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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear IPPS Members,

May the year 2013 be happy and fruitful.

As mentioned in the last issue of *Haustorium*, our next World Congress on Parasitic Plants (WCPP) will be held from July 15-19 in Sheffield, UK. We are sorry for the delay in opening of the special conference website which will soon be available. (You will be informed directly as soon as it is available – Ed.)

We will have seven sessions (session titles & session organizers), 1. Genomics (John Yoder, Jim Westwood), 2. Biology and Biochemistry (Philippe Delavault, Philippe Simier), 3. Host-Parasite Communication (Koichi Yoneyama, Maurizio Vurro), 4. Ecology and Population Biology (Yaakov Goldwasser, Jönne Rodenburg), 5. Control and Management (Diego Rubiales, Joseph Hershenhorn), 6. Crop Resistance and Tolerance (Julie Scholes, Michael Timko), 7. Environmental factors, modeling and mapping (Ahmed Uludag, Hanan Eizenburg), and an IPPS-COST (STRigolactones Enhanced Agricultural Methodologies, STREAM) symposium (Hinanit Koltai, Cristina Prandy). Please prepare for the Congress to share your recent findings on parasitic plants with many colleagues and friends.

During a year and a half after the 11th WCPP in Italy, we have witnessed breakthroughs in parasitic plant sciences. Among them, for example, practical transgenic techniques of root parasitic plants have been developed, and the major pathways in strigolactone biosynthesis have been unveiled. These have convinced me that our current schedule to have WCPP every other year is appropriate to catch up with this rapid progress.

In addition to these rapid advances in basic sciences, we also need to pay great attention to applied sciences because farmers have been waiting eagerly for innovation in practical control measures for parasitic weeds.

In Japan, clover broomrape (*Orobancha minor*) was first reported in 1937 in Chiba Prefecture near Tokyo. Since then it has spread rapidly and now it occurs in Kyoto. Ten years ago, we went to Watarase River bank to collect the seeds but now we can find it easily in our city. In addition, dodders (*Cuscuta* spp.) are now causing noticeable crop damage in Japan. So we are afraid that in the near future these parasitic weeds may become noxious weeds in Japan.

Of course, parasitic plants are unique and important contributors to biodiversity. We need to evaluate not only

negative effects but also positive effects of parasitic plants on natural and agricultural ecosystems.

Looking forward to meeting many IPPS members at the next WCPP in Sheffield in July.

Sincerely,

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

SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL

With thanks to Dietmar Fennel for this montage, prepared for the exhibition entitled 'The Bird World of the Mistletoe, in the Stadtmuseum, Schwabach, Germany
<http://www.schwabach.de/stadtmuseum/>

***ALECTRA VOGELII* ON SUNFLOWER IN TANZANIA**

Alectra vogelii Benth. is widely distributed as a parasite of legume crops in the dry savannahs of sub-Saharan Africa. The species is found on a number of legume hosts, most commonly in cowpea and locally as a significant problem in groundnut and soyabean. Earlier this year when travelling in Singida Rural District of central Tanzania we noticed plants of an *Alectra* species in many sunflower fields in Mtinko ward. Sunflower has become an important cash crop in central Tanzania expanding to meet the demands from oil extraction plants built in the area. While at first glance specimens looked typical for *A. vogelii* we noticed that all plants in the area collected from sunflower, cowpea and occasionally soya have densely hairy or so called "bearded" anther filaments. Current taxonomic treatments of *Alectra* (see *Flora Zambesiaca*: vol 8 part 2 (1990) Scrophulariaceae by D. Philcox) place *A. vogelii* with *A. picta* (Hiern) Hemsl. as two species with non-apical

anther thecae. *A. picta* was maintained as a separate species by virtue of bearded filaments and plants were described as being 'floriferous in the upper part of the stem, not generally throughout'. All our specimens from Singida are floriferous throughout but with densely bearded filaments so could be assigned to *A. picta*. Dr Iain Darbyshire kindly compared these Tanzania plants to other specimens in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Herbarium and confirmed they are broadly similar to those previously identified as *A. picta*. Were it not for bearded filaments it would be extremely difficult to distinguish the Tanzanian material from *A. vogelii*. The first author has previously collected *A. picta* type plants in Eastern Malawi growing in the same row of groundnuts as typical *A. vogelii* with glabrous filaments. In view of morphological similarities and similar responses to legume hosts in pot trials, Parker and Riches (1993 – Parasitic Weeds of the World: Biology and Control, Wallingford, UK, CAB International) raised doubt that *A. picta* and *A. vogelii* are distinct species. Subsequently Jeffery Morawetz in a revision of *Alectra* synonymised the two species as *A. vogelii* (Morawetz, J. 2007. Systematics of *Alectra* (Orobanchaceae) and phylogenetic relationships among the tropical clade of Orobanchaceae. PhD Thesis Ohio State University). Based on the above it seems likely that the *Alectra* in Singida is indeed *A. vogelii*.



Alectra vogelii on sunflower Photo: C.R. Riches

As far as we are aware the extent of infestation of sunflower in Tanzania and beyond by *A. vogelii* is largely

unknown. The second author has observed infested fields in Ismani ward of Iringa District where sunflower has also become a cash crop. Johann Visser listed an occurrence of *A. vogelii* on the crop at Ventersdorp in South Africa many years ago (Visser, J.H. 1978 The Biology of *Alectra vogelii* Benth., An Angiospermous Root Parasite. Beiträge zur Chemischen Kommunikation in Bio- und Ökosystemen, Witzchenhausen pp. 279-294). In Singida farmers plant sunflower in rotation with maize or sorghum and rarely apply fertilizer. They report steadily declining yields. The effect of the parasite on sunflower is, however, uncertain although in Singidawe observed that some infested plants were stunted with small heads compared to non-infested ones.

Charlie Riches (Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich UK, charlie@riches27.freeserve.co.uk)
Ambonesigwe Mbwaga (Uyole Agricultural Research Institute, Mbeya, Tanzania, ambwaga@gmail.com)

PRESS RELEASES

Decades old weed seeds trigger new plant parasite outbreak

In the early 1980s, a devastating parasitic weed was found in a tomato field in California. The infestation of branched broomrape (*Orobanche ramosa*) was treated aggressively and the field was quarantined to prevent further spread. When tomatoes were planted in the same spot more than two decades later, though, the branched broomrape quickly returned. According to Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D., science policy director of the Weed Science Society of America, the recurrence is not a surprise. 'When weed seeds drop to the soil, some can remain viable for many decades,' Van Wychen says. 'Effective control requires a long-term commitment.'

