

## [The Trinity College Dublin Botany Department Newsletter](#)

### Accomplishment

---



Congratulations to **Erika Soldi** who, after successfully completing two years of research under the **E-seed project**, is continuing her role as research assistant for the new **NEXCELSIOR project** with **Trevor Hodkinson**.

The project focuses on managing the impact of the pathogen *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, which causes dieback disease in ash trees and consequently diminishing drastically its population in Europe. It is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's (DAFM) and in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA).

### Publication

---

**Horticulturae**: **Patricia Coughlan** and **Trevor Hodkinson** just published a paper entitled "[Phylogenetics of Taxus Using the Internal Transcribed Spacers of Nuclear Ribosomal DNA and Plastid trnL-F Regions](#)"

~\*~

Undergraduate Botany student, **Francesca Farag**, published an article in the University Times entitled "[How Trinity is Protecting Ireland's Pollinators](#)"

### Project and Funding

---

**Supervalu** has joined forces with the **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan** and launched their "[Save the bees](#)" campaign. As well as providing information packs to all National Schools, people can collect cards of bees and plants from their local supermarket, and Supervalu is sponsoring a project officer to assist with implementation of the Pollinator Plan. **Jane Stout** and **Una Fitzpatrick** attended a photoshoot for the launch of the campaign, which unfortunately coincided with the school closure announcement, and so received very little press attention.

~\*~

On the other hand, there has been a lot of press attention on the vote on turning the lawns at Front Gate into wildflower gardens. See [here](#) for an Irish Times article and [here](#) for a Newstalk podcast in which John Parnell is interviewed.

On a similar note, two Ginkgo Biloba trees were planted to replace the iconic Oregon Maples in Library Square. See article [here](#) and [here](#).

## Event and Activity

### Gran Canaria Field Skills Course



31 undergraduate Plant and Environmental Science students completed the field skills course in Gran Canaria at the end of February – fabulous weather, hard-working students, and corona-free, the field course was another great success. As well as exploring how plant communities cope with environmental stressors on macro and microscales, students carried out Environmental Impact Assessment scoping studies on hypothetical development scenarios. Student projects towards the end of the week determined the light and temperature and associated plant communities within large stands of *Euphorbia canariensis* and *Opuntia spp.*, how nectar volumes and bee visitation varied according to plant size in *Echium decasnii*, and distributions of alien and native species in relation to water stress.



## Meetings and Conferences

---

**Alina Premrov** attended the **Irish Geological Research Meeting 2020** (IGRM 2020) that took place in Athlone during 28th April to 1st March, where she presented two posters based on the research-work on **SOLUM project** (P.I. **Matthew Saunders**), and two other posters based on the research-work on **AUGER project**.

You can find the full program and abstracts [here](#).

## EcoEvo Blog Posts

---

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 ...



### [Celebrating 35 years of Professor John Rochford](#)

by Paula Murphy



### [The 2020 Postgraduate Symposium: Putting the broad range of research in the School of Natural Sciences under the limelight](#)

by Emma Govan



### [Why go to the Zoo?](#)

by Andrew Mooney

---

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