AMA Logo (see p. 11)

MycoAfrica

Newsletter of the African Mycological Association (AMA)

Volume 1
Issue 1
March 2007

Index

Deadline for next MycoAfrica issue:

31 May 2007

Instructions to authors:
Short **mycological pieces** of African relevance are encouraged. These should not be longer than 3 pages/800 words of text
Permanent features that need input from members:
News on our members
Important Dates of upcoming events, forays, workshops, congresses, etc.
Classifieds that can be used to advertise jobs, post-graduate positions, initiatives, etc.
Useful websites relevant to African mycology.

Please submit contributions as doc or txt files and images should be high quality jpg files.

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http://194.203.77.69/AfricanMycologicalAssociation/

Databases at the U.S. National Fungus Collections (BPI)

By Amy Rossman

Databases developed at the U.S. National Fungus Collections (BPI) provide access to information about plant-associated FUNGI of importance to agriculture. Maintained and updated by members of the Systematic Botany and Mycology Laboratory, these databases are available at the WWW site http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=12-75-39-00.

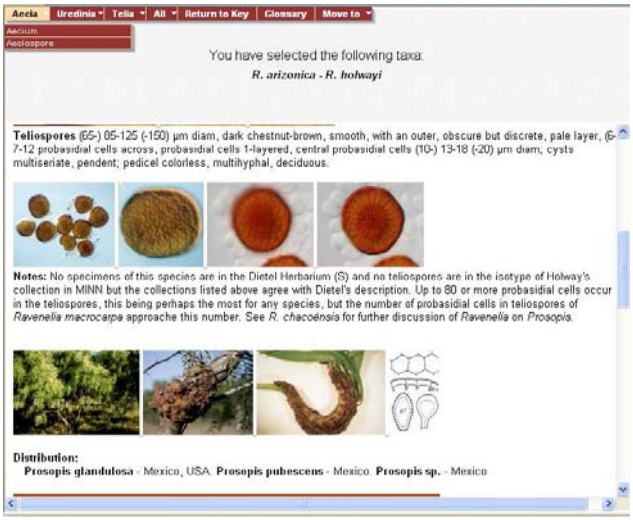
Mycologists and plant pathologists may be interested in finding the accurate scientific names of the crop or host PLANTS through use of the GRIN TAXONOMY. This takes you into the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) in which there are over 70,000 names of economically important vascular plants with accurate scientific names indexed with their common names, their uses, and worldwide distribution. This information is continuously updated as new taxonomic literature is published.

The databases on fungi are extremely useful in narrowing down the options in identifying a fungal specimen as well as finding the appropriate literature. The individual databases about FUNGI are described below. All of these databases can be searched at once using the QUICK search option. You can search on any fungal name and find out the host and locality of where it has been reported in the literature and specimens in the U.S. National Fungus Collections (BPI) as well as literature on that species and where the fungal names were published.

Each of these databases but not Quick search can be searched using major groups of either fungi or plants. This means that if you know, for example, that your fungus is a rust (Basidiomycota-

Rusts) on a certain plant family such as Passifloraceae, you can search in the fungus-host records for a rust on Passifloraceae and find out what rust species have been reported on plants throughout the world. You can do the same for the literature and specimens in the U.S. National Fungus Collections.

In addition to these databases, there are a number of interactive keys for identification that may be useful to you especially for rust fungi on Fabaceae and the genus *Ravenelia*, bunt fungi (*Tilletia*), and members of the Hypocreales.



Example of an interactive key on Ravenelia.

All data on SPECIMENS in the U.S. National Fungus Collections (BPI) have been computerized with the data available on the Web. These data are extremely useful for determining the fungal species that have been collected including where and when they occur. The U.S. National Fungus Collections houses over one-million specimens from throughout the world, thus, the information associated with these specimens constitutes an enormous data resource. Although about sixty percent of these specimens are from the United States, about 400,000 specimens are from outside the U.S. and thus represent a large body of information about the fungi everywhere.

