

# APPS

AUSTRALASIAN PLANT PATHOLOGY SOCIETY



# NEWS

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Volume 17, No. 3

September 2004

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There will not be a president's report this edition - Richard is overseas representing the Society and we hope to have a newsy update on his return!

On his behalf, and that of the organisers, I urge you all to register interest for the 15<sup>th</sup> APPS conference next year. The theme "Innovations for Sustainable Plant Health." will allow us to "... focus on the key issues, review past lessons and explore the application of new technologies to ensure we can maintain and improve plant health, now and in the future".

There will be a rich and diverse scientific program and associated workshops (see Page 7). The conference will be held in Geelong, about 2 hours drive from Melbourne and even closer to the airport. The venue is the historically significant Woolstores campus of Deakin University on the shores of Corio Bay. The initial registration of interest flyer is in this journal, so please respond and make this a most successful and worthwhile conference.

*Barbara Hall,  
Editor APPS newsletter*



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**15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology  
Society Conference**

Deakin University Waterfront Campus

Geelong, Victoria

26 - 29 September 2005

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## REGIONAL NEWS

### VICTORIA

The Victorian branch of APPS had its end of mid year function at DPI Knoxfield on the afternoon of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2004. The members heard two presentations by postdoctoral members of the branch, Dr Peter Mohr, School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Deakin University, Geelong and Dr Helen Hayden, School of Botany, University of Melbourne, Parkville.

Peter spoke on his PhD thesis 'Abscisic acid regulation of plant responses to pathogen attack' and what he is doing now. In his PhD research it was shown that abscisic acid (ABA) was a key regulator of an extensive array of plant defence responses during plant and pathogen interactions. The use of ABA deficient mutants, exogenous ABA or ABA biosynthesis inhibitor application, simulated drought stress and a range of histochemical, biochemical and molecular techniques revealed that ABA had a profound effect on the outcome of interactions between plants and pathogens of differing lifestyles and from different Kingdoms (Arabidopsis: *Pseudomonas syringae*, Arabidopsis: *Peronospora parasitica*, Soybean: *Phytophthora sojae*). Of particular interest was the suppression by ABA of the induction of phenylpropanoid-derived plant defence responses as well as the development of a hypersensitive response, accumulation of reactive oxygen species, cell wall strengthening compounds and transcription of pathogenesis-related genes. More recently his postdoctoral research has

focussed on an investigation of the similarities between UV and pathogen-induced plant defence responses.

Helen presented a portion of the research she has been doing on the *Leptosphaeria maculans* : Brassica interaction with Dr Barbara Howlett entitled 'The genetic and pathogenic diversity in *L. maculans* isolates from a disease nursery'. One hundred and seventy five isolates of *L. maculans* were collected from a disease nursery. The virulence of these isolates was tested on Brassica cultivars that had a range of resistance. The mating types of the isolates were determined and the genetic diversity was assessed using micro and mini satellite markers. The population of *L. maculans* isolates collected from the disease nursery had a range of virulence's, even distribution of mating types, high potential for change by recombination during sexual reproduction in the field and moderate gene diversity using micro and mini satellites. The canola industry saw a breakdown in resistance of a new cultivar in just one season. Helen found that the breakdown in resistance was due to an increase in frequency of pathogenic isolates rather than a new virulent strain as first thought. The Grains Research and Development Corporation funded Helen's research.

The next meeting of the Victorian branch is scheduled for the end of 2004.

*Tonya Wiechel*



## QUEENSLAND

### News from North Queensland

The north Queensland group held three seminars during the reporting period. In June Denis Persley (Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Indooroopilly) took some time out from a hectic plant virus survey of Queensland to talk to the group about "Plant Virus Diseases in Queensland". Denis brought us up to speed on tomato spotted wilt virus, capsicum chlorosis virus as well as the management of cucurbit viruses.

