Wild Plant Pathosystems

1st International Conference

on Interactions between Wild and Weedy Plants and their Pathogens

The conference, held in the historical city of Olomouc (Czech Republic) between July 2–5, 2013, was organised by the Department of Botany, Palacky University in Olomouc, Olomouc, Czech Republic in cooperation with the Czech Society for Plant Pathology. The meeting was attended by 70 participants from 16 countries on four continents. The conference was the first comprehensive international meeting addressing a broad swath of theoretical and methodological topics related to wild plant pathosystems – ecological and genetic views of coevolution, phylogenetics and speciation, general plant-pathogen interactions, ecological genomics of host-pathogen interactions, the development of a common conceptual framework for antagonistic interactions, interactions between pathogens and plant community structure, epidemiological and evolutionary dynamics across the agro-ecological interface, trends in emerging and invasive pathogens, wild crop progenitors, sources of resistance, and plant breeding applications. This broad area is a vibrant and fast developing area of plant biology and pathology which has been mostly neglected in various botanical, ecological and plant pathology meetings.

From the published programme and proceedings of abstracts (Lebeda A., Burdon J.J. (eds): Wild Plant Pathosystems. Czech Society for Plant Pathology and Palacky University in Olomouc, Olomouc (Czech Republic), 2013, 128 pp. (ISBN 978-80-903545-1-7)) it is evident that substantial progress has been made in various branches of wild plant pathosystems research and its application in plant breeding and disease control. The scientific part of the meeting was based on 23 keynote lectures, 17 short oral contributions and 22 posters. Most keynote lectures will be published separately as a Special Volume of the European Journal of Plant Pathology (editors: Lebeda A., Burdon J.J., Thrall P.H., Jeger M.). Some other papers are published in this Special Volume of Plant Protection Science (published by Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences). The programme was well balanced between fundamental science, theoretical and methodological approaches, as well as practical application of results. Increasing international contacts and cooperation in wild plant pathosystems research provides an excellent foundation for future development.

The participants also enjoyed a rich social programme which involved visits to historic buildings in Olomouc (Archbishop Palace, Archdiocese Museum), and an excursion to "Austerlitz Battlefield" – The Cairn of the Peace Memorial and Museum, and Austerlitz (Slavkov) Castle. Probably the most impressive event was a visit to the Johann G. Mendel Museum of Genetics and Augustinian Abbey in Brno. This event was linked to a tasting of Moravian wines (Vinselekt Michlovsky). On the last evening the participants enjoyed a baroque music concert in the chapel of the historical university Konvikt building.

The conference took place in the spirit of cooperation and friendship, and all the participants enjoyed the scientific programme, the historic city of Olomouc, Moravia and the Czech Republic. It was a highly memorable occasion

In the conference closing ceremony the substantial contribution of Dr Jeremy J. Burdon (CSIRO, Canberra, Australia) to research in wild plant pathosystems was acknowledged by conferring of a Medal of Honour from Palacky University in Olomouc.

During the closing session delegates agreed for the need to establish long-term continuation of the conference. The next conference in 2016 will be organised in Finland by University of Helsinki.

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President of the Conference, Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic
Dr Jeremy J. Burdon
Honorary President of the Conference, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia

Participants of the 1st International Conference "Wild Plant Pathosystems", held in July 2–5, 2013 at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic