

The weekly newsletter from the Botany Department at Trinity College Dublin

Phytobytes is back! In this weekly newsletter we will share all the latest news about the Botany Department: publications, conferences, new projects and partnerships, visitors, events... Everything that makes our department a prolific and dynamic research community has its place here.

Phytobytes will be sent every Wednesday in the afternoon; everything you submit before lunchtime can be included in the current issue. Any comment or suggestion on this new version of Phytobytes is welcome!

News

- Botany welcome visiting lecturer and PhD student **Chantana Khensri** from Kasetsart University, Bangkok who is working on the molecular systematics of water lilies with Trevor Hodkinson for six months.
- An agreement between the **Trinity Centre for Biodiversity Research** and the **Vietnam National Museum of Nature (VNMN)** was marked by both parties in the presence of the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins during his recent State Visit to Vietnam. Trinity's partnership with the Vietnamese Museum will support joint field-work, publication of research, specimen exchange as well as exchange of staff and students, consultancy and support for the development of a Botanic Garden in Vietnam. More information here: http://www.tcd.ie/news_events/articles/trinity-joins-forces-with-top-vietnamese-university/7361
- Botany alumni visits 60 years after completing his PhD



Neil Murray completed his PhD on pine and yew preserved in Clonsast Bog, Co Offaly under the supervision of Frank Mitchell in 1957. He then went on to run a tree nursery based in Dundrum – now the location of the Balally Luas stop. Neil's PhD is highly relevant to current research on pine history and so he joined Jenni Roche, Fraser Mitchell, Daniel Kelly and Jim White for lunch in College a few weeks ago.

Neil Murray pictured beside the portrait of Frank Mitchell

PHYTOBYTES needs your input, yes you!

Whether you are student or staff, please send any news you have, big or small, to Anne (dubearna@tcd.ie) with the subject heading Phytobytes. Let's share the latest news and always be aware of what is happening at Botany!

Publications

- **Marc Deletre and Trevor Hodkinson** published a paper on the unconscious selection of volunteer seedlings in clonally propagated cassava in the journal *Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution*.
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10722-016-0390-3>
- **Dongwei Zhao, John Parnell and Anne Dubéarnès** have recently published a short paper in *Taxon*:
Zhao, D., Parnell, J. & Dubéarnès, A. (2016). (44-45) Requests for binding decisions on the descriptive statements associated with *Thea dormoyana* and *T. piquetiana*. *Taxon*, 65: 1183.
<https://doi.org/10.12705/655.29>

Upcoming events

- **TCD Botany Department & TCD Botany Society** will hold their End-of-year colloquium on Thursday 8 Dec. at 5.00 p.m. in the Botany Lecture Theatre. The theme will be **'River deep, mountain high: Irish botanists explore the Honduran rainforest'**.

On the program of this exciting evening:

Conor Owens: 'Mud, macs and melastomes; my first rainforest experience'

Maria Long: 'From the city to the rainforest, and back again - a month in Honduras'

Sven Batke: 'What we did up the trees'

Daniel Kelly: 'What did we achieve? The story so far...'

Refreshments afterwards!



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