The database of HOST-FUNGUS DISTRIBUTIONS includes the records for Crous, et al. 2000. *Phytopathogenic Fungi from South Africa* and Farr, et al. (1989), *Fungi on Plants and Plant Products in the United States* as well as many reports from the literature worldwide. Fungi on vascular plant hosts everywhere in the world are continuously added as they are published. At present this database includes over 583,974 reports of about 78,504 fungal species on 54,919 plant hosts from throughout the world. A reference is cited for each entry and all references are found in the literature database as discussed below. However, the nomenclature of all fungi in this file has not yet been reviewed. For specific projects such as fungi on a particular host or from specific region, selected data can be downloaded. Please contact Dr. David Farr regarding this.

The LITERATURE database includes references especially on the identification of plant-associated fungi including those cited in the references listed above. Literature citations are added continuously from the mycological literature received at SBML. Increasingly these references are available as pdf files. At present more than 32,597 references have been entered. Key words are entered separately from the scientific names of the fungi and their hosts.

The NOMENCLATURE database is useful for determining the accurate scientific name of a fungus. At present about 38,460 scientific names of fungi have been reviewed and are listed with accurate authorities, synonyms, alternate states, notes on worldwide distribution and important literature references. These are the scientific names of the fungi in *Fungi in Plants and Plant Products in the United States* as well as those fungi that occur on hosts of significance to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). These hosts include most conifers, bromeliads, and many horticultural plants.

The SACCARDO INDEX is a list to all the fungal names included in Saccardo's 26 volume work, *Sylloge Fungorum*, published from 1881-1931 and 1972. About 117,000 fungal names are included. The INDEX OF FUNGI constitutes a database of the fungal names published from 1940 to January, 2005 and indexed in the CABI-Bioscience *Index of Fungi*. It can be searched by genus or species of fungus and gives the reference to the volume and page number in the *Index of Fungi*. In searching for fungal names, it is also very useful to search INDEX FUNGORUM at http://www.indexfungorum.org/Names/Names.asp.

Questions and suggestions about these databases or problems gaining access to the system should be addressed to those listed below:

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Some Mycological News from Zimbabwe

By Cathy Sharp

'Miombo' woodland is a term used to describe a particular type of vegetation that covers a vast area of Africa north of the Limpopo River. This woodland is dominated by leguminous trees in the subfamily *Caesalpinioideae*, and in Zimbabwe, these are namely *Brachystegia spiciformis* and *Julbernardia globiflora*. These trees are known to be mycorrhizal in that they have a mutualistic relationship with certain fungi and support a fascinating mycoflora. *Lactarius*, *Cantharellus*, *Russula* and the boletes are the main groups of macrofungi associated with miombo. The compilation of a preliminary checklist of macrofungi in miombo woodland is currently in progress. [In 2000 there was the exciting discovery of an isolated patch of miombo in the Venda area of the Limpopo Province of South Africa, just south of the Limpopo, thus extending the southern limit of *Brachystegia*. It would be very interesting to compare the mycoflora of this community with that in Zimbabwe.]

Ethnomycological data is constantly being documented, especially with regard to edible and toxic fungi. Mushroom poisoning cases are prevalent at this time of the year with frequent reports from the peri-urban areas. Cases from the rural areas often go un-reported so there is no clear indication of the severity of the problem and whether there is a need for another national awareness campaign to follow a poster distribution in 1996.

Concurrent with collection of field data is a 7-year-long project that monitored the emergence of macrofungi in miombo woodland, in relation to climatic factors and soil moisture. This field of myco-sociology has been thoroughly studied in Europe but as yet, not in Africa and especially not in miombo. Results are currently being analyzed.

The 'Baobab Sooty Mould' Syndrome has been monitored since it was observed in the lowveld areas of Zimbabwe in 1989. It starts off as small, dark pustules on the bark that enlarge until large parts of the tree is blackended and dying off. This phenomenon has also been seen in Mussina in the Northern Province of South Africa, in the Luano/Luangwa areas of the Central Province in Zambia, and at Makokola on the southern shore of Lake Malawi. Several recent surveys have been conducted in Zimbabwe to assess the current status of Sooty Mould in our baobabs and the results are due for publication.

