

[The newsletter from the Botany Department at Trinity College Dublin](#)

## Publications

**Flora of Thailand:** **John Parnell** served as editor of the latest and 14<sup>th</sup> volume of the *Flora of Thailand* series, and also published with **Wuu Kuang Soh** the following account of the plant family Buxaceae in this volume:

Soh, W.K. & Parnell, J.A.N. (2018). Buxaceae. Pp. 9-13 in *Flora of Thailand* 14(1). Eds. T. Santisuk, H. Balslev, K. Chayamarit, M. Newman, A. Barford, H.J. Esser, D.A. Simpson, J. Parnell, N. Pattharahirantracin, C. Phengkai, R. Pooma, P. Suksathan, P. Chantaranonthai, H. Pederson, M.N. Tamura, P.C. van Welzen, T. Utteridge, T. Haevermans, D.J. Middleton, & M. Kato. Bangkok, The Forest Herbarium, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation.

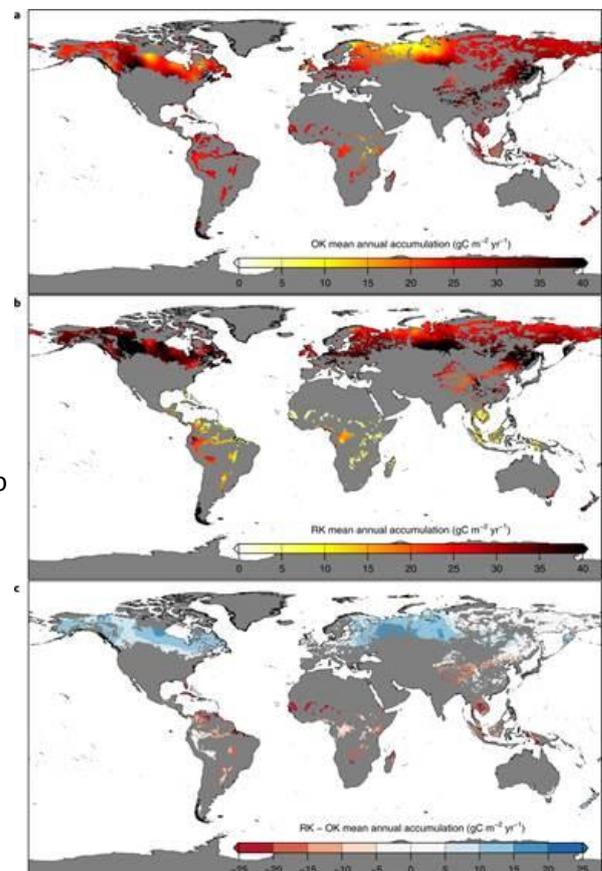
**Thai Forest Bulletin:** **John Parnell** served as editor of the latest volume of *Thai Forest Bulletin* (Vol: 46(1)) which has recently been issued.

**Apidologie:** **Laura Russo** co-authored a paper in *Apidologie* titled "[Minimal effect of honey beehive fences on native bee diversity and abundance at the farm scale during the dry season in southern Kenya](#)".

**Arthropod-Plant Interactions:** **Laura Russo** co-authored a paper in *Arthropod-Plant Interactions* titled "[A network approach reveals parasitoid wasps to be generalized nectar foragers](#)".

**Nature Climate Change:** **Fraser Mitchell** is a co-author on a paper published in the September issue of *Nature Climate Change* that models the capacity of peatland ecosystems to sequester carbon as climate changes.

Gallego-Sala, A. V., et al. (2018) Latitudinal limits to the predicted increase of the peatland carbon sink with warming. *Nature Climate Change*. DOI: 10.1038/s41558-018-0271-1.





**The State of the World's Fungi:** Trevor Hodkinson and Brian Murphy have co-authored a chapter in the recently published report '[The State of the World's Fungi](#)', produced by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. This publication is the first ever State of the World's Fungi report revealing how important fungi are to all life on Earth. The chapter, 'Positive Plant-Fungal Interactions', describes how fungi can form mutualistic beneficial associations with plants.