In August, Dr Juliane Henderson, and Ms Julie Pattemore (Research Officer and Senior Research Assistant respectively, with the CRC for Tropical Plant Protection, Indooroopilly) spoke to the NQ group about molecular diagnosis of plant

pathogens using real-time PCR. We had a large turnout, including some non-members who have an interest in PCR. Juliane gave a thought-provoking account on "Taking real-time PCR to the tropics," introducing real-time PCR and its many applications in disease diagnosis and agriculture in general. Julie gave an overview of the work the CRC has done to improve the diagnostic for Black Sigatoka disease of Banana in her talk "Banana Disease Diagnostics – to Infinity and Beyond". Julie highlighted the development of the new diagnostic, the effective collaboration between the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and the CRCTPP and the benefits that has brought to the Banana industry.

*Peter Trevorrow*

### VISITING SCIENTIST IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dr Dani Shteinberg, Dept. of Plant Pathology, ARO the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel, will spend 9 months of sabbatical leave at the University of Adelaide and SARDI (4 September 2004 to 31 May 2005).

He will be based in the Waite Institute, Urrbrae SA Main Building with the discipline group of Plant and Pest Science, and will be working there with Dr Eileen Scott. He will also be working with Dr Jenny Davidson in the SARDI Pulse Pathology Group.

The main activity of his visit will be "Development of decision support systems for management of pulse diseases".

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**Please enter any visiting scientist  
information on the APPS website at  
[www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au](http://www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au)**

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Compendium of ornamental palm diseases and disorders**

Edited by M.L. Elliott, T.K. Broschat, J.Y. Uchida and G.W. Simone  
Published by APS Press

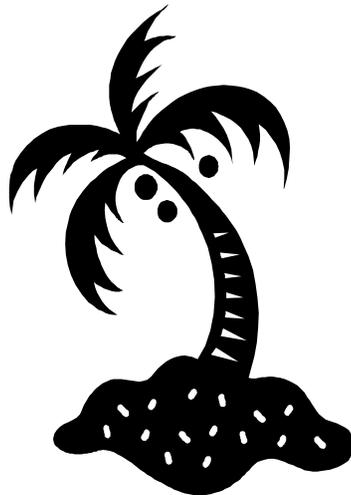
This title is another in the very successful “Compendium” series from APS Press and deals with diseases and nutritional and physiological disorders affecting palms. It is a revision of the earlier publication “Diseases and Disorders of Ornamental Palms” also by APS Press that was published in 1991. This was a very useful small volume that successfully dealt with most of the problems affecting palms used in amenity and ornamental situations. The new book follows the same format as others in the compendium series, outlining each disease with sections on symptoms, causal organism, host range and epidemiology, diagnostic techniques and management as well as a few selected references. Of course there are a range of photos for each disease which are an essential component of the book.

The decision to include nutritional and physiological disorders with diseases in this book is very sound as many of the disorders that affect palms have very similar symptoms to those observed in a number of the diseases that affect them. The range of diseases covered is very comprehensive and covers most of the major diseases affecting palms; there are a couple of minor diseases that are sometimes observed that are not covered in the book but that is a minor criticism.

As one would expect from the

compendium series this is an excellent book and should be an essential addition for diagnostic labs and for anyone with an interest in diseases of palms. It would also be an excellent purchase for anyone seriously involved in the propagation and cultivation of palms as it is an extremely practical guide to the diseases and disorders. Whilst each of the sections on the individual diseases is by necessity brief it does provide an entry into the literature for that disease with a few (mostly) well chosen references. In our diagnostic lab we have used its predecessor extensively and I would expect we will continue to use this one as frequently. If you already have the previous volume there is enough new information to justify the purchase of this book.