'Baobab Sooty Mould' Syndrome.

A long-term study of fungus-growing termites and *Termitomyces* has revealed fascinating information, which has given rise to many more questions that both 'termitologists' and mycologists have found difficult to answer. The donation of a borescope (an industrial endoscope) will greatly improve chances of finding answers to the most often asked questions e.g. do the termites have any active control on the fruiting of *Termitomyces* or is fruiting purely governed by environmental conditions? The relationship between *Termitomyces* and *Ancistrotermes* (which do not build mounds nor give any surface indication of their presence) can only be surmised until a suitable method of subterranean observation can be devised. Of course, finding those termites in the first place is one challenge. Determining the layout of their colony without destroying it would be the greater challenge.

Agricultural and medical pathology are other disciplines that are being researched in Zimbabwe but I am not in a position to report on their specific and current activities. The history of mycology in Zimbabwe is only a century old (in prep.) and continues to progress in its sure and steady way.

Cathy Sharp, P.O. Box 55, Kariba, Zimbabwe.
mycofreedom@zol.co.zw

Launch of the Elim Oyster Mushroom Close Corporation

An excerpt by Isabel Rong from a speech presented by Dr ST Masia, the Group Executive: Sustainable Rural Livelihoods of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC)

The Oyster Mushroom Farming project was established in 2002 by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in order to alleviate poverty and to equip prospective oyster mushroom farmers with the skills to run successful businesses on a sustainable basis. Information obtained through industry surveys indicates oyster mushrooms to be an ideal commodity to introduce to rural areas of South Africa. These mushrooms are easily characterised by their high protein content, short incubation periods and adaptability to a wide range of environmental factors.

The initiative was part of the government's national intervention through poverty relief, and the establishment of enterprises in the agricultural sector where black farmers can trade and contribute to the country's mainstream economy. The initiative was first funded by the Department of Science and Technology. The initial objectives of the project were to educate the public about mushrooms, cultivate the culture of mushroom consumption and to introduce oyster mushrooms as an alternative, readily available protein in agricultural communities in South Africa.

Because mushrooms are neither meat nor vegetable, are collected in most rural areas during spring and summer, and there's a general myth that most or all mushrooms are poisonous or deadly, the project had to be structured carefully. The first phase was to find out what people thought of mushrooms and then introduce the idea of cultivating mushrooms as one does vegetables. The first phase was then structured as an awareness campaign whereby both the ARC and the farmers in rural areas learned about what the other thinks of mushrooms in general. During this phase, ARC personnel attended different community meetings, government meetings, farmer harvest festivals, exhibitions, and used the media, mainly TV and radio, to communicate. The contents of the awareness campaign focused on the following:

- Background on mushrooms, emphasising the difference between poisonous, inedible and edible mushrooms.
- Cultivation of mushrooms, specifically oyster mushrooms using technologies that could be modified to fit particular conditions
- Nutritional values of oyster mushrooms
- How to prepare mushrooms, where different kinds of mushrooms were prepared and the audience will get a chance to taste and make their own opinion about their preferences.

During this phase, more than 2000 people (farmers and extension officers) were trained by the ARC on oyster mushrooms cultivation techniques. In the past three years, oyster mushrooms have been successfully cultivated on 40 sites nationally and farmers have been equipped with the various oyster mushroom farming production technologies and farm management skills.

Oyster mushrooms.

However, the commitment of some oyster mushroom farmers and the attention the project received from the media in the past two years, contributed to the change in the focus of the project. Phase two of the project involved the establishment of infrastructure in areas where the demand for mushrooms put pressure on the supply capability of the small scale projects. This phase included an intensive training

programme which equipped entrepreneurs with production technologies, business management, networking mechanisms, marketing, distribution channels and quality assurance skills.

The ARC held a stakeholder workshop with spawn producers, commercial mushroom producers, tertiary institutions, development and farmer support services, and government departments. The theme of the workshop was "Towards the development of the oyster mushroom industry in South Africa".

