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MESSAGE FROM THE IPPS PRESIDENT

Dear IPPS Members,

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the time and great efforts devoted by Jim Westwood during his presidency and finally in the election of IPPS executive members. I also thank all members who took part in this important election process. Now the new IPPS executive members are ready to lead the society with continuing support from you all.

The new elected IPPS executive members are now: Julie Scholes (Vice President), John Yoder (Secretary) and Ahmet Uludag (Member at Large), Philippe Delavault (Treasurer), Harro Bouwmeester (Editor), and myself President.

As the first mission of the new IPPS executive members, we are pleased to invite you to the 12th World Congress on Parasitic Plants (WCPP), which will be held on Monday July 15 to Friday July 19, 2013 in Sheffield, UK. The venue will be the Edge Conference facility at the University of Sheffield. We are currently planning sessions and workshops and any inputs from the IPPS members will be highly appreciated. Please contact me or Julie by email. Details of venue, program, and progress can be followed on a special conference website which will be available from the beginning of September 2012 (to follow shortly).

During the VI International Weed Science Congress (IWSC) held in Hangzhou, China, a session on parasitic weeds was held as a joint IPPS symposium with the IWSC (see the meeting report below). To my knowledge, this was the first international symposium on parasitic weeds held in Asia at least in this century. The papers presented in the symposium were a good mix of basic and applied studies, and I was convinced that contributions to IPPS from Asian scientists would increase in the near future. This is because the number of scientists working on parasitic weeds in Asian countries has been gradually increasing probably due to the spreading parasitic weed problems. Thus, we should raise awareness about parasitic weeds in Southeast and East Asian countries where both root and stem parasitic weeds are becoming serious problems.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Jim for his hard work on behalf of the society. Under his leadership, two IPPS meetings in Kusadasi (Turkey) and Martina Franca (Italy) have been held successfully and infra structure of IPPS including the constitution and election system has been established. Of course I am

sure that Jim will continue to support and encourage us and the society.

Sincerely,

Koichi Yoneyama, IPPS President
yoneyama@cc.utsunomiya-u.ac.jp

***STRIGA GESNERIOIDES* AND *STRIGA ASIATICA*
 IN NAMIBIA**

As part of ongoing research collaboration among the University of Namibia, State University of New York-Oswego, and Old Dominion University, we surveyed Namibia for *Striga gesnerioides* and *S. asiatica*. Our field work covered 3500 km from the west coast north to the border with Angola and through the central part of the country. There are six species of the genus in Namibia with *Striga gesnerioides* and *S. asiatica* the most frequent. *Striga hermonthica* and *S. forbesii* have been collected but at present do not seem to be an agricultural problem. The other two, *S. elegans* and *S. bilabiatia* ssp *bilabiata* are confined to natural grasslands.

Striga gesnerioides is the most variable of all witchweeds in term of morphology and host selection. It is a well-known and often serious parasite of cowpea, *Vigna unguiculata* (Fabaceae). Wild hosts that have been documented in Namibia include species of *Euphorbia* (Euphorbiaceae), *Ipomoea*, *Jaquemontia*, and *Merremia* (Convolvulaceae); *Indigofera*, *Alysicarpus* and other wild legumes (Fabaceae), and *Nicotiana* (Solanaceae). Each of these hosts support populations with varying stem color, branching frequency, and flower color. Despite reports that such plants lack chlorophyll (e.g. Fischer *et al.*, 2011, Willdenowia 41: 51-56 – see Literature section below) we have always found chlorophyll, though it is masked by the anthocyanins.

Here we confirm that a member of Bignoniaceae is host to *S. gesnerioides*. Some herbarium labels in Windhoek had suggested *Catophractes* as a possible host but we were able to confirm this now by excavating the parasite and tracing it to the root of the shrub. The flower and stem color of this variant are quite different from other morphotypes. Plants are always a reddish-purple with a purple corolla and a large haustorium (2.5 cm across). Of the various ‘strains’ of this species that we have studied in Africa, the *Catophractes* parasites most closely resemble those parasitizing *Euphorbia*.



Striga gesnerioides parasitising *Catophractes alexandri*, Outjo, Namibia. The woolly white leaves of the host are obvious.

The cropping system in the communal farming regions of northern Namibia is mixed cropping with millet (*Pennisetum americanum*), known locally as mahango, and *Zea mays* the favoured cereals. Fields also contain bambara nuts (*Vigna subterranea*) and cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) and less frequently peanuts (*Arachis hypogea*). We found no *S. gesnerioides* on cowpea or bambara nut though there is one record in the Windhoek herbarium of *S. gesnerioides* on cowpea, which could be growing on a different host in a cowpea field. However, within these fields this parasite was frequent on *Alysicarpus vaginalis* and *Indigofera arenophila*.

The situation with *Striga asiatica* is much different. At a new commercial maize cropping scheme near Rundu on the Angolan border, *S. asiatica* was parasitizing the crop. There was a marked increase in infestation since the first cropping season in 2011 when only a few *Striga* plants were observed. As a result, we examined about a dozen traditional fields that had mixed crops of mahango and maize. No witchweed was found on mahango or sorghum even when the maize was seriously attacked in the same field. Maize, a New World crop, is particularly susceptible to witchweed.

S. asiatica is native in Namibia and occurs scattered in acacia bush savannas. It is not clear if this is the source of the agronomically important parasites. *S. asiatica* parasitizing grasses has consistently shorter and round corolla lobes. We plan further research using molecular markers to determine the variability within both species of witchweed.



Striga asiatica on *Digitaria* in Northern Namibia showing the short corolla lobes.