There are a number of alternatives available to manage noxious weed seeds that become part of the soil seed bank. One is to quarantine the area and leave the seeds undisturbed until they are no longer viable. But as the broomrape example shows, the length of time the area will need to be quarantined is an unknown. In some instances, the soil is fumigated in an attempt to destroy noxious weed seeds. In other instances, the soil is lightly tilled and a nitrogen fertilizer applied to promote germination and encourage the seeds to sprout. Once they've emerged, the weeds are pulled, tilled or treated with an herbicide to keep them from reseeding. 'None of these options are a magic bullet that will work overnight or kill 100 percent of the weed seeds each and every time,' Van Wychen said. 'Persistence is the key.'

Branched broomrape is a prolific seed producer, which significantly compounds efforts to control it. A single plant

can produce 50,000 or more tiny seeds that are easily spread by people, animals, farm machinery, wind and water. When the weed seeds germinate, they attach to the roots of host plants and drain them of water and nutrients – devastating tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, beans and other important crops that branched broomrape prefers.

As a result, California officials quickly sprang into action when the most recent outbreak of branched broomrape was discovered. The San Benito Agricultural Commissioner took the lead in a multifaceted response – quarantining the site again and pulling in state and federal experts and university personnel to lend their expertise. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has been involved, as well as the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). It was a pretty serious infestation,' said Richard Smith, farm advisor with the University of California Cooperative Extension. 'We collected big garbage bags of branched broomrape from the 70-acre plot where it was discovered. And when we mapped the site, it overlapped almost precisely with the 1980s outbreak.' Smith says officials are still evaluating soil fumigation and other potential alternatives for dealing with the long-lived seeds still hidden in the soil.

Branched broomrape has earned a well-deserved spot on the federal noxious weed list. It has been found in several U.S. states to date, including California, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, North Carolina and Texas.

Weed Science Society of America | October 3, 2012

How to go about getting rid of mistletoe in Modesto

On Aug. 16, I authored a community column encouraging Modesto residents to take responsibility for pruning mistletoe from city-owned trees that shade their properties and increase their property values. I have since heard from several Modestans who say the city won't allow private citizens to interfere with the maintenance of city-owned trees.

I knew the city had an approved vendor list of companies that homeowners could hire to prune a city-owned tree affecting their property, but I didn't know the particulars, so I did some more research.

The city does in fact allow homeowners to provide maintenance to city-owned trees at the property owner's expense, if you don't want to wait the scheduled seven years for the Modesto Community Forestry Department's regular maintenance. Homeowners are allowed to contract through approved vendors who have applied for a permit to maintain city-owned trees. The process can differ depending on the service the homeowner wants performed. General tree pruning and removal of mistletoe, deadwood or stumps can be handled by directly hiring a vendor from

the list; no prior approval or permits is required. For tree removal, you first must contact the Community Forestry Division and request tree removal. Once approved, you can contact a vendor from the approved provider list. Planting a new tree can be handled by an approved vendor, provided the tree being replanted is of the same species. If the homeowner wishes to replace a tree with an alternate species, the tree must be approved by city staff. Root cutting and pest infestations can only be handled by the Community Forestry Division.

I called several of the approved vendors to find out how much it costs to prune mistletoe from a city-owned tree. The cost can range from \$150 to \$750, depending on the size of the tree and the degree of mistletoe infestation, but the average seemed to be \$200 to \$350.

Janie Gatzman
columns@modbee.com Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012

Mistletoe therapy may give cancer sufferers kiss of life

It normally only comes to public attention at Christmas time but mistletoe may have beneficial effects on some cancer patients in terms of life expectancy and quality of life.

Now a pilot study for a clinical trial is being planned at Aberdeen University with the aim of understanding what effect mistletoe has on immune cells in the blood of patients with cancer, and on the tumours themselves, after positive results were experienced by patients of a general practitioner in the city.

Those who say they have benefited from mistletoe treatment include former England international cricketer John Edrich who was diagnosed in 2000 with a rare form of incurable leukaemia. He was given a maximum of seven years, with treatment, to live, and underwent gruelling chemotherapy for five years. Then he learned about the mistletoe treatment, and began receiving twice-weekly injections. Mr Edrich, who lives in Aberdeenshire, said he had been advised to contact Dr Stefan Geider, a GP and qualified anthroposophic doctor, at Camphill Medical Practice in Aberdeen. The retired Test cricketer said: 'I've gradually got better and better and I've got to a stage where I'm doing everything. I'm probably better now than I have ever been. I'm 75 and I'm playing golf three times a week. 'I'm certain it has been down to the mistletoe. Otherwise, I'm sure I wouldn't be here today.'

Dr Geider said: 'I've had experience with the treatment within the context of a German university hospital and had witnessed a number of patients who showed a marked improvement with the treatment. I've used mistletoe therapy with patients here in Aberdeen for 16 years and have had similar successes. 'Typically you see an increase in energy levels, less pain, improved appetite, better sleep patterns

and improved motivation. From my clinical experience, of seeing patients for mistletoe therapy on a regular basis, it becomes clear mistletoe, with some people – though not with all – has some impact on tumour reduction. ‘Mistletoe has in my experience been helpful to many of my patients, both in terms of quality of life and life expectancy, but it does not work for everybody. It should be stressed it is not a miraculous cure and we need to understand more fully how mistletoe works and why it does so for some people more than for others. Therefore we need the pilot study.’

The Mistletoe for Cancer UK website, which notes the plant has been used in cancer treatment for more than 90 years, says the introduction of the mistletoe extract from the whole plant into the body is designed to kickstart and re-educate the immune system, so it realises something is wrong and starts to fight back against the cancer.

An Aberdeen University study found 70% of breast cancer patients have taken, or are taking, complementary and alternative medicines. One of these is mistletoe which is being taken on the basis of European studies suggesting there might be an anti-cancer effect.

Steve Heys, professor of surgical oncology at the university and a consultant surgeon, said: ‘A very high quality, detailed analysis reviewed all the studies of mistletoe and concluded that because of the methodological problems with these studies there is currently no evidence for an effect on survival. [But] this review also suggested there might be an effect of mistletoe on improving the quality of life in patients with breast cancer undergoing chemotherapy. Further studies are necessary to determine if there is an effect on improving quality of life in this situation. ‘Given the importance of complementary and alternative medicine to patients, there is an urgent need to understand what effects these agents have both in terms of their own effects and possible drug interactions so patients may have this information to facilitate them making an informed decision as to what is important for them.’

