

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

### New People

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Welcome to **Amy Turner**, who is working as an intern on the [PoshBee](#) project with Jane Stout, Simon Hodge and Irene Bottero. Amy is a second year genetics student at Edge Hill University, founder of the Bee Project to get honeybees on campus, President of the Bee Society and lover of bees and pollinators in general. Amy recently won “Edge Hill Volunteer of the Year” for her work.



The Plant Ecophysiology research group has welcomed two new members **Aigar Niglas** and **Sylvain Dujoux**. Aigar will be here for the next 3 years to work on the impacts of peatland restoration on carbon and greenhouse gas dynamics, and Sylvain will be here for the summer to investigate the impacts of land use change through afforestation on carbon stocks.

### Publications

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**Nature Communications:** **Jane Stout** has co-authored a paper published in Nature Communications entitled “[Meta-analysis reveals that pollinator functional diversity and abundance enhance crop pollination and yield](#)”.

**Biogeosciences:** **Matt Saunders** co-authored a paper titled “[Carbon balance of a restored and cutover raised bog: implications for restoration and comparison to global trends](#)”. This paper looked at the impacts of peatland management on carbon and greenhouse gas dynamics from restored, drained and degraded areas of Abbeylix bog in the Irish midlands.

**Mires and Peat:** **Matt Saunders** co-authored a paper titled “[Net ecosystem exchange from two formerly afforested peatlands undergoing restoration in the Flow Country of northern Scotland](#)”. This paper looked at the time-dependent impacts of forest-to-bog restoration activities on the carbon source/sink strength of these ecosystems and showed that 10 years after restoration the system was still acting as a source of carbon to the atmosphere.

**Thai Forest Bulletin:** **John Parnell**, **Trevor Hodkinson**, and **Pimwadee Pornpongrungrueng** (a visiting academic from 2018) have just published a paper:

Thammarong, W., Chantaranothai, P., Parnell, J.A.N., Hodkinson, T.R. & Pornpongrungrueng, P. (2019). Pollen of the Lecythidaceae in Southeast Asia. *Thai Forest Bulletin*, 47: 55-68.

**Thai Forest Bulletin:** **Sukontip Sirimongkol** has published a paper with **John Parnell** and **Trevor Hodkinson** titled “[Five new species of Henckelia \(Gesneriaceae\) from Myanmar and Thailand](#)”.

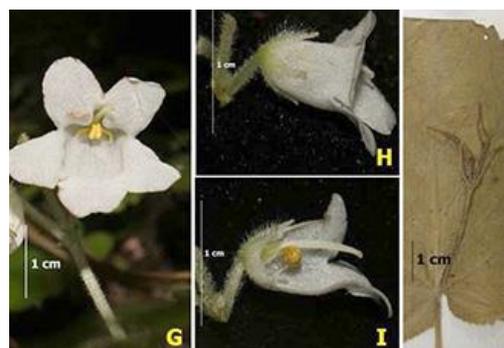


Figure from the article, showing one of the new flower species.

## Events and Activities

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, **Paul Dowding** and **Jenny McElwain** spoke on Morning Ireland on RTE One on the importance of trees in advance of Tree Week ([listen to the segment here](#)).



**Jane Stout** presented on “Drivers and consequences of pollinator decline” to the [Irish Skeptics Society](#).



**Harry Yiotis** gave an invited talk about Climate Change to 3rd year Civic, Social and Political Education students of Templeogue College as part of their action project on the 22nd of March.



## Meetings and Conferences

**Jane Stout** presented on impacts of pesticides on pollinators at the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2019 Conference](#) in Cork.



**Matt Saunders** attended the European Geosciences Union annual meeting in Vienna to present some of the work undertaken as part of the Horizon 2020 funded project SEACRIFOG (Supporting EU-African cooperation on research infrastructure for food security and greenhouse gas observations) in designing an observational infrastructure for the long-term monitoring of greenhouse gases and the carbon cycle in Africa.

## 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 ...



### [How to be a zoologist – Transition Year Week 2019](#)

by Nicola Marples



### [Undergrad Thesis Collection 2019](#)

by Maureen Williams



### [Sisters in Science: Dr Liz Dobson](#)

by Annabel Smith



### [Battle of the sexes – Niche contraction in females but not males in high density island populations](#) by Darren O'Connell

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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) with the subject heading "Phytobytes". Let's share the latest news and always be aware of what is happening at Botany!