Witchweed parasitizing maize in a mixed mahango/maize field, Rundu, Northern Namibia

Several of the farmers we interviewed were unaware of the damage that *S. asiatica* can do to maize so it is important that a program for making them aware of the parasite, its potential, and its control be instituted as soon as possible.

Erika Maass, University of Namibia;
Kamal Mohamed, State University of New York-Oswego;
Lytton Musselman, Old Dominion University.

NOTE ON THE COMMERCIAL USE OF *XIMENIA AMERICANA*

Known by the unhelpful common name of hogplum, *Ximenia americana* is a thorny, deciduous shrub in the family Ximeniaceae (formerly placed in the Olacaceae). In colloquial American English, a plant common name with 'hog' in it usually refers to something of inferior value to the original. However, the fruit of hogplum is quite tasty - as good as a real plum. It is also known as tallow wood.



Fruits of *Ximenia americana* Photo Lytton Musselman

This is perhaps the most widely distributed native parasitic plant on the globe. (The most widely distributed parasitic weed is *Cuscuta campestris*, native to the United States but spread around the globe.) I have seen stands of *Ximenia* in southern Florida in the United States where hogplum is common in dwarf oak sand scrub, central Sudan where the green color of the leaves stand out in the dry season, New Caledonia where it forms thickets near the coast, and many places in western and southern Africa. But it is also reported to form dense stands in Australia and elsewhere in tropical and semi-tropical regions in both the Western and Eastern hemispheres.

I have traced its parasitic attachments to a diversity of hosts, it is a generalist in host selection. Germination of the large seeds is easy and unique. As the epicotyl emerges, the first two formed leaves, cataphylls, bend back into the inter-cotyledon space. Early naturalists noticed this and suggested that these cataphylls were forming parasitic attachments within the seed. Careful examination, however, shows that this is not the case, there is no connection between the cotyledons and cataphylls.

During a recent visit to Namibia, I was surprised to learn of an industry that has arisen around this parasitic shrub. *X. americana* and the more restricted *X. afra* are quite common in the central and northern region of that country and the fruits are collected for the oil expressed from the seeds. In 2011, 16.5 tons of seeds were harvested for a value of approximately US\$19,500

according to Indigenous Natural Products in Namibia (INP Market Bulletin, 2011. *Ximenia*. Indigenous Natural Products in Namibia 3: 2.). That does not seem like a lot of money but represents a lot of *Ximenia* plants! And for the 300 or so collectors it is a significant income. Most of the oil is shipped to France for the cosmetics industry.

Lytton John Musselman, Old Dominion University

MEETING REPORT

The VI International Weed Science Congress (IWSC) was held from 17 to 22 June 2012, at the New Century Grand Hotel Hangzhou, Hangzhou, China. The congress attracted 545 weed scientists from 51 countries. During this congress, a symposium on the '**The state of art of parasitic plants research in the technological and biotechnological era**', organized by the International Parasitic Plant Society (IPPS) and the International Weed Science Society (IWSS), was held on Tuesday 19 June, and the oral presentations were grouped into 4 sessions; ecology and seed-bank, biology, and two management sessions. The number of abstracts submitted to this symposium was 34 and there were 18 oral (including 3 invited talks) and 16 poster presentations. The final programme and the proceedings will soon be available from the IWSC homepage (<http://www.congress.com.cn/IWSC2012/>)

Oral presentations:

Ecology and seedbank

Yongqing Ma (invited talk, China) - The parasitic weeds problems in China-past and present situation. A historical view of parasitic weed problems in China was given. *Orobanche*, *Phelipanche* and *Cuscuta* spp. are important weedy parasites in China but most of the attention and publications was focused on the herbal and medicinal traits of these plants and not on their damaging effect as parasitic weeds. In recent years up to 50% crop loss in sunflower production due to *O. cumana* infection was reported. Severe crop loss due to *P. aegyptiaca* in melon and tomato was also reported. *Cuscuta* was described in an old Chinese book (2200 years ago) but mainly as a medicinal herb. Since some water and methanol extracts of medicinal herbs could induce seed germination of *Orobanche* and *Phelipanche* spp., they could be used as trap crops.

Marc Cotter (Germany) - Predicting the potential future geographic distribution of *Striga* under climate and land use change.

Using GIS-based modeling complemented by greenhouse and field studies, the present geographic distribution of *Striga* species mainly in Sub-Saharan

Africa was defined more precisely and its potential future expansion was predicted. *Striga* was found to occur as patches and may spread to areas of similar climate conditions like northern Australia in 2020. To improve reliability of the prediction, detailed data on *Striga* distribution, local climate factors, management practices, soil types, and vegetation need to be included.

Rosemary I. Ahom (Nigeria) - Severity of *Striga hermonthica* (Del.) Benth. parasitism on small-scale maize farms in Benue State, Nigeria.

Extensive and intensive surveys were conducted on the extent of *S. hermonthica* infestation on maize in low-input farmers in Benue State Nigeria. The farmers identified *Striga* properly but 20% of them indicated that *Striga* was a useful medicinal herb. *Striga* infested both local and improved varieties and the more severe damage being observed in the former. Although intercropping was adopted widely, most of the farmers in the Northern zone gave up cropping maize due to the *Striga* problem. Hoe weeding was the only *Striga* control measure in their farms.

Tuvia Yaacoby (Israel) - Survival of the parasitic weed *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* in compost.

Since the source of heavy *P. aegyptiaca* infestations in tomato greenhouses was suspected to be parasite seeds originating from compost used as fertilizer, the ability of *P. aegyptiaca* seeds to survive the composting procedure was investigated. *P. aegyptiaca* seeds lost germinability when they were kept at > 55°C for 4 hours or at 45–50°C for 15 hours. Therefore, proper composting procedure can prevent spreading of *P. aegyptiaca* infestation.