Russell Leadbetter

Herald Scotland 26 September 2012

Varsity researchers win war on *Striga* weed with hybrid maize varieties – Magazines.

The development of three hybrid maize varieties and one for finger millet by a don at Maseno University (near Kisumu, Kenya) could offer the solution to massive crop failure as a result of *Striga* weed. Led by Prof Mathews Dida, lecturers from the university have developed Maseno EH10, EH11 and EH14 maize varieties, which emit a natural chemical component that suppresses growth of *Striga* weed in a maize farm. ‘I know that my colleagues have developed sterling seeds before and I must admit that it is on some of these initiatives that I have improved mine, but what makes these particular seeds stand out is their

ability to eliminate *Striga* weed in our shambas (farms),’ Prof Dida said.

According to the researcher, the agricultural sector suffers close to Sh6.7 billion in losses as a result of *Striga* weed infestation. Prof Dida said that tackling the weed and the need to address the perennial food security was the overriding goal of his research that began more than 10 years ago. ‘I was trying to solve some of these problems I see in farming. How can we keep importing food yet we have the some of the best climatic conditions to be able to achieve self-sufficiency in food production?’ he posed. When finally taken up together with other varieties already in supply, he said that the country would be able to feed the rest of the East African community bloc. The researchers also developed Maseno 60D, a code name of the finger millet seed, which they said is not only fast maturing but also suitable for regions that experience low rainfall. The initiative was partly funded by the National Council for Science and Technology that promotes research and innovation to the tune of Sh1.7 million. Prof Dida said that in terms of output, a farmer should expect at least 12 tonnes of produce per acre compared to the current situation where some farmers harvest as low as a tonne or less from same size of farm. He said that all requisite assessment by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate (Kephis), which ascertains effectiveness of newly developed seeds, points to their success.

Agriculture minister Sally Kosgei will launch the new seeds soon to pave the way for commercial exploitation. They are also on display at the Kisumu agricultural show, which opened on Wednesday. Prof Dida said that the new maize varieties mature between 20 and 50 days earlier than those already in the market. ‘They flower in 60 days and mature in 80 days,’ he observed. Although the seeds may thrive in almost all parts of the country, the don said that during the research, they focused on lowlands and the Lake Victoria region and coastal parts of the country, which receive relatively scarce rainfall. A seed variety with such traits will be the first of a kind in East Africa. However, similar seeds have been developed for farmers in Nigeria and South Africa. It took Prof Dida two years to develop and evaluate the millet seeds before Kephis took over to conduct independent trials. The work on maize took a little longer since the researchers had to cross-pollinate different maize seeds to obtain the superior breeds out of the originals. ‘Developing new seed variety is referred to as plant breeding and demands for a lot of patience if anything good is to come out of it. Like this has taken 10 years to piece together,’ he said.

By Justus Wanga
Kenya Business Daily
July 23 2012.

ICIPE and AATF in new partnership to boost *Striga* control efforts in Kenya

The International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) and AATF in March 2012 signed a Partnership Agreement under the Integrated *Striga* Management in Africa (ISMA) project that is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The agreement will see AATF and ICIPE undertake a survey on *Striga* weed management technologies in Kenya. The *Striga* weed is a highly invasive parasitic weed that attacks cereal crops. The infestation of *Striga* causes between 20 percent and 100 percent grain yield loss in many fields in Western Kenya, affecting over 250,000 hectares. It is estimated that farmers lose 300,000 tonnes (3.3 million bags or US\$ 132 million) of maize grain every year in the region.

For more information visit http://www.aatf-africa.org/news/new_partnership_for_aatf_and_icipen/en/ or contact Gospel Omanyia (g.omanya@aatf-africa.org)

From: AATF Partnerships Newsletter 09, Jan-Apr. 2012.

A New EU COST Action – FA1206. Strigolactones: biological roles and applications

Strigolactones (SLs) are newly discovered phytohormones that contribute to define plant morphology, also in response to environmental conditions, and to the dialogue with organisms in the rhizosphere. As a consequence, SLs have become a cutting-edge topic in plant biology and agronomy, having a great potential in modern agriculture. However, little is known about how they act, their biosynthesis and signaling pathways. Because of their both endogenous and exogenous role as signalling molecules, SLs are well placed to mediate both adaptive changes in the plant architecture and beneficial rhizosphere interactions. Even though SLs are a prime interest for many laboratories across disciplines, there are no official networks neither in Europe nor in the rest of the world on this subject. An outcome of an EU network on this subject would be sustaining and promoting the EU leadership in SLs-related sciences, the coordination of SLs research activities and a transfer of knowledge which may lead to the development of targeted and sustainable agro-technologies. The aim of this proposal is the creation of such multidisciplinary network of experts, of both basic and applied sciences, who can share expertise through the flexibility of the COST framework.

PAST MEETING

XV International Congress - Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions, July 29-Aug 2, 2012, Kyoto, Japan.

Papers presented included:

- Zachary Gaudin *et al.* – Nitrogen fluxes in the *Phelipanche ramosa/Brassica napus* interaction.
- Philippe Delavault *et al.* – *Phelipanche ramosa* seed germination in response to the strigolactone analog GR24.
- Thomas Peron *et al.* - The phloem network in the parasitic plant *Phelipanche ramosa*; carboxyfluorescein labelling and characterization of three sucrose transporters.
- Bathilde Auger *et al.* - Germination stimulants of *Phelipanche ramosa* in the rhizosphere of *Brassica napus* are derived from the glucosinolate pathway.

FORTHCOMING MEETING

The 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 soon. An e-mail will be sent to everyone who receives *Haustorium* once the website is available, around the end of January.

Some details appear in the President's Message above.

VIDEOS ON STRIGA

A new NGO, Access Agriculture, has been initiated with inputs from three private media companies and financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Access Agriculture functions as a global facilitator/broker for the production, translation and dissemination of agricultural training videos in developing countries. People are invited to submit their training videos. Guidelines for this are provided on the site (www.accessagriculture.org).

Along with training videos on many other topics, the series of ten 'Fighting *Striga*' videos can be watched and downloaded for free, either as video or audio file (for radio broadcasters) from the Access Agriculture website. The ten video modules focus on sorghum and pearl millet and are developed by Agro-Insight, ICRISAT, NGOs, farmer organisations and national scientists, enriched with key inputs from many African farmers involved in experimentation on integrated *Striga* and fertility

management. The videos are available in 8 languages – English, French, Bambara, Bomu, Fulani, Hausa, Mossi/Mooré, Zarma/Djarma. DVD's containing the ten video modules in these eight languages are also available for free and can be ordered from: Dr. T. van Mourik, ICRISAT-Mali, BP 320, Bamako, Mali (Tom.vanmourik@icrisatml.org). By early 2013, Access Agriculture will also make Arabic, Swahili, Portuguese and Chichewa versions of these videos available on its website. These are very high quality films and can be highly recommended to any agricultural service provider.

