



haustorium

Parasitic
Plants
Newsletter

NUMBER 17
DECEMBER 1986

Official Organ of the
International Parasitic
Seed Plant Research Group

HAUSTORIUM LIVES! we are very pleased to state that our newsletter has once again been resuscitated and it now appears that we can resume production of two copies per year for the next three years. This is due to funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development through grant 86-CRSR-2-2869 administered by the Cooperative State Research Service and awarded to Old Dominion University. Happily, the International Plant Protection Center at Oregon State University, who produced HAUSTORIUM several years, will resume doing layout and printing with mailing by Old Dominion University.

However, funding is not all that is needed. We need contributions from readers of HAUSTORIUM! Co-editor Chris Parker will be working in Ethiopia for three years (see following item) so please send any item of interest to Lytton Musselman.

HAUSTORIUM is a newsletter and items submitted should be brief, understandable by the general reader, and usually without a bibliography. Unsigned articles are by the editors.

WEED RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

The Weed Research Organization (WRO) was sadly closed down on March 1986, but the core

of the staff has been transferred to form the Weed Research Division (WRD) of Long Ashton Research Station (LARS) at Bristol. The Tropical Weeds Unit continues to exist at the new site and has been awarded a two-year contract to continue work on *Striga gesnerioides* and *Alectra ogelii* on cowpe. The aim will be to continue evaluating resistant material for IITA and Botswana and to identify the

the mechanism of resistance in the cowpe. Chris Parker will be leaving this and other work at LARS in the hands of John Terry, Anita Wilson and Teresa Polniaszek while takes up a three-year secondment to do field work on *Striga* and other parasitic weeds in Ethiopia from where he will be pleased to maintain contact with HAUSTORIUM readers via Post Office Box 32477, Addis Ababa.

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PARASITIC FLOWERING PLANTS

This meeting is scheduled for 2-7 August 1987 at Philipps-University in Marburg, West Germany. The organizer, Prof.

Hans-Christian Weber, has done an excellent job arranging the meetings and other activities. This symposium will immediately follow the International Botanical Congress in Berlin where there will be a special session on parasitic plants. As a result, a large number of parasite workers are expected at the Marburg meetings. This should prove to be an outstanding meeting. The language of the meeting will be English. For further information contact: Prof. Hans-Christian Weber, Fachbereich Biologie, Lahnberge, Philipps-Universität, 3550 Marburg, West Germany. Telephone: 06421-282091, Telex: 482372 UMRD c/o Weber-Biologie.

INDEX OF PARASITIC SEED PLANT RESEARCHERS

After a long delay, it is now possible to state that this project is once again viable.

The data is being fed into the computer and we hope to have final production within a year. If you wish to be included, please send a short summary of your research-interests, the taxa involved

hosts (if any), citation of recent publications (if any), and your complete address with phone and telex number (if you have these). NOTE--if you have already returned the form sent out long ago with HAUSTORIUM, you do not need to send any further material unless you wish to update your entries.

POLLEN STRUCTURE IN STRIGA

A recent thesis at Old Dominion University deals with the pollen exostructure in Striga.

Mark DeLeonardis has used scanning electron microscopy as well as light microscopy to elucidate the structure of pollen and attempt to relate structural differences to the taxonomy of the genus. striga pollen is relatively uniform with tricolpate or tetracolpate grains and psilate to rugulate surfaces. One interesting feature was a correlation showing some relationship between surface features and pollination mechanisms. Most species which are autogamous (self-pollinating) are psilate (smooth) while Striga hermonthica, an allogamous (out-crossing) species, was rugulate (with an irregular surface). There was no correlation between subgeneric classification and pollen structure. Thirteen of the approximately thirty species were surveyed. This work is part of an overall investigation into the systematics of the genus Striga.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1986 OROBANCHE WORKSHOP, WAGENINGEN

This symposium was held 13-17 January at the Agricultural University in Wageningen, The Netherlands. The proceedings have now

been published under the title of Biology and Control of Orobanche, edited by Sine ter Borg. This is an attractively produced paper bound volume of 206 pp. + VII which is certainly the most up-to-date treatment on this important genus of root parasites. Topics include taxonomy and the general agronomic problems; dormancy, germination and haustoria formation; growth and development and population studies; breeding and control; and a helpful summary of work and recommendations for further research. Copies can be ordered by writing: Dr. S. J. ter Borg, Department of Vegetation Science, Plant Ecology and Weed Science, Agricultural university,

Bornsesteeg 69, 6708 PS Wageningen, The Netherlands. The price is Hfl 25 and checks should be made payable to S. J. ter Borg/Proceedings Orobanche, account number 47.75.61.039, Amrobank, Wageningen The Netherlands.