## Events

**School Children Visit:** On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October we were invaded by 90 fifth class (10-11 year olds) pupils from St Bridget's Primary School. They had originally wanted to visit the Physic Garden because they had been learning about medicines and drug discovery. As the garden is currently closed for replanting we corralled them in the PACCAR theatre in the Science Gallery where Fraser Mitchell tried to entertain them with some of the plants that they might have seen in the Physic Garden. He was followed by Trish Coughlan who thrilled them with an interactive talk on her research into *Taxus* and then Cian White fired them up with a talk on insects in preparation for making bug hotels. As well as the bug hotels, they got close and personal to some of the medicinal plants as well as a range of carnivorous plants. Loads of help in achieving all this was also supplied by Rita Beinert, Steve Waldren, Trevor Hodkinson, Elena Zioga and Irene Bottero. The event was a great success – it was also hectic, loud and very messy. Thanks to all who helped and the Science Gallery for hosting it all.



**Probe:** The Plant Animal-Interactions Group welcomed 90 children from three primary schools to a workshop on pollinators in the Science Gallery as part of Probe. The kids learned about the diversity of insects, how bees communicate, how dependent our food is on pollinators and how to help conserve pollinators. For more see the [Campus Blog](#). Also part of Probe, [Dr. Annabel Smith](#), [Dr. Ruth Duffy](#) and [Cian White](#) explored fire ecology with the public, managing to have a fire in Front Square and lots of fun and interesting conversations. For more see the [Eco Evo Blog](#).

**The future of sustainable pest management workshop:** A workshop on sustainable pesticide use, organised by [Laura Russo](#), was held in Trinity on 5th October – the workshop featured presentations from [Aidan Moody](#) (DAFM) on the regulatory processes, [Ronan Byrne](#) (Teagasc) about herbicide resistance, [Brian Murphy](#) (TCD) on endophytes, and [Dave Mortensen](#) (Pennsylvania State University) on his experiences using data to inform policy in the USA. The workshop was attended by researchers from TCD, UCD, DCU, DAFM and Teagasc.

**Mooney Goes Wild:** [Jane Stout](#) contributed to a [Mooney Goes Wild episode](#), talking about Irish honey.

## Meetings and Conferences

87 pollination ecologists gathered in Blessington, Co. Wicklow for the annual SCAPE (Scandinavian Association of Pollination Ecologists) meeting 18-22 October. The meeting was organised by [Jane Stout](#) and [Dara Stanley](#) (UCD), attracted delegates from 19 different countries, and featured 50 oral and 20 poster presentations, 2 international keynote lectures, a very enjoyable ceili and even an outdoor sauna. [Laura Russo](#) gave a talk titled “Impacts of fertiliser and herbicide run-off on plant-insect interactions”, [Sarah Gabel](#) gave a talk titled “Factors driving Syrphid abundance, diversity, and community composition in arable cropping systems”, and congratulations to [Cian White](#) for winning the best short oral presentation prize for his talk on 'Impacts of Urbanisation on Interaction Networks'!



**Jane Stout** gave a talk at the annual EPA Environment Ireland conference at Croke Park, on nature-based solutions for the restoration of natural capital.



**Trevor Hodkinson** chaired the '[Plant Microbiomes Underpinning Agriculture](#)' session at the Microbiology Society Focussed Meeting 2018 in Cork, 1-2 October.



**Laura Russo** gave an oral presentation at Eurbee – the 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of Apidology in Ghent, Belgium titled “Pollen protein content drives bee community preference for an invasive thistle over five native plant species”.

---

**PHYTOBYTES** needs your input! Whether you are student or staff, please send any news you have, big or small, to Sarah ([gabels@tcd.ie](mailto:gabels@tcd.ie)) with the subject heading “Phytobytes”. Let’s share the latest news and always be aware of what is happening at Botany!