A range of videos developed by Agro-Insight, ICRISAT, NGOs, farmer organisations and national scientists, enriched with key inputs from many African farmers involved in experimentation on integrated *Striga* and fertility management, are available on this site. The ten video modules focus on sorghum and pearl millet. They can be watched and downloaded for free, either as video or audio file (for radio broadcasters) from the Access Agriculture website. The videos are available in 8 languages – English, French, Bambara, Bomu, Fulani, Hausa, Mossi/Mooré, Zarma/Djarma. A DVD containing the ten video modules in these eight languages can be ordered from: Dr. T. van Mourik, ICRISAT-Mali, BP 320, Bamako, Mali, or via Tom.vanmourik@icrisatml.org. Individual copies are free. By early 2013, Access Agriculture will also make Arabic, Swahili, Portuguese and Chichewa versions of these videos available on its website. These are very high quality films and can be highly recommended to any agricultural service provider.

For more on the way the films were made see: <http://www.new-ag.info/en/research/innovationItem.php?a=2513>

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/> (N.B. currently a little out of date)

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

For Access Agriculture (click on cereals for videos on *Striga*) see: <http://www.accessagriculture.org/>

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

For a compilation of literature on *Viscum album* prepared by Institute Hiscia in Arlesheim, Switzerland, see: <http://www.vfk.ch/informationen/literatursuche> (in German but can be searched by inserting author name).

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>

LITERATURE

* indicates web-site reference only

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Adekunle, A.S., Oyewo, B.E. and Afolabi, O.K. 2012. Therapeutic efficacy of *Tapinanthus globiferus* on acetaminophen induced nephrotoxicity, inflammatory reactions and oxidative stress in albino rats. *International Research Journal of Biochemistry and Bioinformatics* 2(2): 41-45. [In this study, *T. globiferus* exhibited nephro-protective, anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative properties.]

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1667. [Results of screening a range of plants of importance in traditional medicine in Nepal, including *Cuscuta reflexa*.]
- Aitzetmüller, K. 2012. Santalbic acid in the plant kingdom. *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 298(9): 1609-1617. [Surveying the occurrence of santalbic acid, present in most Santalales. 'Toxic to humans, but may be of interest for technical purposes because of a reactive functional group.']
- Alakonya, A. and eleven others. 2012. Interspecific RNA interference of SHOOT MERISTEMLESS-like disrupts *Cuscuta pentagona* plant parasitism. *Plant Cell* 24(7): 3153-3166. [Demonstrating that a gene upregulated in *C. pentagona* (= *C. campestris*) on attachment to tobacco is silenced when attaching to a transgenic host, resulting in weaker growth of the parasite and stronger host.]
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- Amar, Z., Labib, S.N., Nouredine, G. and Salah, R. 2012. Phytochemical screening of five Algerian plants and the assessment of the antibacterial activity of two *Euphorbia guyoniana* extracts. *Der Pharmacia Lettre* 4(5): 1438-1444. [Reporting the anti-bacterial activity of 5 species including *Parentucellia viscosa*.]
- Anon. 2012. (EU-ECE inventory of forest damage (IDF) in Spain. European Network Monitoring Forest damage. Level I. Sampling results 2010.) (in Spanish) *Ecología (Madrid)* 24: 107-149. [Damage due to mistletoe infestations (*Viscum album*?) continue with their worrying increasing trend, and the impact of the decline process on alder forest stands near the Cantabrian coasts is confirmed.]
- Anteneh Belayneh, Zemedede Asfaw, Sebsebe Demissew and Bussa, N.F. 2012. Medicinal plants potential and use by pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Erer valley of Babile Wereda, eastern Ethiopia. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 8(42) (<http://www.ethnobiomed.com/content/pdf/1746-4269-8-42.pdf>) [Root preparations from *Hydnora johannis* are prescribed as remedies for diarrhoea, haemorrhage, wound and painful body swelling.]
- Anter, S.H. and Kassim, T.A. 2011. (Effect of cutting and bromamid herbicide on growth and seed yield of alfalfa *Medicago sativa* L. and dodder *Cuscuta* sp.) (in Arabic) *Diyala Agricultural Sciences Journal* 3(2): Ar241-Ar249. [Cutting to 1 cm was superior to cutting at 5 cm for control of *Cuscuta planiflora* and *C. chinensis* (or perhaps *C. campestris*?) in Iraq. Pronamide (=propyzamide) was ineffective.]
- Antonova, T.S., Araslanova, N.M., Strel'nikov, E.A., Ramazanova, S.A., Guchetl, S.Z. and Tchelustnikova, T.A. 2012. Some peculiarities of ontogenesis of *Orobancha cumana* Wallr., parasitizing on sunflower in Rostov region of Russian Federation. *Helia* 35(56): 99-109. [Noting the relatively recent development of the *Orobancha cumana* problem in the Rostov region of Russia in the 1990s, and describing some features of the plant's development including multiple stem apices on the tubercle, development of new plants from secondary infections, development of new plants from root apices without attachment to other roots, regrowth from the tubercle after the main shoot has matured and fruited, etc.]
- Antonova, T.S., Araslanova, N.M., Strel'nikov, E.A., Ramazanova, S.A., Tchelustnikova, T.A. and Guchetl, S.Z. 2011. Screening of wild *Helianthus* species for resistance to high virulent *Orobancha cumana* Wallr. affecting sunflower in the Rostov region of the Russian Federation. *Helia* 34(55): 115-123. [Perennial wild *Helianthus* spp. found resistant to highly virulent *O. cumana* by Ruso *et al.* (1996) (Plant Disease pp. 1165-1169) in Spain show resistance also to *O. cumana* races F, G and H in the Rostov region.]
- Anupama Chembath, Balasundaran, M. and Sujanalpal, P. 2012/ Phylogenetic relationships of *Santalum album* and its adulterants as inferred from nuclear DNA sequences.