The ARC is aware that despite many efforts by governments and foreign investors in rural development programs, small-scale farmers and income-driven community projects in South Africa still experience problems in trying to access resources and commodity markets. The main reason for the failure of small-scale farming initiatives is three-fold:

- the lack of proper support to emerging farmers
- unavailability of land issue, and
- lack of entrepreneurial skills. This stands as a largest stumbling block to successful SMME creation.

In addition to this, the workshop addressed issues relating specifically to the production of oyster mushrooms. Amongst other were:

- The cost of spawn versus amounts used during spawning, the issue of getting tertiary institutions to provide storage facilities or becoming satellite spawn laboratories, and distance between spawning laboratories and farmers
- Commitment farmers often have insufficient infrastructure (roads) from the production site to the nearest market.
- Because this is a government initiative, and in such cases large groups of people are supposed to benefit, the issue is how big or small the group should be in order for everyone to benefit and enable the business to break-even.

The outcome of the workshop was to concentrate on one mushroom business per province, try to make that work, and to use that model to build others in the same province or different provinces, and thus the birth of the Elim Oyster mushroom CC, in the Western Cape.

The project has been a success due to the commitment and drive shown by its members, i.e. scientists from the ARC, inputs from the government and ample support by the Transnet Foundation. The Transnet Foundation not only provided funds to re-build production structures after a devastating fire but also provided small business support and entrepreneurial development through training to build business skills. The structure at Elim comprises 4 chambers with a carrying capacity of 550-700kg mushroom bags each, which translates to approximately R4000 worth of oyster mushrooms per six-week cycle. Production in this structure commenced in July 2006 and *Elim Oyster Mushrooms* has sold all its produce and still receives new clients each day. Their client base includes supermarkets in Bredasdorp, restaurants in Struisbaai, and individuals in the surrounding communities.

Mushroom Production House with beneficiaries and those involved with the project.

Elim Oyster Mushrooms CC is now a registered legal entity, comprising of seven very proud and hard working members. These farmers are showing emerging farmers all over the country that is it possible to use government initiatives and support from the private sector, to make things happen. Members of the ARC staff who worked on the project were Jessica Maimela (project leader), Joseph Ledwaba (assistant trainer), Rowena Joemat (coordinator), Dr Susan Koch (initial project leader and founder of the group) and Dr Yolisa Pakela-Jezile (programme manager).

Message from the Committee

Some of you might have followed the lively e-mail debate surrounding a name for our newsletter. Thank you to all for your kind suggestions. It is, therefore, my pleasure to announce the first edition of MycoAfrica. A very special word of appreciation goes to Marieka Gryzenhout who, in between her successful scientific career and an active private life including a growing family, volunteered to be editor of MycoAfrica.

The newsletter will provide you with numerous interesting items such as news updates, alerts to upcoming events, sections dedicated to institute profiles as well as information about mycological projects and activities from across the continent. Also look out for the African Mycologist Profile and get to know those that share your interest in a fascinating group of organisms.

AMA wishes to congratulate the new IMA committee and their President, Prof. Pedro Crous of the Netherlands, on their election to serve a term from 2006 to 2010. The International Mycological Association (IMA), founded in 1971, represents the interests of over 30,000 mycologists worldwide. Regional committees exist for Africa, Australasia, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America. The principles of AMA will follow that of the IMA, that is to, as a non-profit organization, promote mycology in all aspects of the science. The AMA committee wishes to encourage liaison with, and the development of interest in mycology throughout Africa and will strive to also provide information regarding relevant publications and links to interesting websites.

Since the inception of the AMA in 1992, the association has met on five previous occasions in Mauritius, Cairo, Zimbabwe, Nairobi and the latest in South Africa, the latter having been a joint venture with the then newly founded Pan-African Medical Mycology Society. During this meeting it was hoped to revive a relatively quiet AMA but progress has been slow with very few opportunities to interact.

We are eager to receive your contributions to MycoAfrica and wish to encourage all members to actively participate in the association. Please let us know about changed contact details and if you know of others that might be interested, send the newsletter on to them.