Yaakov Goldwasser (Israel) - Survival of seeds of parasitic weeds in cow manure.

Cattle manure may contain weed seeds and thus has a high potential to disseminate them and infest farm fields. Seeds of *P. aegyptiaca* and *C. campestris* were examined for their survival after passing through the cow digestive system, in farm liquid slurry in the reception pits in cattle sheds and in compost piles. *P. aegyptiaca* seeds could not survive the 3 day passage through the cow stomach while up to 36% of *Cuscuta* seeds could survive. Similar trends could be observed in the submersion treatment in cattle slurry and in the compost pile. The resistance of *C. campestris* seeds is probably due to its hard seed coat.

Biology

Linjian Jiang (China) - Interspecies protein trafficking endows the parasitic flowering plant dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.) with a host-specific herbicide tolerant phenotype.

It was examined how dodder (*C. pentagona* = *C. campestris*) interacted with transgenic glufosinate tolerant hosts carrying the detoxifying enzyme

phosphinotricin acetyl transferase (PAT) gene. The interspecies trafficking of PAT protein from hosts to the parasite was detected by ELISA, but not that of PAT mRNA by RT-PCR. This may provide a basis for novel approaches to parasitic weed control by preventing interspecies trafficking of targeted enzymes.

Airong Li (China) - Nutrient strategies of root hemiparasitic *Pedicularis* (Orobanchaceae).

Both of the two sympatric root facultative hemiparasites *Pedicularis rex* and *P. tricolor* have been shown to have wide host ranges but different host preferences. Since they form symbiotic relationship with AM fungi, effects of host plants and AM fungi on growth of these hemiparasites and on phosphorus (P) acquisition were examined. Contribution of AM pathway in P acquisition was negligible in the absence of hosts but AM colonization affects host-derived P acquisition. In addition, AM colonization significantly reduced the number of haustoria (Li *et al.*, 2012. Ann. Bot. 109: 1075-1080 – see Literature below). Inhibition of haustorium induction would be a promising target for both facultative root hemiparasites as well as obligate root parasites.

Kaori Yoneyama (Japan) - Seed germination stimulants

for *Phelipanche ramosa* produced by oilseed rape. 2-Phenylethyl isothiocyanate (ITC) was found to be a major germination stimulant for *P. ramosa* produced by oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*). This non-mycotrophic plant also produced orobanchyl acetate and novel strigolactones but the amounts exuded were quite low as compared with mycotrophic plants. Then, 21 ITCs were examined for their germination stimulation activities on *P. ramosa* and *O. minor*. Among them, C₄₋₁₂ alkyl-ITCs, and benzyl- and 2-phenylethyl-ITC but not phenyl-ITC were active *P. ramosa* germination stimulants. By contrast, these ITCs were totally inactive on *O. minor* seeds. ITCs are important germination stimulants for *P. ramosa*, and *P. ramosa* has developed a special seed germination strategy to parasitize oilseed rape.

Tal Shilo (Israel) - Glyphosate inhibits the translocation of macromolecules in the parasitic association between Egyptian broomrape (*Phelipanche aegyptiaca*) and tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*).

To examine a hypothesis that glyphosate restricts the translocation of phloem solutes from tomato (host) to *P. aegyptiaca*, a cross-bred transgenic tomato line expressing resistance to glyphosate and green fluorescent protein (GFP) was used. In the control (without glyphosate) treatment, a gradual increase in tubercle fluorescence was observed, indicating accumulation of GFP. By contrast, GFP accumulation in *P. aegyptiaca* tubercles was inhibited following glyphosate application. These results supported the hypothesis.

Zhi Wei Fan (China) - Induced host resistance as a control method for parasitic weeds.

The efficacy of acibenzolar-S-methyl (ASM, BTH) an inducer of systemic acquired resistance (SAR), in soybean dodder (*Cuscuta australis*) control was examined. ASM at 100–200 mg/L significantly reduced dodder biomass without affecting growth of soybean. Accordingly induction of SAR by ASM when combined with other control methods would provide effective control strategy for soybean dodder.

Management

Murizio Vurro (invited talk, Italy) - Renewing the interest in biological control of parasitic weeds: use of strigolactone-degrading microbes.

Extensive studies on microorganism-derived compounds which inhibit or stimulate germination of broomrape seeds, and thus could be used as biological agents for managing broomrapes, were summarized. A novel approach to biological control of root parasitic weeds has been proposed – using microorganisms which grow along the root system of the host plant, degrade strigolactones (SLs) rapidly, and thus prevent germination of parasite seeds. Distinct differences were observed among microorganisms, treatments and SLs used.

George D. Odhiambo (Kenya) – Interaction between phosphorus and desmodium on *Striga hermonthica* (Del.) Benth. incidence and maize yield in western Kenya.

The influence of phosphorus (P) on effectiveness of two desmodium species (*D. uncinatum* and *D. intorum*) on *S. hermonthica* infestation and maize grain yield was investigated in western Kenya where the soil was P deficient. Application of P at 46 and 69 kg P₂O₅ha⁻¹ significantly reduced *Striga* seedbank after three continuous cropping seasons. P fertilization of desmodium induced early emergence of *Striga* but later, as desmodium became matured, effectively suppressed *Striga* emergence. Farmers in P deficient areas are advised to fertilize their field with P to achieve optimum results.

Chinnusamy Chinnagounder (India) - Integrated management of witchweed (*Striga asiatica* L.) in early planted sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum* L.) under red sandy loam soils of Tamil Nadu.