- International Journal of Agriculture and Forestry 2(2): 150-156. [Presenting molecular data for the separation of *S. album* from several potential adulterant species including *Osyris wightiana*, *O. lanceolata* and *Ximenia americana*.]
- Anusha, V., Asma, S., Ratnakumari, K., Yaminisai and Govindamma, N. 2012. Anti-depressant activity of some aroma oils on mice. International Research Journal of Pharmaceutical and Applied Sciences 2(3): 9-12. [Showing some benefit from sandalwood oil (*Santalum album*).]
- Arruda, R. and nine others. 2012. Ecology of neotropical mistletoes: an important canopy-dwelling component of Brazilian ecosystems. Acta Botanica Brasilica 26(2): 264-274. [Reviewing studies conducted in the neotropical region in order to provide a framework for current research and new ideas for future investigations of mistletoes, especially in Brazil.]
- Artanti, N., Firmansyah, T. and Darmawan, A. 2012. Bioactivities evaluation of Indonesian mistletoes (*Dendrophthoe pentandra* (L.) Miq.) leaves extracts. Journal of Applied Pharmaceutical Science 2(1): 24-27. [Recording 4 hosts of *D. pentandra* - *Stelechocarpus burahol*, *Spondias dulcis*, *Annona squamosa* and *Camellia sinensis* and confirming some antioxidant and antidiabetic activity.]
- Ashour, O.M., Abdel-Naim, A.B., Abdallah, H.M., Nagy, A.A., Mohamadin, A.M. and Abdel-Sattar, E.A. 2012. Evaluation of the potential cardioprotective activity of some Saudi plants against doxorubicin toxicity. Zeitschrift für Naturforschung. Section C, Biosciences 67(5/6): 297-307. [*Cynomorium comosum* exerted protective activity against DOX-induced cardiotoxicity, which is, at least partly, due to its antioxidant effect.]
- Asir Benniamin, Chaturvedi, S.K., Santanu Dey and Moakum. 2012. Supplements to the root Parasitic plant in India. A new recorded species *Christisonia siamensis* Craib. (Orobanchaceae). Taiwania 57(2): 217-221. [*C. siamensis* newly recorded in India. Including key and descriptions of Indian species.]
- Auger, B., Pouvreau, J.B., Pouponneau, K., Yoneyama, K., Montiel, G., le Bizec, B., Yoneyama, K., Delavault, P., Delourme, R. and Simier, P. 2012. Germination stimulants of *Phelipanche ramosa* in the rhizosphere of *Brassica napus* are derived from the glucosinolate pathway. Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions 25(7): 993-1004. [Making the interesting discovery that *P. ramosa* germination is triggered particularly by isothiocyanate products derived from the breakdown of glucosinolates in the rhizosphere of *B. napus* and other Brassicaceae such as *Arabidopsis* rather than by strigolactones. Raises the interesting question how the rapeseed parasite *P. ramosa* has acquired sensitivity to isothiocyanates while other races of the same species parasitise non-Brassicaceae so are apparently sensitive to other compounds (strigolactones).]
- Avila-Acevedo, J.G., García-Bores, A.M., Martínez-Ramírez, F., Hernández-Delgado, C.T., Ibarra-Barajas, M., Romo de Vivar, A., Flores-Maya, S., Velasco-Lara, P. and Cespedes, C.L. 2012. Antihyperglycemic effect and genotoxicity of *Psittacanthus calyculatus* extract in streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats. Boletín Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Plantas Medicinales y Aromáticas 11(4): 345-353. [Results support the safe use of *P. calyculatus* for diabetes and hypertension.]
- Aybeke, M. 2012. Comparative anatomy of selected rhizomatous and tuberous taxa of subfamilies Orchidoideae and Epidendroideae (Orchidaceae) as an aid to identification. Plant Systematics and Evolution 298(9): 1643-1658. [Emphasising the value of detailed anatomical studies in the identification of *Neottia*, *Cephalanthera*, *Epipactis*, *Limodorum*, *Spiranthes*, *Platanthera*, *Serapias*, *Himantoglossum* and *Anacamptis* spp.]
- Baba, G., Lawal, A.O. and Sharif, H.B. 2012. Mosquito repellent activity and phytochemical characterization of essential oils from *Striga hermonthica*, *Hyptis spicigera* and *Ocimum basilicum* leaf extracts. British Journal of Pharmacology and Toxicology 3(2): 43-48. [Identifying cardiac glycosides, anthraquinone and phlobatin in *S. hermonthica* oil, and confirming potential as a mosquito repellent against *Anopheles gambiae* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*.]
- Bachhav, S.S., Bhutada, M.S., Patil, S.D., Bhavana Baser and Chaudhari, K.B. 2012. Effect of *Viscum articulatum* Burm. (Loranthaceae) in N^o-nitro-l-arginine methyl ester induced hypertension and renal dysfunction. Journal of Ethnopharmacology 142(2): 467-473. [Concluding that *V. articulatum* may have an antihypertensive effect in the NO deficient type of hypertension, attributable to its diuretic, nephroprotective and hypolipidemic actions, supporting its traditional use for hypertension in China.]
- Badu-Apraku, B., Akinwale, R.O., Fakorede, M.A.B., Oyekunle, M. and Franco, J. 2012. Relative changes in genetic variability and correlations in an early-maturing maize population during recurrent selection. TAG Theoretical and Applied Genetics 125(6): 1289-1301. [A study aiming to predict future gains from selection for grain yield, resistance to *Striga hermonthica* and other agronomic traits, and concluding that adequate genetic variability exists in cycle 4 of the scheme to ensure future gains from selection.]
- Bamane, F. H., Badr, J.M. and Amin, O.A.R.M. 2012. Antioxidant activities and flavonoid contents of selected plants belonging to Family Loranthaceae. African Journal of Biotechnology 11(78): 14380-14385. [*Plicosepalus acacia*, *P. curviflorus* and *Phragmanthera austroarabica* showed comparable antioxidant activity, apparently associated with their quercetin content.]
- Baráth, K. 2012. A new method for evaluating host preference of *Cuscuta* species. Acta Botanica Hungarica