Join in and promote mycology!

Dr Isabella Rong, President

Introducing the AMA Committee

PRESIDENT:
Isabella RONG

Isabel is a born and bred South African. Up to recently, she was the Curator of the National Mycological Collection of South Africa (PREM), but since moved to a new post within the Plant Protection Research Institute (Agricultural Research Council), namely that of Divisional Manager: Plant Pathology and Microbiology. Her past research and outputs focused, amongst others, on microbial elements in occupational environments, biosystematics of entomopathogenic and plant pathogenic hyphomycetous fungi such as *Bipolaris*, and airborne, toxigenic and allergenic fungi. She also has experience in data-basing fungal reference collections. Currently she is

investigating the decomposition of wood and continues running the SA Fungal Plant Pathogens Database for the Agricultural Geo-reference Information system (AGIS) and the South African Biodiversity Facility (SABIF). More details of her can be sought at www.arc.agric.za.
E-mail: RongI@arc.agric.za

VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND TREASURER
Karin JACOBS

Karin is South African and currently a senior lecturer in the Department of Microbiology at the Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa. She is best known for her work on *Leptographium*, the anamorph of *Grosmannia* (up to recently known as *Ophiostoma*), on which she also published the book "*Leptographium* species – tree pathogens, insect associates, and agents of blue-stain" (APS Press) together with Mike Wingfield. She also published on other fungi in the wider *Ophiostoma* group. Besides continuing her work in the *Ophiostomatales*, her current research involves the taxonomy of several economically important fungal genera, such as *Penicillium*, *Fusarium* and *Mucor*, as well as the microbial ecology of fynbos soil, the dominant and diverse vegetation type of the southern Cape. Karin is the current President of the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP). An URL where more information can be found is http://academic.sun.ac.za/Natural/microbio/personnel.htm
E-mail: KJ@sun.ac.za

NEWSLETTER AND PROMOTION
Marieka GRYZENHOUT

Marieka is also South African and a post-doctoral fellow at the Forestry & Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. Her recent work focused on resolving the taxonomy and phylogeny of genera and species in the *Cryphonectriaceae*, a new family in the *Diaporthales* that includes many important forest pathogens such as the chestnut blight pathogen *Cryphonectria parasitica*. Currently she is slowly expanding her knowledge on other fungi that represent new disease, host or species reports, but she also continues her work on the *Cryphonectriaceae*. She loves macrofungi (basidiomycetes and ascomycetes) and started an informal e-mail list server in South Africa, called Mycorrhiza, which aims to promote and teach mycology to amateurs, while also stimulating fellow mycologists. For this she runs a monthly newsletter that includes pictures of South African macrofungi. More particulars about her can be found at: http://fabinet.up.ac.za/personnel/showperson.php?id=mgryzenhout.
E-mail: Marieka.gryzenhout@fabi.up.ac.za

Grace NAKABONGE

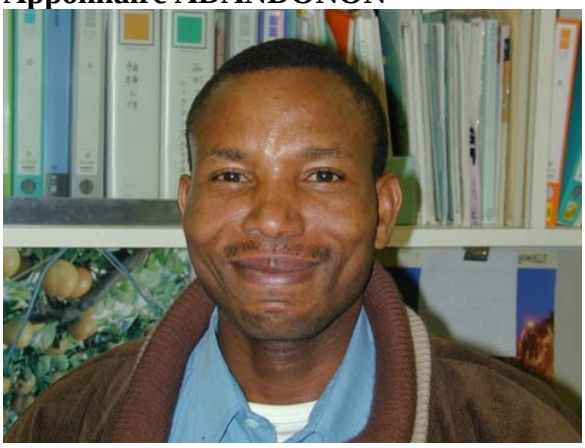
Grace is from Uganda and obtained her B.Sc. Honours degree at Makerere University, Uganda in 2000. After a short period as teaching assistant at the Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Makerere University, she joined the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, where she completed her M.Sc. degree in 2002. Immediately after she started on a Ph.D. program which she completed in 2006 with an emphasis in forest pathology and molecular biology. As a graduate student she was involved in a number of disease surveys in eastern and southern Africa with Prof. Jolanda Roux of FABI, and has published a number of papers on tree molecular pathology in internationally rated journals. She is currently a lecturer at the Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Makerere University where she is involved in teaching, research and supervision of graduate students. She has expertise in tree disease diagnostics, fungal genetics, phylogenetics, mycology and bacteriology which are crucial in the management and control of plant diseases. A link to the Makerere University is: www.makerere.ac.ug/.
E-mail: nakabonge@forest.mak.ac.ug

