

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

Publications

Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy: **Brian Murphy** and **Trevor Hodkinson**, along with **Fiona Doohan** of UCD, have just had a new research article published in the Royal Irish Academy journal *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*. The article, entitled '[Endophytic *Cladosporium* strains from a crop wild relative increase grain yield in barley](#)', reports on experiments that describe how a group of habitat-adapted plant symbionts (endophytes) increase grain yield in barley, and which may lead to the development of a successful inoculant for barley crops.



Image comparing potatoes grown with and without mesh crop covers.

Annals of Applied Biology: **Simon Hodge** recently co-authored a paper titled 'Mesh crop covers improve potato yield and inhibit tomato potato psyllid and blight: The roles of mesh pore size and ultraviolet radiation'. As a means of non-chemical plant protection, crop meshes act as a physical barrier that prevents access of insect pests, and blocks UV radiation which retards the development of blight. No chemicals, more spuds, bigger chips! What's there not to like ??!

Citation: Merfield CN, Winder L, Stilwell SA, Hofmann R, Bennett JR, Wargent JJ, Hodge S. 2019. Mesh crop covers improve potato yield and inhibit tomato potato psyllid and blight: The roles of mesh pore size and ultraviolet radiation. *Annals of Applied Biology* 174: 223-237

Accomplishments

Brian Murphy is a Royal Society of Biology Registered Scientist (RSci) and he recently received a CPD ([Continuing Professional Development](#)) Award Commendation in recognition of his ongoing commitment to undertaking continued professional development. The award was presented to Dr Brian Murphy RSci MRSB at the 2018 Science Council annual awards ceremony at Burlington House, London. Brian said of receiving this award: "I am very happy to have received this award from the Science Council. Membership of the RSB has enabled me to develop a structured programme of professional development and has allowed me to take personal control of my CPD." By completing CPD and taking up one of the RSB's [training courses](#), RSB members can build their skill sets and stay up to date with developments in their field.



The recipients of the 2018 CPD Awards.

EcoEvo Blog Posts

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[A New Horizon for Nature](#)
by Dr Jane Stout



[One thing for nature](#)
by Dr Yvonne Buckley



[Looking beyond mean trends of environmental change](#)
by Dr Qiang (Marvin) Yang



[The 2018 EcoEvo Hall of Fame](#)
by Various



[Donuts with a Doctor – musings on mentoring](#)
by Dr Yvonne Buckley



[Trinity Descends on Galway](#)
by Sam Ross



[A Scientist Goes to Court](#)

by Cian White



[Irish Pollinator Research Network goes from strength to strength...](#)

by Dr Jane Stout

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