- 54(3/4): 219-234. ['Method' not clear but establishing that most plants could be host to *C. europaea* if there was contact, but grasses and species in nitrogen-poor habitats were less likely to be parasitized.]
- Baráth, K. and Csiky, J. 2012. Host range and host choice of *Cuscuta* species in Hungary. *Acta Botanica Croatica* 7(1): 215-227. [An excellent detailed study of the host ranges of 7 *Cuscuta* spp.. Numbers of hosts ranged from 183 to 341 for *C. epythimum*, *C. campestris* and *C. europaea*; 77-99 for *C. lupuliformis* and *C. australis*; and 15-16 for *C. approximata* and *C. epilinum*. Concluding that these species are not host specific and are able to parasitise most plants they come into contact with. Hence host range is mostly determined by habitat differences and host availability.]
- Barbu, C.O. 2012. Impact of white mistletoe (*Viscum album* ssp. *abietis*) infection on needles and crown morphology of silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.). *Notulae Botanicae, Horti Agrobotanici, Cluj-Napoca* 40(2): 152-158. [A careful study confirming that infection by *V. album* is associated with significantly smaller needles, increased needle fall, and lower photosynthesis, apparently playing an important role in silver fir decline. But lacking discussion on possibility that weaker trees have increased incidence of parasite.]
- Barbu, C. 2012. Photosynthetic pigments (chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b) dynamics in silver fir trees needles infected by mistletoe. *Lucrări Științifice, Universitatea de Științe Agricole Și Medicină Veterinară 'Ion Ionescu de la Brad' Iași, Seria Horticultură* 55(1): 35-40. [Recording a decrease in chlorophylls in the needles of infected silver fir.]
- Bassey, P., Sowemimo, A., Lasore, O., Spies, L. and van de Venter, M. 2012. Biological activities and nutritional value of *Tapinanthus bangwensis* leaves. *African Journal of Biotechnology* 11(73): 13821-13826. [Confirming the cytotoxic and antioxidant activities of *T. bangwensis* leaves and supporting the traditional use of the plant in cancer treatment.]
- Bele, D., Tripathi, M.K., Tiwari, G., Baghel, B.S. and Tiwari, S. 2012. Microcloning of sandalwood (*Santalum album* Linn.) from cultured leaf discs. *International Journal of Agricultural Technology* 8(2): 571-583. [Successfully culturing *S. album* from leaf discs.]
- Bhaumik, M. 2012. Two new species of *Neottia* (Orchidaceae) from India. *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 69(3): 379-388. [*N. dihangensis* and *N. confusa* are described from Arunachal Pradesh.]
- Bhojar, P.K., Baheti, J.R., Lukkad, H.R., Mishra, S.H. and Jain, S.S. 2012. Formulation and evaluation of once-daily sustained release aceclofenac dendrothoe falcata gum matrix tablets. *World Journal of Pharmaceutical Research* 1(2): 216-223. [Confirming that dried *Dendrothoe falcata* gum can be used as a matrix forming material for making once daily sustained release matrix tablets.]
- Biswas, S.K. and nine others. 2012. Phytochemical investigation and chromatographic evaluation with antimicrobial and cytotoxic potentials of *Cuscuta epythimum*. *International Journal of Pharmacology* 8(5): 422-427. [Showing that the methanol extract of *C. epythimum* possesses antibacterial and cytotoxic properties.]
- Bommareddy, A., Rule, B., VanWert, A.L., Santha, S. and Dwivedi, C. 2012. α -Santalol, a derivative of sandalwood oil, induces apoptosis in human prostate cancer cells by causing caspase-3 activation. *Phytomedicine* 19(8/9): 804-811. [Oil presumably from *Santalum album*.]
- Borowicz, V.A. and Armstrong, J.E. 2012. Resource limitation and the role of a hemiparasite on a restored prairie. *Oecologia* 169(3): 783-792. [Three after removal of *Pedicularis canadensis* the mass of grasses was almost doubled but there were smaller effects on forb species in Illinois grassland. Light levels did not affect the hemiparasite across 4 years of manipulation but fertilizer increased *P. canadensis* shoot mass.]
- Boz, Ö., Doğan, M.N. and Ögöt, D. 2012. The effect of duration of solarization on controlling branched broomrape (*Phelipanche ramosa* L.) and some weed species. *Julius-Kühn-Archiv* 2(434): 687-693. [In one season when maximum temperatures under plastic reached 54°C, *P. ramosa* was completely controlled by 2 weeks solarization. In a second season when temperatures only reached 44.5°C, control was only 20% after 2 weeks and 74% after 6 weeks.]
- Braby, M.F. 2012. The taxonomy and ecology of *Delias aestiva* Butler, 1897 stat. rev. (Lepidoptera: Pieridae), a unique mangrove specialist of Euphorbiaceae from northern Australia. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 107(3): 697-720. [*Delias* spp. mostly feed on Snatalaceae, Loranthaceae and Viscaceae. *D. aestiva* differs in being specialized on mangroves, but was found to be able to also feed on some Loranthaceae, suggesting a recent evolutionary shift.]
- Burke, A.F. and Cibrian-Tovar, D. 2012. New record of *Phloeocleptus caudatus* Wood (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) in the state of Hidalgo, Mexico. *Acta Zoologica Mexicana* 28(1): 215-217. [Recorded on *Struthanthus deppeanus*.]
- Byrne, M. and Hankinson, M. 2012. Testing the variability of chloroplast sequences for plant phylogeography. *Australian Journal of Botany* 60(7): 569-574. [Analysis identified a set of seven chloroplast regions that are a useful basis for informed selection of sequences for assessment of phylogeographic structure in plants in several families including Santalaceae.]
- Cafasso, D. and Chinali, G. 2012. Multiple and different genomic rearrangements of the *rbcL* gene are present in the parasitic orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*. *Genome*, 2012,