WEBMASTER
James MEHL

James is a South African and currently an M.Sc. student in Plant Pathology working in the Forestry & Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria. His research interests are in what can be found on plants in nature, specifically microorganisms (fungi in particular). His major output in the short span of his scientific career has been the development, testing and optimisation of a PCR to detect the Pitch Canker fungus, *Fusarium circinatum*, in pine seeds. This was necessary to determine whether the fungus was present in South African pine seeds for the purposes of the export of these seeds. His current research is focussed on finding and characterising the fungal pathogens of wild teak (*Pterocarpus angolensis*), a native tree that is reported to be dying in some areas in South Africa. His personal profile can be found at http://fabinet.up.ac.za/personnel/showperson.php?id=jmehl.
E-mail: James. Mehl@fabi.up.ac.za

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Appolinaire ADANDONON



Appolinaire is originally from the Benin Republic, but is currently busy with a post-doctoral fellowship at the Microbial Ecology Group, Department of Biological Safety, National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences in Japan. His research interests are soilborne fungal disease epidemiology, phenolic contents and plant-host resistance, ecologically sustainable control strategies such as *Moringa* extract-based control, biological control using *Trichoderma* and *Bacillus*, and soil microbial ecology. His current work involves soil microbial ecology such as the soil microbial community associated with *Sclerotium rolfsii* disease reduction in greenhouse and field conditions. A link to the institute where he is working can be found at http://www.niaes.affrc.go.jp/index_e.html.
E-mail: adanappo@yahoo.fr

Anxious MASUKA

Anxious is from Zimbabwe. He is the General Manager of the Tobacco Research Board, Kutsaga Research Station, Harare. He is interested in wood-inhabiting fungi.
E-mail: amasuka@kutsaga.co.zw

ASSISTING REGIONAL ACTIVIES

Nourou Soulemane YOROU (western Africa)

Nourou is originally from the Benin Republic but currently busy with the completion of his Ph. D. under Prof. R. Agerer in the Department of Biology and Geo-Bio Center, Biodiversity Research Group, University of Munich in München, Germany. His previous mycological work in Benin entailed various mycological investigations with close collaboration with the National Botanic Garden of Belgium. He greatly contributed to the monograph of edible fungi of Benin, ethnomycological knowledge among local inhabitants, assessment of natural production of large, edible wild fungi, a national monograph of biodiversity and elaboration of a Red List of threatened larger fungi of the Benin Republic. For his Ph.D. studies, Nourou is working on a monograph and the molecular systematics of western African thelephoroid fungi and anatomical characterisation of their ectomycorrhizal relationships with African native forest trees.
E-mail: yorou2001@yahoo.fr

Eddie MWENJE (central Africa)

Eddie is from Zimbabwe and is currently working in the Department of Applied Biology, National University of Science and Technology, Bulawayo. He is involved in work relating to fungal systematics and biotechnology, and the collection and identification of fungi for culture collections.
E-mail: edimwenje@yahoo.com

Joyce Mnyazi JEFWA (eastern Africa)

