

## Conference Report

### The 4<sup>th</sup> International Phytoplasmaologist Working Group (IPWG) Meeting



The fourth International Phytoplasmaologist Working Group (IPWG) meeting was held at ADEIT in Valencia (Spain) from September 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. The Meeting was opened by the welcome addresses presented by the Directors of ADEIT Dr. Antonio Aracil and of IVIA Dr. Enrique Moltó.

The introductory lecture entitled “The phytoplasma classification between ‘*Candidatus* species’ provisional status and ribosomal grouping system” was given by Prof. Assunta Bertaccini. Keynote lectures were given by Kensaku Maejima on “Structure and function of the phyllogen” and by Jürgen Gross on “The chemistry of multitrophic interactions in phytoplasma disease systems and advances in control of psyllid vectors with semiochemicals”.



Assunta Bertaccini



Kensaku Maejima



Jürgen Gross

The scientific program comprised 90 oral communications and 27 posters presented also as short oral presentation. All the presented works are published as extended abstract in the volume 9 issue 1 of Phytopathogenic Mollicutes, June 2019 (print ISSN: 2249-4669, online ISSN: 2249-4677) Indian Journal.com publisher. The meeting scientific committee members who revised the extended abstracts published are: Assunta Bertaccini (Italy), Govind P. Rao (India); Khalid Alhudaib (Saudi Arabia); Yaima Arocha Rosete (Canada); Matthew Dickinson (UK); Barbara Jarausch (Germany); Wolfgang Jarausch (Germany); Lia Liefing (New Zealand); Shigetou Namba (Japan) and Phyllis Weintraub (Israel).

The 8 topics covered in the meeting were presented in 12 sessions. Two round table discussions were also carried out on: “Mixed infections of phytoplasmas and other pathogens” presented by Kris De Jonghe (Belgium); Aido Taloh (India); Maritza Luis (Cuba); William Villalobos (Costa Rica); Dijana Skoric (Croatia) and Assunta Bertaccini (Italy) and “Quarantine and phytoplasmas: increasing alarm” presented by Yuri Shneyder (Russian Federation), Bennypaul Harvinder (Canada), Fiona Constable (Australia), Nicola Fiore (Chile), Piero A. Bianco (Italy), Khalid Alhudaib (Saudi Arabia), Palash Deb Nath (India) coordinated by Assunta Bertaccini (Italy) and Baldissera Giovani (EPPO). Three special sessions were also held dedicated to special projects: EUPHRESKO, Flaviv and PhyFor, and TROPICSAFE.



Participants to the round table discussion on “Mixed infections of phytoplasmas and other pathogens” (left) and on “Quarantine and phytoplasmas: increasing alarm” (right).

The sessions and the chairpersons were:

- Phytoplasma diseases worldwide - Khalid Alhudaib (Saudi Arabia), Kadriye Kaglayan (Turkey), Yaima Arocha Rosete (Canada) and Michael Kube (Germany)
- Phytoplasma diseases epidemiology - Nicola Mori (Italy), Liliana Franco-Lara (Colombia), Marianne Loiseau (France), Bernd Schneider and Michael Maixner (Germany) and Helga Reisenzein (Austria)
- Phytoplasma detection - Chih-Horng Kuo (Taiwan), Marta Martini (Italy), Kensaku Maejima (Japan) and Helena Guglielmi Montano (Brazil)
- Insect vectors of phytoplasmas - Phyllis Weintraub (Israel) and Oliver Kristić (Serbia)
- Phytoplasmas host interaction - Barbara and Wolfgang Jarausch (Germany)
- Mixed infection of phytoplasmas and other pathogens - Nicola Fiore (Chile) and Carmen Castillo Carrillo (Ecuador)
- Management of phytoplasma diseases - Matthew Dickinson (United Kingdom), Wei Wei (USA), Govind Pratap Rao (India) and Fiona Constable (Australia)
- Phytoplasma diseases of quarantine relevance - Baldissera Giovani (EPPO), Assunta Bertaccini and Fabio Quaglino (Italy)
- Phytoplasma omics - Martina Seruga Musić (Croatia) and Kajohn Boonrod (Germany).

A separate session was dedicated to the public presentation of the first results achieved under the EU-H2020 founded program TROPICSAFE chaired by Assunta Bertaccini, Elisa Angelini (Italy) and Ndede Yankey (Ghana).

The meeting was attended by 150 participants from 40 Countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Moldova, Mozambique, Netherlands, Oman, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Russian Federation, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA. The meeting was very fruitful for the science updates and exchange of scientific experiences in the various agricultural environments. The discussions in meeting confirmed that phytoplasma diseases awareness is increasing worldwide along with the increasing number of participants from six new countries attending the meeting for the first time: China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Moldova and Russian Federation.



Besides the scientific presentations that updated the worldwide research in the field of phytoplasmaology, the participants had the opportunity to discuss important matters such as international collaboration opportunities and possibility of sharing collaborative research on phytoplasmas. A focus was put on phytoplasma isolation in order to perform biologic and resistance study that could help to avoid the phytoplasma diseases from further spreading worldwide.



Glimpses of 4<sup>th</sup> IPWG meeting





Glimpses of 4<sup>th</sup> IPWG meeting



4<sup>th</sup> IPWG meeting coffee/lunch breaks





Riding boats to the restaurant



Between paellas and flamenco...





Social dinner in Albufera



Relaxing moments...



Goodby picture





IPWG Scientific Committee

A new scientific committee was appointed and approved by the IPWG general assembly: Khalid Alhudaib – Saudi Arabia, Yaima Arocha Rosete – Canada, Matthew Dickinson – United Kingdom, Nicola Fiore – Chile, Saskia Hogenhout – United Kingdom, Barbara Jarausch – Germany, Wolfgang Jarausch – Germany, Wei Wei – USA, Lia Liefiting – New Zealand, Shigetou Namba – Japan, Govind P. Rao – India, Rakefet Sharon – Israel, Assunta Bertaccini – Italy.



Phytoplasma books release at IPWG

The official presentation of the three books titled “Phytoplasmas: Plant Pathogenic Bacteria” printed by Springer was done by three of the Editors (G.P. Rao, P.G. Weintraub and M. Kube) with the participation of 34 of the 86 authors. The books are now available as printed or web format.

Proposals were presented to host the 5<sup>th</sup> IPWG Meeting to be held in 2023; the countries officially offering next venue were India, Oman and Chile, moreover other countries also indicated their availability. Final decision will be made by web consultation after the location offer list will be finalized.



Group picture of delegates attending the 4<sup>th</sup> IPWG meeting at Valencia, Spain

**...we wait for all of you attending to the next meeting in 2023**

Follow the International Phytoplasma Working Group activity at <http://www.ipwgnet.org>