- 55, 9, 629-637, [Concluding that *N. nidus-avis* contains different plastomes, each with a different pseudogene, and these can exist within the same individual plant.]
- Čebović, T., Popović, M., Rovčanin, B. and Gojković, Z. 2012. Evaluation of the cytotoxic and antioxidant effects of non-polar *Viscum album* L. extract (collected from *Juniperus communis*). Fresenius Environmental Bulletin 21(6): 1454-1460. [The CO₂ extract of *V. album* contained the sesquiterpenes trans- α -bergamotene, trans- β -farnesene and vomifoliol as major extract constituents. The cytotoxic activity of the extract was assayed against EAC breast carcinoma cells and AS30D hepatoma cells *in vivo*. Volmifoliol was the most active component.]
- Cemaluk, E.A.C. and Nwankwo, N.E. 2012. Phytochemical properties of some solvent fractions of petroleum ether extract of the African mistletoe (*Loranthus micranthus* Linn) leaves and their antimicrobial activity. African Journal of Biotechnology 11(62): 12595-12599. [Different fractions from *L. micranthus* (= *Ileostylus micranthus*) on *Kola acuminata* showed activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *B. subtilis* and *Klebsiella*; also against *Candida albicans*.]
- Chandrasekaran, K., Ramachandran, T. and Vigneswaran, C. 2012. Effect of medicinal herb extracts treated garments on selected diseases. Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge 11(3): 493-498. [Describing a novel means of delivering medicinal herbs, including oil of *Santalum album* via impregnated clothing, apparently with some success.]
- Chen Rui, Huo LiNi, Liao YanFang, Li PeiYuan, Lu RuMei and Zhang HongYi. 2013. Study on the chemical constituents of essential oils from the leaves of *Viscum ovalifolium* and *Loranthus pentapetalus* Roxb. parasitizing on *Guaiacum* spp. Asian Journal of Chemistry 25(3): 1757-1758. [Isolating a wide range of compounds from *V. ovalifolium* and *L. pentapetalus* (= *Helixanthera parasitica*).]
- Chen YanSong, Zhou ShouBiao, Ou ZuLan, Xu ZhongDong, Hong Xin, Huang, Z.Y., Cao, M., Liu, Z.M. and Wang, L. 2012. (Seed mass variation in common plant species in Wanfoshan Natural Reservation Region, Anhui, China.) (in Chinese) Chinese Journal of Plant Ecology 36(8): 739-746. [*Aeginetia indica* the smallest (0.006 g).]
- Chivandi, E., Davidson, B.C. and Erlwanger, K.H. 2012. Red sour plum (*Ximenia caffra*) seed: a potential nonconventional energy and protein source for livestock feeds. International Journal of Agriculture and Biology 14(4): 540-544. [A study in S. Africa concluded that *X. caffra* seed could be exploited both as an energy and protein source in feeds for livestock.]
- Cotter, M., de la Pena-Lavander, R. and Sauerborn, J. 2012. Understanding the present distribution of the parasitic weed *Striga hermonthica* and predicting its potential future geographic distribution in the light of climate change. Julius-Kühn-Archiv 2(434): 630-636. [An interesting analysis of possible future distribution of *S. hermonthica* (in Africa only). Showing potential for extension into central Africa, while global warming may result in intensified occurrence in central and southern Africa and perhaps restrict its intensity in parts of West Africa.]
- Crichton, R.J., Squirrel, J., Woodin, S.J., Dalrymple, S.E. and Hollingsworth, P.M. 2012. Isolation of microsatellite primers for *Melampyrum sylvaticum* (Orobanchaceae), an endangered plant in the United Kingdom. American Journal of Botany 99(11): e457-e459. [The results show the utility of these novel polymorphic microsatellite markers for further conservation genetic analyses. The strong deficit of heterozygosity across all loci in the local sample suggests the species may be inbreeding.]
- Daramwar, P.P., Srivastava, P.L., Priyadarshini, B. and Thulasiram, H.V. 2012. Preparative separation of α - and β -santalenes and (Z)- α - and (Z)- β -santalols using silver nitrate-impregnated silica gel medium pressure liquid chromatography and analysis of sandalwood oil. Analyst 137(19): 4564-4570.
- de Vega, C. and Herrera, C.M. 2012. Relationships among nectar-dwelling yeasts, flowers and ants: patterns and incidence on nectar traits. Oikos 121(11): 1878-1888. [The nectar fungus, *Metschnikowia reukaufii*, introduced to the flowers of *Cytinus hypocistis* by ants, is shown to decrease the quality of the nectar and may influence pollinator behaviour.]
- Delaux, P.M., Xie, X., Timme, R.E., Puech-Pages, V., Dunand, C., Lecompte, E., Delwiche, C.F., Yoneyama, K., Bécard Origin of strigolactones in the green lineage, G. and Séjalon-Delmas, N. 2012.. New Phytologist 195(4): 857-871. [Detecting strigolactones in liverworts and in some other lower green plants but concluding that their function in these is to control rhizoid elongation.]
- Ding, L.L., Zhao, S.F., Zhang, X.K., Yao, Z.Q. and Zhang, J. 2012. Sclerotinia rot of broomrape (*Orobanche cumana*) caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in China. Plant Disease 96(6): 916.
- Ding LiLi, Zhang XueKun, Zhao SiFeng, Yao ZhaoQun and Du Juan. 2012. (Isolation and identification of pathogen of *Orobanche cumana* stem-rot disease in Xinjiang.) (in Chinese) Xinjiang Agricultural Sciences 49(6): 1096-1102. [Noting that *O. cumana* is a serious problem in Xinjiang. Isolating 377 samples of pathogen most of which were *Fusarium* spp, including *F. oxysporum*, *F. solani* and *F. cerealis*, also *Rhizoctonia* and *Pythium*.]
- Dixon, E. 2012. Vancouver Ground cone (*Boschniakia hookeri*). Douglasia Journal of the Washington Native Plant Society 36(4):1. (A brief, illustrated note on the presence of this parasite in Washington State where it is not rare but always fascinating to find.)