Field experiments were carried out to evaluate herbicidal management techniques for controlling *S. asiatica* in sugarcane. An integrated management system including pre-emergence application of atrazine (1.0 kg ha⁻¹), subsequent hand-weeding of emerged *Striga* shoots, and post-emergence application of 2,4-D sodium salt (5g L⁻¹) + urea (20 g L⁻¹) was proven to be effective in reducing *S. asiatica* infection in sugarcane under red sandy loam soils.

Hanan Eizenberg (invited talk, Israel) - The contribution of advanced technologies for broomrape (*Orobanche* and *Phelipanche* spp.) management.

As broomrapes are highly sensitive to herbicides in the underground stages, information for their spatial distribution and quantification of their developmental stages should contribute to management success. The temporal variation was quantified and broomrape parasitism was predicted by a thermal time model. Spatial variation of broomrape infestation within a field and between fields was estimated by the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and other advanced technologies including *in-situ* observation using a minirhizotron for parasitic weed mapping, and field history data storage. This allows accurate mapping of the spatial distribution of broomrape in the field and use of these data for Site Specific Weed Management (SSWM). An example of a decision support system for rational management of Egyptian broomrape (*P. aegyptiaca*) was presented.

Amnon Cochavi (Israel) - A thermal-time model for predicting the parasitism of *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* in carrot (*Daucus carota*).

A thermal-time model for predicting the initial parasitism of *P. aegyptiaca* in carrot was studied. Although the initial parasitism of *P. aegyptiaca* in tomato, *O. minor* in red clover and *O. cumana* in sunflower could be predicted by using a linear equation, this was not applicable to *P. aegyptiaca* in carrot. Instead, a beta function equation could robustly predict the tubercle growth stage (1-2 mm) which is highly sensitive to the herbicide glyphosate.

Evgenia Dor (Israel) - The resistance mechanism to imidazolinone herbicides of a novel tomato mutant HRT1 for broomrape management.

A tomato mutant HRT1 resistant to imidazolinone herbicides was screened from an EMS treated tomato line M82. Acetolactate synthase (ALS) of HRT1 was less sensitive to the imidazolinone herbicides imazamox, imazapic and imazapyr, but equally sensitive to sulfonylurea and pyrimidinylthiobenzoate herbicides as compared to ALS from M82. HRT1 ALS genes revealed four mutations and one of them resulted in the replacement of Ala194 to Val corresponding to Ala205 in the conserved region of *Arabidopsis* ALS. This mutation appeared to confer resistance to imidazolinone herbicides.

Satbir Punia (India) - Management of *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* in mustard and tomato in North-West India.

Extensive field trials to establish feasible management of *P. aegyptiaca* in mustard and tomato in North-West India were conducted. Application of different kinds of organic and inorganic fertilizers and foliar

treatment with crop oils were not effective. Seed coating with residual herbicides delayed the emergence of *P. aegyptiaca*. Post-emergence application of glyphosate provided promising results. Addition of 1% (NH₄)₂SO₄ to glyphosate spray enhanced its efficacy. Nitrogen fertilization (40 kg ha⁻¹, 3 times) could alleviate crop loss caused by the parasite.

Poster presentations:

Ecology and seedbank

Wentao Yu (China) - Expressed sequence tag (EST) - intron length polymorphism (ILPs) as a molecular tool for the identification of *Cuscuta* species.

Biology

Yongqing Ma (China) - Induction of sunflower broomrape (*Orobancha cumana*) seed germination by some hybrid maize (*Zea mays* L.) varieties and their parents.

Wei Zhang (China) - Induction of sunflower broomrape (*Orobancha cumana*) seeds germination by different soybean (*Glycine max*) varieties.

Ana A. Stepowska (Poland) - Light and scanning electron microscopy studies on the *Phelipanche ramosa* L. Pomel development parasitizing tomato plants.

Dragana M. Bozic (Serbia) - Effect of salinity on seed germination of *Cuscuta campestris* Yunck.

Zhaohu Li (China) - Programmed cell death facilitates the dispersion of dodder.

Management

Gui-Lin Chen (China) - The resistance of different sunflowers to *Orobancha Cumana* Wallr. in seedling stage.

Hanan Eizenberg (Israel) - A multidisciplinary integrated approach for alleviating broomrape damage in Israeli agriculture - an emergency national project, 2010-2013.

Murali Arthanari Palanisamy (India) - Integrated *Cuscuta* management in legume fodder lucerne (*Medicago sativa*) and leafy vegetable (*Amaranthus viridis*).

Goran Malidza Serbia) - Broomrape (*Orobancha cumana*) control in tribenuron-tolerant sunflower.

Hanan Eizenberg (Israel) - Modelling approach for the prediction of parasitism dynamics in the root holoparasite broomrapes (*Orobancha* and *Phelipanche* spp.).

Germination stimulants

Hyun-il Kim (Korea, Japan) - Germination stimulating activity of strigolactone mixtures.

Takaya Kisugi (Japan) - Germination stimulants for root parasitic weeds produced by faba bean.

Takahito Nomura (Japan) - Analysis of endogenous strigolactones using plant cell cultures.

Xiaonan Xie (Japan) - Characterization of strigolactones produced by tobacco plant.

Pichit Khetkam (Thailand, Japan) - Strigolactones in root exudates from rice plants.

Koichi Yoneyama and Yaakov Goldwasser

PRESS RELEASES

Global Food Security Center Hires Manager, Receives Grants (abridged)

The recently created Center for Global Food Security at Purdue University has hired a managing director and received grants totalling \$10 million for work to improve crops in Africa and train the next generation of global food security experts.