Joyce is from Kenya and she is currently a senior scientist at the National Museum of Kenya, heading the Mycology section. In the past, her work entailed the taxonomy, ecology and functional diversity of Arbuscular Mycorrhizae Fungi in agroforestry systems of Malawi and methods for evaluating mycorrhizal soil infectivity. She also worked on the utilization of mycorrhizae in restoration of degraded lands, agriculture and forestry and the conservation of mycorrhizae and macrofungi germplasm in general. Further projects entail the cultivation of mushrooms and its utilization by local communities, and the conservation and utilization of indigenous mushrooms and their habitats. Her main focus at the moment is a banana research program with TSBF-CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture) to establish AMF species associated with banana cultivars, and banana cultivar evaluation for indigenous AMF performance from nursery up to field establishment. She also works in the TSBF-CIAT project on the Belowground Biodiversity (BGBD) GEF (Global Environment Fund) project as the principal investigator on mycorrhizae for Kenya.
E-mail: jjefwa@yahoo.com

EL-Sayed M. EL-MORSY (northern Africa)

EL-Sayed is currently an assistant professor in the Botany Department of the University of Mansoura in New Damietta, Egypt. He is a diverse mycologist with experience in the fields of ecology, taxonomy and ultrastructure of fungi, especially with the fungi associated with aquatic systems and mangrove swamps. Currently his research continues on the ecology, taxonomy and ultrastructure of fungi, and also focuses on the biocontrol of insects and aquatic weeds and biodegradation of textiles. More information can be found on his website: http://mansvu.mans.edu.eg/sitegen/staff/long/index.php?did=143.
E-mail: el_morsy@mans.edu.eg

Classifieds

Gender & Diversity program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) (mentoring and funding)
http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/

BioNET (globel network for taxonomy) Bulletin (Information on grants, new developments, vacancies, events, contacts)
http://www.bionet-intl.org/opencms/opencms/bulletin

Looking for a logo

We are looking for a new logo for the AMA. If you are in the mood and artistically inclined, we would appreciate it greatly if you could play a bit and come up with some designs that could potentially be used as a new logo. Some of us, even if we want to, may have ideas but not the time to draw it, so any ideas are also welcome. We know a few people who may be able to do something with the idea.

The different designs we received so far have been posted on our website. The ideas that some have sent will be given to a graphic designer to play with. However, more ideas and designs will be appreciated, so please send us some more. Soon, we will ask you all to vote for the best design.

From Cathy Sharp

News on our Members

Retirement of Prof. Wally Marasas
By Mike Wingfield

Wally Marasas, internationally recognised mycologist, retired at the end of October 2006 from his position as Programme Leader at PROMEC at the Medical Research Council of South Africa. His retirement brought to a close an illustrious carreer in which he played a huge role in promoting the field of Mycotoxicology and *Fusarium* taxonomy. Wally has received a great number of important awards recognising his scientific contributions, one of which includes a key role in the discovery of the mycotoxin Fumonisin. Other than these awards, the latest of which is the Gold Medal of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa, he holds honorary doctorates from both the University of Pretoria and the University of the Free State, South Africa. Wally has by no means ceased to be active and will continue with activities linked to honorary appointments to the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria and the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Stellenbosch.

Wally holding the new *Fusarium* laboratory manual by Leslie and Summerell (2005, Blackwell Publishing, ISBN 9780813819198) that has been signed by numerous international colleagues.

Important Dates

American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting
San Diego, California
Meeting: 28 July-1 August 2007
Abstract deadline: 15 March 2007
http://www.apsnet.org

Mycological Society of America (MSA) Annual Meeting
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA,
Foray: 5 August 2007
Meeting: 6–9 August 2007
Abstract deadline: 30 March 2007
http://www.msafungi.org/

Third Asian Conference on Plant Pathology (3rd ACPP).
Yogyakarta City, Indonesia
Conference: 20-23 August 2007
http://www.3rdacpp.com

4th International Medicinal Mushroom Conference (IMMC4)
Ljubljana, Slovenia
Conference: 23-27 September 2007
Abstract deadline: 15 March 2007
www.immc4.si/

The 16th International Plant Protection Congress in association with the BCPC International Congress, Crop Science and Technology
Glasgow, Scotland
Congress: 15-18 October 2007
http://www.bcpc.org/iapps2007

XIV International Botrytis Symposium
Cape Town, South Africa
Symposium: 21-26 October 2007
Abstract deadline: 1 June 2007
http://academic.sun.ac.za/botrytis2007