- Drumeva, M. 2012. Development and testing of experimental sunflower hybrids obtained by using doubled haploid lines. *Agricultural Science and Technology* 4(3): 196-200. [Testing 17 new hybrids, 12 of which showed full resistance to both downy mildew and *Orobanche cumana* (races E-F) and moderate resistance to phoma and phomopsis.]
- Durdun, C., Crivineanu, M., Papuc, C. and Nicorescu, V. 2011. Effect of some polyphenolic extracts from medicinal plants on antioxidant enzymes systems. *In vivo* studies. *Scientific Works - University of Agronomical Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest Series C, Veterinary Medicine* 57(3): 52-60. [Observing anti-oxidant activity in extracts of *Viscum album*.]
- Eaton, D.A.R., Fenster, C.B., Hereford, J., Huang, S.Q. and Ree, R.H. 2012. Floral diversity and community structure in *Pedicularis* (Orobanchaceae). *Ecology* 93(8S): S182-S194. [Results suggest that a dynamic mosaic of pollinator-mediated interactions among *Pedicularis* spp. in the Hengduan region of China promotes ecological sorting through recurrent selection against reproductive interference, causing rapid species turnover, and accelerating the rate of floral divergence, together contributing to the florally diverse species of *Pedicularis* endemic to the this biodiversity hotspot.]
- Encheva, J., Shindrova, P., Encheva, V. and Penchev, E. 2012. Sunflower commercial hybrid Yana, developed with mutant restorer line R 12003. *Helia* 35(56): 47-59. [Hybrid Yana developed from line 12003 (see next) X Bulgarian line *cms2607* retains immunity to *Orobanche cumana* races A-F.]
- Encheva, J., Shindrova, P., Encheva, V. and Valkova, D. 2012. Mutant sunflower line R 12003, produced through *in vitro* mutagenesis. *Helia* 35(56): 19-30. [Following ultrasound treatment sunflower line 12003 was subjected to repeated selfing and selection and confirmed fully resistant to *Orobanche cumana* races A-F.]
- Encheva, J., Valkova, D. and Shindrova, P. 2012. Mutant sunflower line R 171, produced through *in vitro* mutagenesis of immature embryos. *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science* 18(3): 342-347. [Noting a new mutant line 171 RM with resistance to *Orobanche cumana*.]
- Faleyimu, O.I., Ijeomah, H.M., and Oso, A.O. 2011. Medicinal utilization of roots of forest plants in Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria. *Journal of Agriculture and Social Research (JASR)* 11(2): 51-66. [Noting *Opilia celtidifolia* and *Ximenia americana* among species used medicinally in Kaduna State.]
- Feng Dan and Chen GuiLin, 2012. Research advancements on biological functions of strigolactones. In: Welbaum, G.E., Nektarios, P.A., Monteiro, J.A. and Fernández-Escobar, R. (eds) *Acta Horticulturae* 938: 63-68. [Reviews the importance of strigolactones in the rhizosphere, the regulation of plant architecture (including response to low phosphate) and the possible future applications for strigolactones in agriculture.]
- Fernández-Aparicio, M., Garcia-Garrido, J.M., Ocampo, J.A. and Rubiales, D. 2012. Colonisation of field pea roots by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi reduces *Orobanche* and *Phelipanche* species seed germination. *Weed Research* 50(1): 262-268. [Infection of roots of pea by *Glomus mosseae* and *G. intraradices* resulted in reduced germination of *O. crenata*, *O. foetida* and *P. aegyptiaca* in root exudates after 15 days.]
- Fernández-Aparicio, M., Moral, A., Kharrat, M. and Rubiales, D. 2012. Resistance against broomrapes (*Orobanche* and *Phelipanche* spp.) in faba bean (*Vicia faba*) based in low induction of broomrape seed germination. *Euphytica* 186(3): 897-905. [Confirming that the resistance of two breeding lines (Navio and Quijote – based on material resistant to *O. foetida* in Tunisia – this in turn developed from crosses INIA06 × F402 selected for resistance to *O. crenata* by ICARDA) is based largely on low stimulation of germination of *O. crenata*, *O. foetida* and *O. aegyptiaca*.]
- Feyssa, D.H., Njoka, J.T., Zemedu Asfaw and Nyangito, M.M. 2012. Uses and management of *Ximenia americana*, *Oleaceae* in semi-arid east Shewa, Ethiopia. *Pakistan Journal of Botany* 44(4): 1177-1184. [*X. americana* is not domesticated but is a valuable wild resource, mainly for its edible fruit but roots and other parts are used for medicine.]
- Fischer, E., Darbyshire, I. and Cheek, M. 2011. *Striga magnibracteata* (Orobanchaceae) a new species from Guinée and Mali. *Kew Bulletin* 66(3): 441-445. [*S. magnibracteata* is newly described from the Guinean savannas of eastern Guinée and southwestern Mali. Its affinity to *S. klingii*, *S. dalzielii* and *S. macrantha* is discussed.]
- Fontúrbel, F.E., Franco, M., Rodríguez-Cabal, M.A., Rivarola, M.D. and Amico, G.C. 2012. Ecological consistency across space: a synthesis of the ecological aspects of *Dromiciops gliroides* in Argentina and Chile. *Naturwissenschaften* 99(11): 873-881. [*D. gliroides* is ‘a key seed disperser of many native plant species, including the keystone mistletoe *Tristerix corymbosus*.’]
- Gao MeiLi, Li YongFei, Yang JianXiong and Wang YiLi. 2012. Effects of *n*-butanol and water fractions from *Pedicularis decora* Franch on oxidative stress in mice induced by a single bout of swimming exercise. *Journal of Medicinal Plants Research* 6(39): 5186-5195. [*P. decora* fractions protected mice from oxidative stress induced by a single bout swimming exercise through a decrease in LPO levels, SOD, GPx, LDH.]
- Gebauer, R., Volařík, D. and Urban, J. 2012. *Quercus pubescens* and its hemiparasite *Loranthus europaeus*: nutrient dynamics of leaves and twigs. *Acta*

- Physiologiae Plantarum 34(5): 1801-1809. [Nutrients seemed to be transferred passively through the xylem sap between *Loranthus* and *Quercus* as there was a strong correlation between the calcium and potassium concentrations within the species and between the species, Nitrogen appeared to be the limiting nutrient for the parasite.]
- Gbolade, A. 2012. Ethnobotanical study of plants used in treating hypertension in Edo State of Nigeria. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 144(1): 1-10. [Plants frequently included in antihypertensive recipes in southern Nigeria included '*Viscum album*', probably a misnomer for a *Tapinanthus* spp. (see Wahab *et al.* below).]
- Ghantous, K.M. and Sandler, H.A. 2012. Mechanical scarification of dodder seeds with a handheld rotary tool. *Weed Technology* 26(3): 485-489. [Good germination of small seed lots of *Cuscuta gronovii* (probably but some doubt) was obtained using a handheld rotary tool at the 10,000 rpm setting with a conical grinding-stone bit attached.]
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- Ghotbi, M., Rouhi, H.R., Dehaghi, M.A., Ghotbi, M., Khamseh, A.R.M. and Wahsha, M. 2012. Mitigate *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* Pers. infestation considering natural environment conservation. *International Journal of AgriScience* 2(1): 62-77. [Pot experiments suggested a wide range of possible trap crop species for control of *P. aegyptiaca* (in Iran), but technique not ideal.]
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- *Jamil, M., Van Mourik, T.A., Charnikhova, T. and Bouwmeester, H.J. (in press). Effect of di-ammonium phosphate application on strigolactone production and *Striga hermonthica* infection in three sorghum cultivars. *Weed Research* (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/wre.12003/pdf>) [In a combination of field and glasshouse experiments, the effect of a microdose of phosphate fertiliser (DAP) was evaluated on the production of strigolactones and *Striga hermonthica* infection in three different African sorghum genotypes. Microdose DAP application reduced secretion of strigolactones into the rhizosphere and *S. hermonthica* parasitism both under controlled and field conditions.]
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- reporter gene construct, Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP), was used to generate transgenic composite maize plants that were parasitised normally by *Striga hermonthica*. The technique will help to advance understanding of gene function in parasitic plant-host interactions.]
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