Gary Burniske, who had been director of Mercy Corps operations in Bogotá, Colombia, since 2006, will run daily operations of the center at Discovery Park, a complex of organizations leading large-scale collaborative research on campus engaging faculty, students and industry in state, national and global partnerships and entrepreneurial education. Burniske's appointment comes at a time when the center, established in 2011, will begin work on two major projects that have received significant funding and align with two of the center's core mission areas - research and education:

A four-year, multidisciplinary research and development program on the control of the parasitic *Striga* weed, which infests sorghum and other crops in Africa, damaging or destroying them. The center received a \$5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to further research and establish programs for a sustainable *Striga* control and institutional development effort in the African nations of Tanzania and Ethiopia.

The *Striga* research will build on the work of Gebisa Ejeta, the center's director and Distinguished Professor of Agronomy who received the World Food Prize in 2009 for developing sorghum varieties resistant to drought and *Striga* in his native Africa, where sorghum is a major crop. The new effort will focus on furthering knowledge of biological interactions between *Striga* and sorghum through research in chemistry, molecular genetics and crop improvement.

'In the previous research, we focused on controlling *Striga* through manipulation of resistance genes in the host plant,' Ejeta said. 'Now we will expand the research to explore the role of virulence genes in the pathogen to

avoid catastrophic breakdown of resistance.’ Shorter-term solutions will involve establishing sustainable *Striga* control programs by adapting previously piloted *Striga* management technologies to the variety of environments and livelihoods of small-scale farmers in highly infested regions of Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Ejeta will direct the project, which will include Tesfaye Mengiste, a Purdue professor of botany and plant pathology, and Harro Bouwmeester, who heads the Laboratory of Plant Physiology at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. They will collaborate with the agriculture ministries in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Purdue University,
20 Feb 2012.

Mistletoe was controversial choice for Oklahoma flower

For 114 years, Oklahoma’s state flower was the mistletoe. But it was always a controversial choice. In February 1893, while the 2nd Territorial Legislature met in Guthrie, Rep. John A. Wimberly introduced the bill to designate mistletoe as the official floral emblem. The Women’s Congress of the Columbian World Exposition held in Chicago in 1893 had proposed that the states should consider selecting floral emblems to represent their state at the exposition. While Oklahoma was not a state, the Oklahoma Pavilion at the exposition, also known as the Chicago World’s Fair, promoted the territory to exposition visitors. Wimberly was the youngest member of the House of Representatives and it was he who, according to *The Oklahoman* on April 19, 1925, suggested ‘one of the most interesting traditions.’ ‘One day the question of the state flower was brought up. Everything from daisies to American Beauty roses was suggested. A representative from the southern part of the Territory wanted forget-me-nots. ‘That’s a good name for a state flower, and it’s a pretty flower too,’ he said. ‘Mr. Wimberly remembered how hard the previous winter had been and that when settlers had died and there were no flowers to put on the graves: ‘the only thing in the whole country with a bit of color was mistletoe.’ So it was adopted as the new territory’s floral emblem.

‘Years later when Oklahoma became a state, members of the constitutional convention carried the old territorial flower over into statehood, thus confirming what has since become one of Oklahoma’s oldest traditions.’

Every few years after it seemed someone would propose a change, it would be discussed and mistletoe would remain. The sweet pea, yucca and the cowboy rose (not a rose but a part of the mallow family), were among those proposed, but probably the most unusual was the alfalfa blossom.

Before we were even a state, in 1906, William H. Murray stated his preference for alfalfa in a letter to the editor of *The Oklahoman*: ‘Who, indeed, would desire to adopt for a state flower, a parasite? Let greater Oklahoma be known as the ‘Alfalfa State.’ In an editorial in *The Oklahoman* for June 17, 1912, the newspaper came out in support of alfalfa as the state flower: ‘Now that Oklahoma has become known as the marvelous alfalfa state, why not use the alfalfa blossom as the state flower?’ ‘The alfalfa blossoms are pretty; they enrich the scenery, added to the artistic part, alfalfa, is the mortgage lifter of Oklahoma. It is the crop which brings riches to the state; it is a crop which means more to the future than any other crop.’ ‘Alfalfa blossom — the state flower. It should be adopted’

The hardy little mistletoe stood firm from 1890 until 2004 when Gov. Brad Henry signed a bill into law making the Oklahoma Rose our official state flower. The mistletoe remains the state floral emblem.

Mary Philips for *The Archivist*
June 28, 2012

Global warming to spur invasive Australian ‘sleeper’ weeds

Global warming may shift the range of invasive weeds in Australia by hundreds of miles and awaken so-called ‘sleeper weeds,’ according to scientists with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (**CSIRO**). Plant experts warned at the end of March that resource managers need to be prepared for big changes in the coming decades. Invasive weeds already cost Australia more than \$4 billion (Australian) per year either in control of lost production, and, like elsewhere, displace native habitat and species.

At a recent conference in Perth, CSIRO scientist Dr. John Scott, said, those cost estimates are only based on the damage caused by weeds known to be active in Australia. ‘Out there, throughout the nation, are many weed species lying low but with the potential to take off and add to the economic and social burden of weed control,’ Dr Scott said. ‘One critical unknown is what these lurking weeds will do under climate change. Will their distributions change? Will they spread north or south, east or west, and will these movements change them into full-blown pest species?’

A recent CSIRO report for the Australian Government’s Land and Water Australia looked at what effects climate changes anticipated for 2030 and 2070 might have on the distribution of 41 weeds that pose a threat to agriculture (‘sleeper’ species) and the natural environment (‘alert’

species). ‘We found that climate change will cause most of these weeds to shift south, with wet tropical species making the greatest move – over 1,000 kilometers,’ Scott said. ‘The regions most at threat from alert and sleeper weeds, both under the current climate and under climate change, are south east Australia, followed by the south west.’

