

The newsletter from the Botany Department at Trinity College Dublin

Botany welcomes the following new staff:

- **Rachael Murphy**, a new PhD candidate, will be working with Matt Saunders on the DAFM funded **MINE project** to investigate N₂O emissions from grassland systems using eddy covariance techniques.
- **Marta Jadwiszczak** started Monday as a new Research Assistant on the **e-Seed project** with Trevor Hodgkinson and Brian Murphy. Marta is a former undergraduate student in Botany and is returning to us after a successful Master's degree at the University of Edinburgh.
- **Dr Ana Lopez Ballesteros** will be working with Matt Saunders on the H2020 funded **SEACRIFOG project** which is investigating the links between food security and greenhouse gas emissions in sub-Saharan Africa.

News

Brian Murphy was elected to the council of the **Institute of Biology of Ireland** (<http://www.ibioli.net/>) at its recent AGM. He will represent to the Institute the interests of botanists and plant scientists in Ireland. The Institute membership is drawn from biology professionals in Ireland and its principle aims are:

- To represent and promote the professional interests of biologists.
- To advise government and the public in general on biological matters having implications for society.
- To ensure professional competence of biologists.
- To facilitate contacts between biologists in Ireland, within the European Union and internationally.
- To promote interest in, and an understanding of biology and its application and implications for modern society through education and research.
- To attract and encourage entrants to the profession of biology.
- To provide support and expertise to biology teachers through an Expert Panel.



Publications



A new international press release, entitled "Plant protein can contribute to fight hunger and global warming", has been made available on the website of **Mike Williams' EU project, TRUE**. Click [here for the press release](#) and [here for the ancillary data](#) (both in pdf).

Conferences & Outreach

Laura Russo attended the **Future Faculty Program** at the University of Tennessee, which is part recruiting, part training for individuals to develop connections and collaborations at UTK. Laura gave an invited talk there titled "Disturbing and conserving plant-pollinator interactions."

Grants

Paul Dowding's grant application to the EPA/Met Eirann - jointly with Dr David O'Connor (team leader) of the DIT- entitled **Pollen Monitoring and Modelling (POMMEL)** has been successful. The project will redevelop the Dublin Forecast model used by Paul from 1980-2005, using historical data as well as real-time met. and pollen concentration data from Dublin, Cork and rural Co. Carlow over the next two summers, as well as testing 'instant' pollen concentration measuring equipment.

Botany Bake Off

The trinity botanists have been flexing their research communication skills in the latest Botany Bake Off competition. Each week in the lead up to Christmas, a participant will present a baked representation of their research project. You can follow their progress on our [facebook page](#).



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!