*Dr Brett Summerell  
Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney*



**Cultivation and Diseases of Proteaceae:**  
*Leucadendron, Leucospermum* and  
*Protea*

By Pedro W. Crous, Sandra Denman,  
Joanne E. Taylor, Lizeth Swart and Mary  
E. Palm  
CBS Biodiversity Series 2

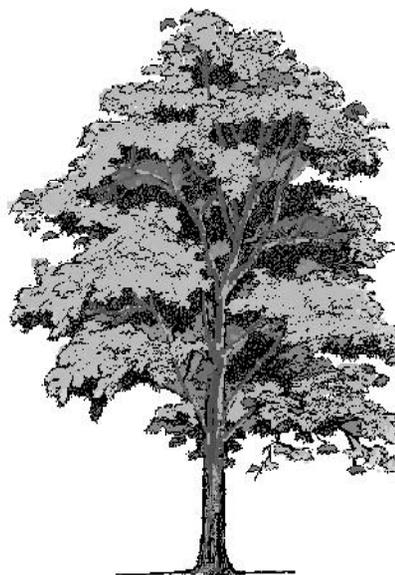
Published by Centraalbureau voor  
Schimmelcultures, price €60,00. (excl.  
postage and handling).

This book is the second in the new Biodiversity series produced by CBS. In this volume, the cultivation and diseases of the economically most important genera of the Proteaceae are described. There are extensive reviews of the cultivation and all the major groups of diseases of these plants that are very comprehensive and detailed. From the perspective of plant pathologists, the diseases are split into the major categories, i.e. foliar diseases, stem, shoot and flower diseases and root diseases and the principal focus is on fungal diseases, although bacterial and phytoplasma diseases are covered. For each pathogen, there is information on its taxonomy, morphology and host range and distribution and, in most cases, it is accompanied by photographs and illustrations of the disease symptoms and of the pathogen. The photographs are a feature of the publication with a large number of black and white photos illustrating pathogen morphology and thirty odd pages of colour photographs of the disease symptoms. There is some information on control of these diseases which is comprehensive in some cases; this is a reflection of the importance and

effort that is placed on the control of different diseases.

This excellent book is likely to be an essential resource for diagnostic laboratories and researchers that deal with these plants; it may also be of interest to the very dedicated growers. It is also likely to be of great interest to fungal taxonomists that have an interest in the ascomycetes (e.g. *Mycosphaerella*, *Leptosphaeria*, *Botryosphaeria*) that are so prevalent on these species. It is well written, very well produced and although a touch pricey (at least in Australian dollars), good value.

*Brett Summerell*  
*Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney*





## **PLANT HEALTH EXPERTISE REGISTER**

Plant Health Australia (PHA) has recently completed development of a web-based Plant Health Expertise Register (spanning diagnostics, surveillance and pest management). The register will be a comprehensive database of plant health expertise in Australia and will enable quick and easy identification of relevant expertise, and assist in improving response times in the event of an emergency plant pest incursion. Access to the register will be limited to key personnel within government agencies who have responsibility for emergency plant pest responses.

Plant Health Australia recognises your expertise in plant health, and would strongly encourage you to become a part of this important national network.

### **How to register**

- Go to the PHA Plant Health Expertise Register website at [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/expertiseregister](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/expertiseregister) and enter the database through the link.
- Click "New User Application", enter your details into the database, and choose to agree to the terms of which the database information will be used.
- Your application will then be forwarded to the PHA site administrator for processing. You will receive an email confirming your registration has been received.
- Within a week of registering you will receive an email to confirm that your registration has been accepted. The delay in response is to ensure your personal data is secure. You will be given a username and password, and asked to complete your profile in the database (such as field of expertise).

If you have any comments, problems logging in any other issues, please contact the Plant Health Expertise Register Administrator on (02) 6260 4322 or email [pher.admin@phau.com.au](mailto:pher.admin@phau.com.au).

For more information visit: [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/expertiseregister](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/expertiseregister)

# 15th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference

Deakin University Waterfront Campus, Geelong Victoria

26 - 29 September 2005

## Workshops

The organising committee of the 15th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference invites groups to host workshops/tours in conjunction with the conference. For more information please contact Grant Hollaway ([grant.hollaway@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:grant.hollaway@dpi.vic.gov.au)).

