Phytobytes

June 19, 2017

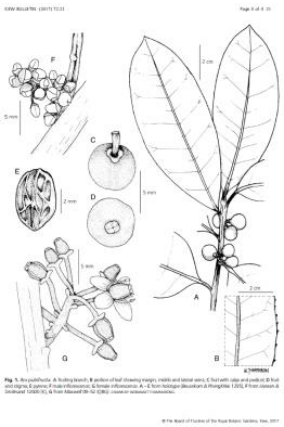
The weekly newsletter from the Botany Department at Trinity College Dublin

News

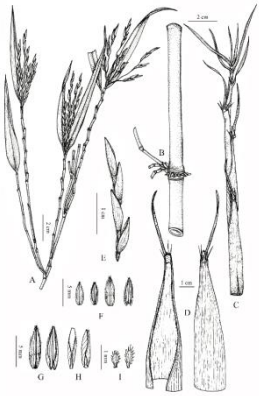
▪ We are pleased to welcome **Dr Marcus Collier** as a new Assistant Professor in Botany. Marcus is leading the H2020 consortium project **CONNECTING-Nature** which is all about implementing urban nature-based solutions, linking Natural Sciences (Marcus Collier and **Jane Stout**) with Trinity Business School (**Gemma Donnelly Cox** and **Mary Lee Rhodes**) in Trinity, with c. 30 partners, and a network of cities with urban nature-based innovation implementation across Europe. Marcus is based in the old Anatomy building (next to Steve Waldren's office) and is 100% dedicated to the project for the first two years, but will get involved with more teaching and admin duties in the Discipline and School in years 3-5. Follow him on twitter @marcus_collier and follow the project on @CONNECTINGNBS.

Publications

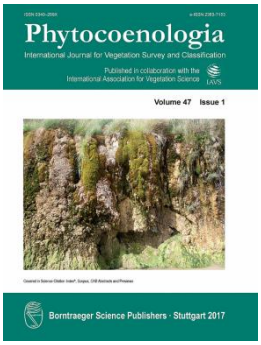
▪ **David Simpson**, visiting research fellow of the Department, has described a new species of *Ilex* from Northen Thailand in *Kew Bulletin*.
[Click on the illustration to access the article.]



▪ **Atchara Teerawatanon**, **Sarawood Sungkaew** and **Trevor Hodkinson** have described a new bamboo species from Thailand, *Chimonocalamus elegans* in *Phytotaxa*.
[Click on the illustration to access the article.]



▪ **John Parnell** & **Trevor Hodkinson** have, together with a former Ph.D. student and now Professor, **Pranom Chantaranothai**, and a visitor to TCD, **Pimwadee Pornpongrungrueng,** just published a paper in *Botany* – formally *Canadian Journal of Botany*. In this article, they describe a new species of Phyllanthaceae family from Thailand: *Phyllanthus kaweesakii*. The Phyllanthaceae have been fairly recently split off from the Euphorbiaceae on the basis of a number of features, molecular and morphological: the Euphorbiaceae being obviously polyphyletic. [Click on this link to access the article.]



▪ Former Ph.D. student **Melinda Lyons** and **Daniel Kelly** have published an article in *Phytocoenologia* entitled *Plant community ecology of petrifying springs (Cratoneurion) – a priority habitat*. This article brings new insight into the remarkable flora of an extreme habitat - habitat which is of special conservation interest at a European level.
[Click on the cover to access the article.]

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Conferences & Outreach

▪ **Michelle McKeon-Bennett**, **Brian Murphy** and **Anne Dubéarnès** presented their research at the **Irish Plant Scientist Association Meeting** at the Limerick Institute of Technology. Anne received a prize for best postgraduate talk.

Featured project: Count Flowers for Bees!

Calling all those who are interested in becoming citizen scientists! **Eileen Power**, with the help of **Jane Stout** and **Alwynne McGeever,** has launched a new online project called **Count Flowers for Bees**. All you need to do, to help Irish bee populations, is follow these 3 steps:

(1) Click on this link
(2) Look at photos of flowery grasslands from across Ireland
(3) Count the flowers and categorise them into simple groups

It's easy, fun, possibly addictive and you don't need to get off the couch or have much knowledge of flowers. You can do as many photos as you like.

Your help will contribute to Eileen's work in Trinity College Dublin on creating a flower map of Ireland for pollinators. For this map, Eileen needs to know what type of flowers (and how many) are growing all over Ireland. But she can't survey all of Ireland alone. Help Eileen count flowers for bees!

This project was featured in the Irish Independent in June 2015 [click on the preview below for the full printed article].


BEHIND THE SCIENCE OF POLLINATION

What does a pollinator do?

Eileen Power

Why am I creating a flower map of Ireland?

Eileen Power

POLLINATION

Help me to count flowers for bees!

Eileen Power

What type of landscape is best for pollinators?

Florence Heeg

IRISH INDEPENDENT | SCIENCE OF SUMMER

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!