LITERATURE

- Van hulst, R, A. Theriault, B. Shipley. 1986, The systematic position of the genus Rhinanthus (Scrophulariaceae) in North America. Canadian Journal of Botany 64:1443-1449.
- Musselman, L. J. 1986. The genus Cuscuta in Virginia. Castanea 51:188-196.
- Reuter, B. C. 1986, The habitat, reproductive ecology and host relations of Orobanche fasciculata Nutt. (Orobanchaceae) in Wisconsin, Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 113:110-111 (This broomrape is very rare in Wisconsin, and the aim of the study was to determine aspects of its biology which might be used to favorably manage the species. One interesting feature is the setting of seeds parthogenetically, a phenomenon which should be looked for in agronomically important species).
- Bebawi, F. F., A. E. A%&, S. A. Khalid. 1986, Germination host preference and phenolic content of witchweed (Striga hermonthica) seed populations. Weed Science, 34:529-532.
- Kulkarni, N. and V. K. Shinde. 1985. Genetics of grain yield in sorghum (Sorghum bicolor) under striga (Striga asiatica) stress. Indian Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding 45:21-24.
- Kulkarni, N. and V. K. Shinde. 1985. Genetic analysis of striga resistance in sorghum (Sorghum bicolor) stability of yield and its components with and under striga (Striga asiatica) stress. Indian Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding 45:25-29.
- Hepper, F. N. 1986. proposal to reject the name Buchnera euphrasioides/Striga euphrasioides (Scrophulariaceae). Taxon 25:390-391. (The plant once known as Striga euphrasioides, widespread in Indi

but also found! *in the Arabian peninsula and parts of East Africa, should now be correctly referred to as S. angustifolia due to an error in typification).*

Farina, M.P.W., P.E.L. Thomas, P. Channon. 1985. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium effects on the incidence of *Striga asiatica* in maize. *Weed Research* 25:443-448.

Gupta, A. and P. Singh. 1985. Mechanism of parasitism by *Cuscuta reflexa*: Distribution of cytokinins in different regions of the parasite vine. *Physiologia Plantarum* 63:76-78.

Raynal-Roques, A. 1985. *Striga baumannii* (Scrophulariaceae) a hemiparasitic and geopyrophytic species. *Adansonia* 7:123-134. (A summary of this work appeared in HAUSTORIUM 15).

Sakanishi, T., J. Ogaki, A. Inada, H. Murata, M. Nishi. 1985. The alkaloids of *Striga asiatica*. *Journal of Natural Products* 48:491-493.

Sickrent, D. L. 1986. Genetic Polymorphism in the morphologically reduced dwarf mistletoes (Arceuthobium, Viscaceae): an electrophoretic study. *American Journal of Botany* 73:1492-1502.

Nassib, A. M., A. H. A. Hussein, E. F. Hassenein, H. A. Saber. 1985. Effect of pronamide and resistant varieties on *Orobanche* infection and faba bean yield. *FABIS Newsletter* 13:22-25. (Bean variety Giza 402 supported similar numbers of emerged *O. crenata* to susceptible varieties but weight of parasite was generally much less and bean yields, in the presence of heavy *Orobanche*, higher. Propyzamide 95 kg product/ha applied one month after planting further reduced attack and enhanced yield of Giza 402).

Gayed, S. K. 1986. Dodder in tobacco seedbeds in Ontario and its control. *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*, 66:421-423. (Infestation of tobacco seedbeds by *C. gronovii* was eliminated by steam sterilization or methyl bromide 500 kg/ha but only partly reduced by dazomet 500 kg/ha or allyl alcohol 680 l/ha).