### **The list of workshops/tours currently planned follows:**

**Nematology:** Liala Nambia and Australasian Association of Nematologists

**Biological Control of Plant Pathogens:** Dean Metcalf and Oscar Villalta

**White Blister of Brassicas:** Joanna Petkowski & team - Knoxfield

**Pythium/Pythium diseases/Albugo (white blister):** Elaine Davidson

**Forestry Pathology workshop and tour:** Angus Carnigie and Dave Cahill

**Plant Biosecurity Research and Policy Priorities:** Ryan Wilson

**Field Crop Pathology Tour:** Field Crop Pathology Team at Horsham

### **Workshop co-ordinator**

Grant Hollaway - ([grant.hollaway@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:grant.hollaway@dpi.vic.gov.au))

The organising committee of the 15th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference invites groups to host special interest meetings in conjunction with the conference. For more information please contact Brendan Rodoni ([brendan.rodoni@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:brendan.rodoni@dpi.vic.gov.au))

Special interest meetings are held on a free evening during the conference.

### **Special interest group co-ordinator**

Brendan Rodoni ([brendan.rodoni@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:brendan.rodoni@dpi.vic.gov.au))

# The 13th International Sclerotinia Workshop

Monterey, California, USA  
12-16 June 2005



## **The 13th International Sclerotinia Workshop.**

This workshop will bring together persons interested in basic and applied plant pathology, mycology, agriculture, and all other aspects of the Sclerotinia fungus. Researchers, students, extension personnel, industry members, and others are welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting is being organized by the Planning Committee for the 13th International Sclerotinia Workshop, and the host organization is the University of California Cooperative Extension, Monterey County.

## **Scientific Program.**

The workshop will consist of oral and poster presentations as well as technical discussion sessions covering all aspects of Sclerotinia, including the following: biology, ecology, epidemiology, taxonomy and genetics, molecular engineering, disease modeling and forecasting, pathology, physiology, biochemistry, disease management, fungicides, biological control, worldwide impact and importance. The official language for the workshop will be English. The workshop will include a planned tour of the Salinas Valley agricultural region, and an evening dinner session at the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium.

## **Further Information.**

A call for paper and poster titles, first notice for registration, call for abstracts, and other registration materials will be sent via e-mail and/or mail later in 2004. To receive more information and the second announcement, please forward your details as outlined on the pre-registration form on Page 11 to Steven Koike.

**Tentative Schedule:**

Sunday, June 12, 2005:

arrival and registration of participants (afternoon); evening session

Monday, June 13, 2005:

morning session; evening session

Tuesday, June 14, 2005:

field tour (morning through afternoon); evening poster session

Wednesday, June 15, 2005:

morning session; evening session at Monterey Bay Aquarium

Thursday, June 16, 2005:

morning checkout and departure of participants

**Accommodations and Location.**

The meeting will take place at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Monterey, California, and participants will have lodging and meals at this facility. The beautiful Monterey Peninsula area is a spectacular combination of parks and natural areas, recreational opportunities, cultural offerings, and small town American seaside communities that result in a unique and unrivaled setting. The 17-mile Drive, historic Cannery Row and Fisherman's Wharf, numerous golf courses, one of the world's most noted aquariums, the Big Sur and Los Padres National Forest area, and many galleries and shops provide a variety of things to visit and experience. The City of San Francisco is only a two-hour drive from the Monterey area.

Monterey County is home to the world's most famous and intensive agricultural area, the Salinas Valley. The Salinas Valley contains extensive vegetable and strawberry industries, a high quality wine grape industry and accompanying wineries, and a significant horticulture industry. This coastal area also is home to a number of educational organizations such as California State University at Monterey Bay, Monterey Institute of International Studies, and University of California at Santa Cruz.