Karoo thorn (*Acacia karroo*), rosewood (*Tipuana tipu*) and kochia (*Bassia scoparia*) were found to pose the greatest threat under climate change while white weeping broom (*Retama raetam*) and fringed dodder (*Cuscuta suaveolens*) were predicted to have the highest risk of establishing in new areas.

‘The predicted move south by both native and introduced plants would produce a ‘vacuum’ in northern Australia so, to prevent lurking species from invading, a new list of alert and sleeper weeds for this region needs to be developed,’ Dr Scott said. The report also found that while the area currently infested by the most widespread weeds will decrease under climate change, the area of high risk would still be large.

Bob Berwyn for Summit County Citizens Voice
12 May 2012

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr Maurizio Vurro. Congratulations to Maurizio Vurro and Maria Antonietta Novielli on their recent marriage in Bari, Puglia on March 21st, 2012. With best wishes from us all.

Dr Bikash Ray. Congratulations to Dr Bikash Ray on his promotion to the Pulses and Oilseeds Research Station, Berhampore, West Bengal India, where he will be exploring the availability of resistance to *Orobancha aegyptiaca* in rapeseed and mustard.

FORTHCOMING MEETING

12th World Congress on Parasitic Plants (WCPP) will be held on Monday July 15 to Friday July 19, 2013 in Sheffield, UK. The venue will be the Edge Conference facility at the University of Sheffield. Further details will be provided via the conference website which will be available from mid October 2012. An e-mail will be sent to everyone who receives *Haustorium* once the website is available.

GENERAL WEB SITES

For individual web-site papers and reports see
LITERATURE

For information on the International Parasitic Plant Society, current issue of *Haustorium*, etc. see:
<http://www.parasiticplants.org/>

For past and current issues of *Haustorium* see also:
<http://www.odu.edu/~lmusselm/haustorium/index.shtml>

For the ODU parasitic plant site see:
<http://www.odu.edu/~lmusselm/plant/parasitic/index.php>

For Dan Nickrent’s ‘The Parasitic Plant Connection’ see:
<http://www.parasiticplants.siu.edu/>

For the Parasitic Plant Genome Project (PPGP) see:
<http://ppgp.huck.psu.edu/>

For information on the EU COST 849 Project (now completed) and reports of its meetings see:
<http://cost849.ba.cnr.it/>

For information on the EWRS Working Group ‘Parasitic weeds’ see: http://www.ewrs.org/parasitic_weeds.asp

For a description and other information about the *Desmodium* technique for *Striga* suppression, see:
<http://www.push-pull.net/>

For The Mistletoe Center (including a comprehensive Annotated Bibliography on mistletoes, up to 1995?) see: <http://www.rmrs.nau.edu/mistletoe/>

For the work of Forest Products Commission (FPC) on sandalwood, see: <http://www.fpc.wa.gov.au> (Search *Santalum*)

For past and current issues of the Sandalwood Research Newsletter, see:
<http://www.jcu.edu.au/mbil/srn/index.html>

For information on the work of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) on *Striga* control in Kenya, including periodical ‘Strides in *Striga* Management’ newsletters, see: <http://www.aatf-africa.org/>

THANKS

As editors of *Haustorium*, Harro Bouwmeester and Chris Parker wish to thank Jim Westwood for his stalwart help, support and encouragement in the production of this newsletter over the past many years, particularly helping Chris with literature items that were beyond his comprehension. We may yet trouble him further but will try to leave him in peace.

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* indicates web-site reference only

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- Jamil, M., Kanampiu, F., Karaya, H., Tatsiana Charnikhova and Bouwmeester, H., 2012. *Striga hermonthica* parasitism in maize in response to soil fertility. *Field Crops Research* 134: 1-10. [In a combination of greenhouse/lab and field experiments the paper shows that in the greenhouse, increasing availability of N and P

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- Kang XinPing, An Zhe and Rena Kasmu. 2012. (Research progress of chemical constituents and content analysis of mark components of *Cynomorium songaricum* Rupr.) (in Chinese) *Northwest Pharmaceutical Journal* 27(1): 81-83. [A review noting that the main components of *C. songaricum* are catechin, ursolic acid, tannin and polysaccharide.]
- Karanja, J., Nguluu, S. and Gatheru, M. 2012. Farm yard manure reduces the virulence of *Alectra vogelii* (Benth) on cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*). *African Journal of Plant Science* 6(3): 130-136. [Field trials in Kenya showed farm yard manure at 5 or 10 t/ha reduced *A. vogelii* density by >50% and increased crop yield.]
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- *Kester, M. 2012. Investigation trip to the United States of America to investigate golden dodder control options. Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/12-009> [Describing the control measures used to control *Cuscuta campestris* on lucerne in USA, including paraquat plus burning, flaming, sulphuric acid spraying, crop rotation into cereals, and the herbicides trifluralin

