Sac, Lote 10.6 Sec. Xi_Viru_la Libertad, Peru, Tel: +51 906215090, email: <hguardia3@gmail.com>

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

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE IFNS: **Aurelio Ciano**, Istituto per la Protezione Sostenibile delle Piante, C.N.R., Sezione Bari, via Amendola122-D, 70126 Bari, Italy; Tel: 39-80-5929-221; FAX: 39-80-5929-230; email: <aurelio.ciano@ipsp.cnr.it>. **Rosa H. Manzanilla-López** (address under Executive Committee).