BIO-08 (a combined conference supported by the South African Society for Microbiology, Biotech SA and the South African Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology).
Grahamstown, South Africa
Abstract deadline: 30 June 2007
Congress: 21-25 January 2008
http://www.ru.ac.za/bio-08

Asian Mycology Congress (AMC 2007) and **Xth International Marine and Freshwater Mycology Symposium (IMFMS)**
Penang, Malaysia
Congress: 2-6 December 2007
Abstract deadline: 31 August 2007
http://www.ippp.um.edu.my/amc2007/

The XXIII International Congress of Entomology, Breaking the Barriers
(sponsored by the Entomological Society of South Africa)
Durban, South Africa.
Congress: 6-12 July 2008
http://www.ice2008.org.za This congress will include sessions on entomopathogens

17th International Society for Mushroom Science (ISMS) International Congress
Cape Town, South Africa
Congress: 20-24 May 2008
Abstract deadline: 1 May 2007
http://www.isms2008.co.za

9th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP)
Torino, Italy
Congress: 24-29 August 2008
Abstract deadline: 15 September 2007
http://www.icpp2008.org/

International Mycological Congress (IMC9)
(hosted by the British Mycological Society)
Edinburgh, Scotland
Congress: 1-6 August 2010
www.imc9.info

Useful websites

AGIS (Agricultural Geo-Referenced Information System
http://www.agis.agric.za/agisweb/agis.html

Agricultural Research Council (ARC)
http://www.arc.agric.za/

ASCOfrance (ascomycete taxonomy in Europe and provides a forum for general ascomycete taxonomy)
http://www.ascofrance.com

BioNET (global network for taxonomy)
http://www.bionet-intl.org/

BPI (including **South African phytopathogenic fungi database**)
http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=12-75-39-00.

CABI Databases (including **Index fungorum, search family names, search author names)** (nomenclature of names)
http://www.indexfungorum.org/Index.htm

Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS); also houses **Mycobank**, **Mycoheritage** (online versions of scarce and old mycological literature, including Ethel Doidge's monographic work on South African fungi), **polyphasic identification tools**, and **Studies in Mycology** online (including **SIM 55**, an issue devoted to southern African mycology).
http://www.cbs.knaw.nl

Forestry & Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI)
http://fabinet.up.ac.za

Fungi of Malawi
http://www.malawifungi.org/

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
http://www.gbif.org

Global slime mold project (databases for slime mold collections, images, current taxonomy, protocols and educational resources)
http://slimemold.uark.edu

International Mycological Association (with links to other mycological societies and associations, and numerous useful mycological links)
http://www.ima-mycology.org/

International Society for Plant Pathology
http://www.isppweb.org/

Mycology.net (useful mycological links)
http://www.mycology.net/

Myconet (online journal, "Outline of Ascomycota" and "Notes on ascomycete systematics")
http://www.fieldmuseum.org/myconet/

Mycokey (includes information on the interactive fungal identification program Mycokey, and other research done such as studies on the Fungi of Burkino Faso)
http://www.mycokey.com/BurkinaFaso.html

Mycoroot (information on indigenous mycorrhizal fungal products and mycorrhizal analysis services)
www.mycoroot.com

National Center for Biotechnology Information (sequences)
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
http://www.sanbi.org/

Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP)
http://www.saspp.co.za/

World Taxonomists Database
http://www.eti.uva.nl/tools/wtd.php

African Library:
Termitomyces (Africa and Asia)

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QUESTIONNAIRE OF AFRICAN MYCOLOGISTS FOR THE AMA

(please post/fax to Marieka Gryzenhout)

Name:

Title:

Institution and Postal Address:

Country:

Country or origin:

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Website:

Phone number:

Fax number:

Research interests (choose one or between cell biology, physiology, ecology, pathology, molecular biology, systematics, evolution, medical mycology):

Specific interests:

Details of other African mycologists who may want to join AMA:

Skills to offer AMA (committee member, conference organiser, fund raising etc.):