- and pendimethalin. Also the use of glyphosate on a recently released Round-up-resistant lucerne.]
- Kgosi, R.L., Zwanenburg, B., Mwakaboko, A.S. and Murdoch, A.J. 2012. Strigolactone analogues induce suicidal seed germination of *Striga* spp. in soil. *Weed Research* 52(3): 197-203. [Describing 5 new strigolactone analogues which were apparently active in soil of neutral pH. One derived from 1-tetralone was distinctly more active than the standard Nijmegen-1. The abstract refers to 'no noticeable signs of decomposition' but experimental evidence for this is not presented.]
- Kim SanWoong, Yoo SeungHyeong, Lee HeeJae, Kim, K.D., Kim DoRim, Park SeongKyu and Chang MunSeog. 2012. *Cistanches herba* induces testis cytotoxicity in male mice. *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* 88(1): 112-117. [At the doses used, extracts of *Cistanche* (presumably *C. deserticola* and/or *C. tubulosa*) induce cytotoxicity in the male reproductive system of mice, through inhibition of spermatogenesis, testicular damage, and limiting hormonal function.]
- Koga, C., Mwenje, E. and Garwe, D. 2011. Response of tobacco cultivars to varying fertiliser levels in *Striga gesnerioides* infested soils in Zimbabwe. *Agricultural Journal* 6(6): 347-352. [Among 5 tobacco varieties, 2 landraces were severely damaged by *S. gesnerioides* while variety T66 was relatively tolerant. Parasite emergence, and damage to T66, was reduced by increasing N from 25 to 50 kg/ha.]
- Komova, G.A. 2010. (Stand dynamics of some types of oak forests in southern Primorye [Maritime Province, Russian Far East]) (in Russian). *Lesovedenie*, 1: 22-30. [Discussing types of *Quercus mongolica* forest including *Melampyrum/Carex*.]
- Kretzschmar, T., Kohlen, W., Sasse, J., Borghi, L., Schlegel, M., Bachelier, J.B., Reinhardt, D., Bours, R., Bouwmeester H.J. and Martinoia, E. 2012. A petunia ABC protein controls strigolactone dependent symbiotic signalling and branching. *Nature* 483: 341-346 [The authors cloned an ABC transporter from *Petunia* and show it is involved in strigolactone export. A mutant and transgenic knock-down plants secrete negligible amounts of strigolactones and have a (mild) branching phenotype. Intriguingly, the transporter seems to be expressed in specific cell-types in the root particularly, possibly in the hypodermal passage cells where AM fungi enter. Unexpectedly, the transporter is also expressed near the axillary buds.]
- Kuijt, J. 2011. Two new species of *Oryctanthus* (Loranthaceae) from Colombia and French Guiana. *Novon* 21(4): 463-467. [*O. grammatus* described from Colombia and *O. guianensis* from French Guiana.]
- Kuijt, J. 2011. Thirteen new species of neotropical Viscaceae (*Dendrophthora* and *Phoradendron*). *Novon* 21(4): 444-462. [Describing 2 new *Dendrophthora* spp., from Bolivia and Ecuador, 8 *Phoradendron* spp. from Peru, and 3 *Phoradendron* spp. from Venezuela.]
- Kuijt, J. 2011. Loranthaceae Jussieu. 79. Eremolepdaceae Tiegh. ex Nakai., in: C. Marticorena & R. Rodríguez (eds.) *Flora de Chile* 3(1): 9-24. [This treatment covers *Desmaria* (1 sp.), *Ligaria* (1 sp.), *Notanthera* (1 sp.) and *Tristerix* (3 spp.) for Loranthaceae. The concept of 'Eremolepidaceae' as a family is still being followed (modern works place these genera in Santalaceae) including *Antidaphne* (1 sp.) and *Lepidoceras* (1 sp.).]
- Kuijt, Job. 2011. Monograph of the genus *Dendropemon* (Loranthaceae). *Syst. Bot. Monogr.* 92: 1-110. [The last comprehensive examination of this genus was in the late 1800s. This monograph describes 31 species distributed among the Caribbean islands.]
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- Kuijt, Job. 2012. Viscaceae, in: Baldwin, B.G., Goldman, D.H., Keil, D.J., Patterson, R. and Rosatti T.J. (eds.) *Jepson's Manual*, 2nd. edition. University of California Press, Berkeley & Los Angeles, pp. 1275-1278. [The book, published in January, complements the Jepson Online Interchange and the Jepson eFlora. Herein Viscaceae includes *Arceuthobium* (12 spp.), *Phoradendron* (7 spp.), and *Viscum* (1 sp.).]
- Kuijt, Job. 2012. Reinstatement and expansion of the genus *Peristethium* Tiegh. (Loranthaceae). *Annals of the Missouri Bot. Garden* 98(4): 542-577. [Generic boundaries in the neotropical small-flowered loranthids are further redefined. The genus *Peristethium* Tiegh. is resurrected and now includes 15 mistletoe species, ten of which were formerly classified in *Struthanthus* and *Cladocolea*.]
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- QTLs together with the development of MAS techniques are promising approaches to rapidly improving crop resistance.]
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- Rubiales, D. and Fernández-Aparicio, M. 2012. Innovations in parasitic weeds management in legume crops. A review. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development* 32(2): 433-449. [A general review with emphasis on resistant varieties and herbicides in the control of *Orobancha* spp.]
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- Rubiales, D., Fernández-Aparicio, M. and Sillero, J.C. 2011. Dodder. In: Chen, W., Sharma, H.C. and Muehlbauer, F.J. (eds) Compendium of chickpea and lentil diseases and pests. American Phytopathological Society (APS Press), St. Paul, USA: 98. [Noting occasional occurrence of *Cuscuta campestris* in lentil and chickpea in the Mediterranean region. Control involves the use of clean seed, spot spraying with non-selective herbicide, selective herbicide pendimethalin in either crop; also pronamide or propyzamide in chickpea.]
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- Euphrasia* (unspecified) among species that have proved valuable in treating conjunctivitis.]
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- Schuh, R.T. and Menard, K. 2011. Santalalean-feeding plant bugs: ten new species in the genus *Hypseloecus* Reuter from Australia and South Africa (Heteroptera: Miridae: Phylinae): their hosts and placement in the Pilophorini. Australian Journal of Entomology 50(4): 365-392. [Describing 8 new species of *Hypseloecus* from Australia and two from South Africa, documented as using species of *Amyema*, *Dendrophthoe* and *Lysiana* in Australia and *Viscum* and *Tapinanthus* in South Africa.]
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- Şekeroglu, Z.A. and Şekeroglu, V. 2012. Effects of *Viscum album* L. extract and quercetin on methotrexate-induced cyto-genotoxicity in mouse bone-marrow cells. Mutation Research, Genetic Toxicology and Environmental Mutagenesis 746(1): 56-59. [Suggesting that *V. album* extract may play a role in reducing cyto-genotoxicity induced by anti-neoplastic drugs during cancer chemotherapy.]
- Semerčí, A., Kaya, Y., Sahin, I. and Cítak, N. 2010. Determination of the performances and adoption levels of sunflower 33(53): 69-76. [Comparing the performance of sunflower varieties resistant to *Orobanche cumana* and those resistant to imidazolinone herbicide in Thrace, Turkey and concluding that highest and most economical yields are obtained with genetic resistance to the parasite.]
- Seregin, A.P. 2011. (*Pedicularis palustris* and *P. sceptrum-carolinum* (*Orobanchaceae*) in Vladimir Region and Middle Russia: dynamics and causes of extinction.) (in Russian) Botanicheskiĭ Zhurnal 96(12) 1561-1574. [The rapid decrease of *P. palustris* and *P. sceptrum-carolinum* over the past century is attributed to poor seed regeneration, genetic isolation of fragmented populations, change of land use, eutrophication, etc.]
- Sevastre, B., Olah, N.K., Hanganu, D., Sárpataki, O., Taulescu, M., Mănalăchioae, R., Marcus, I. and Caţoi, C. 2012. *Viscum album* L. alcoholic extract enhance the effect of doxorubicin in Ehrlich carcinoma tumor cells. Romanian Biotechnological Letters 17(1): 6975-6981.
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- Sillero, J.C., Rojas-Molina, M.M., Avila, C.M. and Rubiales, D. 2012. Induction of systemic acquired resistance against rust, ascochyta blight and broomrape in faba bean by exogenous application of salicylic acid and benzothiadiazole. Crop Protection 34: 65-69. [Confirming the suppression of *Orobanche crenata* on faba bean by SA and BTH, but mainly exploring their effect on fungal diseases.]
- Simard, S.W., Beiler, K.J., Bingham, M.A., Deslippe, J.R., Philip, L.J. and Teste, F.P. 2012. Mycorrhizal networks: mechanisms, ecology and modelling. Fungal Biology Reviews 26(1): 39-60. [A detailed review including discussion of the types, amounts and mechanisms of interplant material transfer in autotrophic, mycoheterotrophic or partial mycoheterotrophic plants, with particular focus on carbon transfer.]
- Soliman, M.M., Abdallah, N.G., Bakheit, M.A., Raslan, M.A. and Abd-El-Haleem, S.H.M. 2012. Directional selection in faba bean (*Vicia faba* L.) under infestation of *Orobanche crenata*. World Applied Sciences Journal 16(8): 1074-1081. [Reporting good results from a breeding programme in Egypt involving the cultivar Giza-843 which effectively shared in transmitting its properties of high yield and high resistance to *O. crenata*.]
- Start, A.N. 2011. Some observations on an urban mistletoe *Dendrophthoe pentandra* (L.) Miq. (Loranthaceae) in Thailand. Natural History Buletin of the Siam Society 57: 81-86. [In a survey of urban trees in Central and N.Thailand *D. pentandra* was recorded on hosts from 24 families, 40 genera and more than 40 species; Common hosts included *Mangifera indica*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Tectona grandis* and several species of *Lagerstroemia*.]