**Planning Committee**

Steven T. Koike, Chair (University of California Cooperative Extension)

Thomas Gulya (USDA-ARS in Fargo, North Dakota)

Hassan A. Melouk (USDA-ARS at Oklahoma State University)

Ian Porter (Primary Industries and Resources Victoria, Australia)

Daina Simmonds (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ontario, Canada)

James R. Steadman (University of Nebraska)

Krishna Subbarao (University of California)

John M. Whipps (Warwick HRI, University of Warwick, Wellesbourne, UK)

**Websites of interest for Sclerotinia workshop:**

**Conference:**

International Sclerotinia working group (<http://entopl.okstate.edu/iswg/index.html>)

Asilomar Conference Grounds (<http://www.asilomarcenter.com>)

**Monterey:**

Monterey Peninsula On-Line Guide (<http://www.monterey.com/>)

City of Monterey (<http://www.monterey.org/>)

Monterey Bay Aquarium (<http://www.mbayaq.org/>)

Monterey Institute of International Studies (<http://www.miiis.edu/>)

Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (<http://www.mbari.org/>)

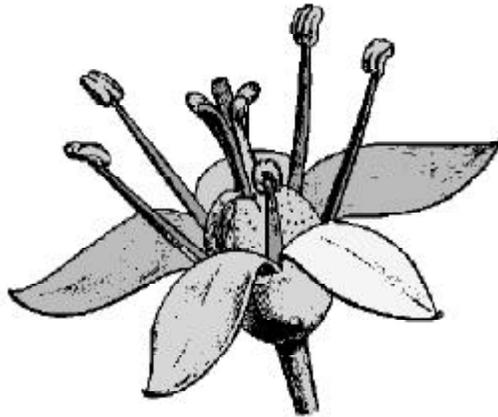
Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau (<http://www.montereyinfo.org/>)

Access Monterey Peninsula (<http://www.mty.com/>)

Monterey.winecountry.com (<http://www.gomonterey.com/>)

Monterey-Carmel.com (<http://www.monterey-carmel.com/>)

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**Your article could be in this  
space. Why not send one in?????**

**The 13th International Sclerotinia Workshop**  
**Monterey, California, USA. 12-16 June 2005**

**Pre-Registration Form / Information**

Please send this information to Steven Koike before August 15th 2004, so that the second announcement and additional information can be sent to you. If possible, please e-mail the information to **stkoike@ucdavis.edu**.

Steven Koike (phone 831-759-7350)  
University of California Cooperative Extension  
1432 Abbott Street  
Salinas, California 93901 USA

FAX: 0011 1 831-758-3018

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Name: ..... Title .....

Company/ Organization.....

Address: .....

.....

..... (city, state, postal code)

..... (Country)

Telephone: .....

FAX: .....

E-mail:.....

I wish to receive the second announcement and additional information: yes / no

**I plan to give the following presentation(s): (Preliminary title(s) and author(s):)**

(For each presentation listed, indicate preference for oral presentation or poster.)

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(Note: Depending on the number of submitted papers, the organizing committee may need to limit the number of oral presentations, and will make final decisions on which oral papers will be given.)

## New Members

On behalf of the Society, the Management Committee would like to welcome the following new members:

QLD: Ms Sharon Van Brunshot  
Dr Helen Cole  
Ms Clair Bolton  
Mrs Sally Coverdale

TAS: Ms Alice Palmer

VIC: Mr Daniel Isenegger



### Quote for the day:

paperwork is the embalming fluid  
of bureaucracy, maintaining an  
existence of life where none  
exists

*Robert Mettzer*

## Don't forget to have your say!

This is your newsletter so be sure to let us know what is going on about:

- \* Open days and field days
- \* Scholarships and employment opportunities
- \* Regional news
- \* Special interest groups
- \* Requests for information etc.
- \* Upcoming events
- \* Awards to members
- \* Issues of concern
- \* Humorous events

and any other interesting information!



APPS NEWS is the official newsletter of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society, published quarterly. Items for inclusion should be sent to Mrs B. Hall, Plant Research Centre, SARDI, GPO Box 397, Adelaide, SA. 5001. Ph. 08 8303 9562, Fax 08 8303 9393, Email: hall.barbara@saugov.sa.gov.au. **Next deadline: 29th October 2004.** Editor-in-Chief APP: Dr Eric Cother, NSW Agriculture, Orange Agricultural Institute, Forest Road, Orange, 2800. Ph. 02 6391 3886, Fax 02 6391 3899, E-mail: ric.cother@agric.nsw.gov.au

Web Site: (<http://www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au/>)