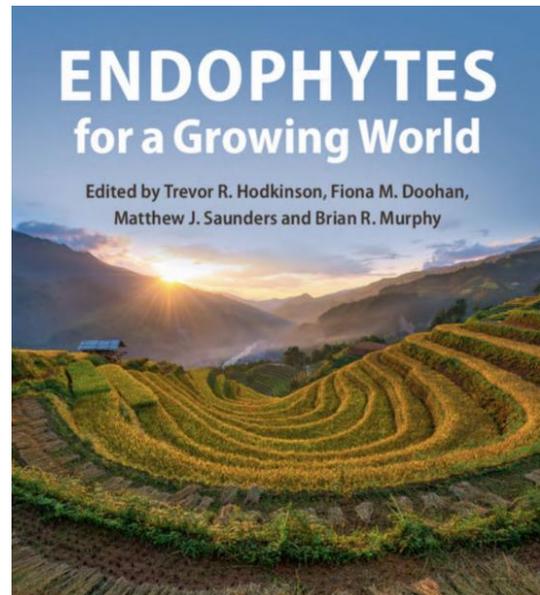


## [The newsletter from the Botany Department at Trinity College Dublin](#)

### Publications

**‘Endophytes for a Growing World’:** **Trevor Hodkinson**, **Matthew Saunders** and **Brian Murphy** from Trinity’s Botany Department, together with **Fiona Doohan** from University College Dublin, have published a 420 page Cambridge University Press book on [‘Endophytes for a Growing World’](#). It brings together papers covering the most recent scientific research from the top endophyte researchers in the world. Endophytes are any microbe that can live within plants and many are beneficial to agriculture and forestry. The book is highly timely because of the need to improve global food security and its sustainability, and also to provide novel bioactive molecules for medicine. There is also a need to protect forestry in a changing and growing world. Endophytes offer a huge potential to reduce environmentally damaging agricultural inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides. They are also a largely overlooked group of organisms where much basic science remains to be undertaken. There is a pressing need to convert scientific research on endophytes into practical application. This book describes how that will be achieved.



### Accomplishments



**Dr Saorla Kavanagh** graduated from DCU this month, with her PhD thesis entitled “Honey chemical constituents from apiaries in different landscapes in Ireland”. Saorla was primarily supervised by analytical chemist, **Dr Blanaid White**, at Dublin City University and co-supervised by **Dr Jane Stout**. Her PhD was funded by an Irish Research Council studentship and her [first paper](#) received international media coverage because of the finding that Irish heather honey has a similar chemical profile to Manuka honey.

## Events

The annual field-skills field-course to Gran Canaria was a great success, with 33 students and 5 staff members taking part this year. As well as exploring the fascinating plants, insects and habitats on the island, students examined ecological and physiological adaptations to environmental stressors, human impacts, and carried out independent research projects.



## Meetings and Conferences



The first National Biodiversity Conference was held in Dublin Castle last month, co-organised by NPWS and IFNC, with IFNC Chair, **Jane Stout**, delivering the keynote on the theme of “Investing in nature” and a presentation on the EPA-funded Pollival project in a session on valuing ecosystem services. Jane was also involved in the high-level meeting to agree the “Seeds for Nature” that were the outcome of the conference, as well as the closing plenary session. The conference featured a rousing speech by **President Michael D. Higgins** and an excellent presentation from **Inger Anderson** (Head of UNEP). Other TCD staff, students and graduates played leading roles in the conference. You can learn more about the conference from Jane’s Campus Buzz [blog post](#) and Trinity’s [news coverage](#).

Jane Stout, Simon Hodge and Irene Bottero travelled to Bologna, Italy for a two-day workshop for the PoshBee project. The project involves a 128-site field study across 8 European countries, and the workshop was to ensure all protocols were consistent and to practice some of the methods involved. Irene shares more about the workshop in her Campus Buzz [blog post](#).



As part of his role in the Technical Support unit of the IPCC, **Eamon Haughey** attended the Fourth Lead Author meeting for the IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Land in Cali, Colombia. The meeting was hosted from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of February by CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture) at their research centre outside the city. During the meeting which was attended by over 140 people, authors focused on preparation for the final government draft of the report which will be submitted to governments in April. The [report](#) is due to go for government approval in August 2019.



The opening plenary of the meeting by the head of the research centre.



The team working on Chapter 4: Land Degradation. Eamon has been working closely with authors of that Chapter.

## EcoEvo Blog Posts

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Want to learn more? Check out the [EcoEvo Blog](#), where Trinity's Botany and Zoology departments discuss their work and reflections in research. The latest posts include ...



### [The Story of the K'Gari \(Fraser Island\) Dingoes](#)

by James Orr



### [Modern Women in Science: Eugenie "The Shark Lady" Clark](#)

by Jenny Bortoluzzi



### [Is a seal cull needed to protect fish stocks?](#)

by Fionn Ó Marcaigh

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**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!