Aalders, A. J. G. and R. Pieters. 1986. *In vitro* testing with 2,3,5-triphenyl

tetrazolium chloride (TIC) of *Orobanche crenata* seed metabolism. *FABIS Newsletter*, 13:35-37. TIC can be used to confirm the viability of *O. crenata* seeds but only when freshly imbibed. After a few days of incubation, the seeds no longer show coloration within 2 days, apparently due to reduced metabolic activity, rather than loss of viability.

Ramaiah, K. V. 1985. Hand-pulling of *Striga hermonthica* in pearl millet. *Tropical Pest Management* 31:326-327. (Hand-pulling *S. hermonthica* once only, 10 days before harvest on 9 farmer sites in Burkina Faso resulted in over 50% reduction of *Striga* emergence in the following year and over 50% increase in yield).

Musselman, L. J. and F. N. Hepper. 1986. The witchweeds (*Striga*, Scrophulariaceae) of the Sudan Republic. *Kew Bulletin* 41:205-221. (Ten species are described and illustrated along with information on distribution, pollinators, hosts, etc.).

Bradow, J. M. 1986. Germination promotion in dormant shepherdspurse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) seeds by strigol analogs and other stimulants. *Weed Science* 34:1-7. (Strigol and epistrigol failed to influence germination of dormant *Capsella* seeds, but the analogs GR24, 2RAS and 3RAS promoted up to 80% germination at 0.1 mM, the first evidence for effect of these compounds on non-parasitic plants).

Nisa, M., S. Akbar, M. Tariq. 1985. Anti-inflammatory activity of *Cuscuta chinensis*. *Fotiterapia* 56:315-317. (This parasite is used as an anti-arthritic drug in India. It is not clear if *C. chinensis* is the only species with this activity).

Fer, A. and M. Capdepon. 1985. Un aspect méconnu du parasitisme des angiospermes: l'existence d'une sécrétion de substance au niveau des suçoirs de cuscute. *Annales des Sciences Naturelles-Botaniques* Series 137:229-236. (Small quantities of materials are secreted by haustoria into the host tissue. The amount of material is very small, less than 1% of the total labeled photosynthate in the host, and the nature of the materials are unknown).

Visser, J. H. 1985. Parasitic Flowering Plants. Pretoria: Hollandsch Afrikaansche Uitgevers Maatschappij. (This is a very attractive, hardbound book of 47 pages, produced as part of the publisher's "Insight" series intended as supplementary material in the public school curriculum. It is an excellent introduction to the subject of parasitic flowering plants with three sections: The parasitic way of life which deals with the principles of parasitism, the haustorium etc. and then a section each on stem and root parasites. Readers will recognize some of the beautiful full color photographs from the author's other book on South African parasites, but there are also new photos as well as some helpful line drawings.

Minkin, J. P. 1986. A comparative pollen morphology of the Orobanchaceae and Rhinanthoid Scrophulariaceae. 83 pp. PhD Dissertation, Botany, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. (Based on pollen morphology, the author suggests that the parasitic Scrophulariaceae, all in the subfamily Rhinanthoideae, show closer affinity with the Orobanchaceae than with the other subfamily, Antirrhinoideae, of the Scrophulariaceae).

Hunter, I. J. and J. H. Visser. 1986. The nitrate reductase activity (NRA) of some South African parasitic flowering plants and their hosts. South African Journal of Botany 52 (3) 246-248.

STRIGA LATERICEA My coeditor humbly
- ERRATUM apologizes for a faulty editing my note on "Striga species in Ethiopia" in Haustorium No. 16, such that Striga latericea was described as spreading by a system of "rhizomes". I had originally recognized and described these structures as "mots", and my colleague n agrees that they are indeed root rather than rhizome (i.e., underground stem) structures. This was confirmed by sectioning and microscopic study of preserved material and I thank student David Knepper for the careful work and excellent pictures that he produced in the course of his investigation of this material. (Co-editor: grovel, grovel).

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HAUSTORIUM was word processed and designed by Ruth M. Carr and produced at the International Plant Protection Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331, USA. This collaborative research program is supported by a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Contract No. 86-CRSR-2-2869.