- Štech, M. 2012. Changes of seasonal characters in populations of *Melampyrum sylvaticum* along an altitudinal gradient. *Verhandlungen der Zoologisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft in Österreich* 148/149: 137-144. [A study in Czeck Republic concludes that seasonal characters are not sufficiently reliable to be the basis for sub-specific taxa.]
- Steers, R.J. and Allen, E.B. 2011. Fire effects on perennial vegetation in the Western Colorado Desert, USA. *Fire Ecology* 7(3): 59-74. [*Krameria grayi* among species failing to recover after fire in creosote bush vegetation.]
- Su HueiJiun, Murata, J. and Hu JerMing. 2012. Morphology and phylogenetics of two holoparasitic plants, *Balanophora japonica* and *Balanophora yakushimensis* (Balanophoraceae), and their hosts in Taiwan and Japan. *Journal of Plant Research* 125(3): 317-326. [Refining the distinctions between *B. japonica*, *B. yakushimensis*, and *B. laxiflora* which form a well-supported clade within *Balanophora*. Also confirming that *B. japonica* parasitizes *Symplocos* spp., while *B. yakushimensis* parasitizes *Distylium racemosum* in Japan and *Schima superba* in Taiwan.]
- Sultan, A., Johnston, P.R., Park, D. and Robertson, A.W. 2011. Two new pathogenic ascomycetes in *Guignardia* and *Rosenscheldiella* on New Zealand's pygmy mistletoes (*Korthalsella: Viscaceae*). *Studies in Mycology* 68: 237-247. [*G. korthalsellae* and *R. korthalsellae* are described from *Korthalsella salicornioides*, *K. clavata* and *K. lindsayi*. *R. korthalsellae* is a member of the *Mycosphaerellaceae* s.s.]
- Sun ZhiYing, Song JingYuan, Yao Hui and Han JianPing. 2012. Molecular identification of *Cistanches Herba* and its adulterants based on nrITS2 sequence. *Journal of Medicinal Plants Research* 6(6): 1041-1045. [Confirming that ITS2 can be used as a DNA barcode to distinguish 'genuine' '*Cistanches Herba*' (based on *Cistanche deserticola* and *C. tubulosa*) from possible adulterants including *C. salsa*, *C. sinensis* *Orobanchae pycnostachya*, *O. coeruleascens*, *Boschniakia rossica*, and *Cynomorium songaricum*.]
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