

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

### Accomplishments

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**Vanessa Lucy** will be finishing her role as a Research Assistant with Dr. **Marcus Collier** working on nature and novel ecosystems in urban areas.

She will be taking up a new role with Dr. **Anna Davies** from the 3rd February in the Department of Geography, as a Research Assistant for the **SHARECITY project**.

Vanessa will be taking over the role of project management, science communication, and project operations as we say goodbye to **Vivien Franck**, who is returning to Berlin to work in parks and natural resource management.

### Projects and Funding

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PhD Student **Marine Valmier**, with notable help from her supervisor **Matt Saunders** and PhD students **Rachael Murphy** and **Ruchita Ingle**, installed the Eddy Covariance station that she will be managing for the next 2 years. This set-up (composed of a sonic anemometer, a CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O gas analyser, a SmartFlux system and a biometkit) allows for the continuous monitoring, at the ecosystem scale, of greenhouse gas emission from this organic soil under grassland management.

This work is part of the **Agri-SOC** (Soil Organic Carbon) project in collaboration with Teagasc and is also contributing to the **SmartBog** project.



### Events and Activities

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**Paul Dowding** was featured on the RTÉ show **Mooney Goes Wild** on Monday 27th January talking about the Biodiversity Audit at Áras an Uachtaráin – he was interviewed about the fungal surveys he's been conducting since the autumn. You can listen to it [here](#).

## INCASE Stakeholder Workshop



The **INCASE project** stakeholder workshop organised by **Catherine Farrell** was held on January 22nd in the Alex Hotel (around the corner from TCD). In total 47 people attended from a range of organisations - EPA Catchments, IFNC, DAFM, Teagasc, NPWS, BWI, Community Wetlands Forum, Local Authorities and Marine Institute as well as academic researchers (TCD, NUIG, DCU, UCD). Companies represented were Devenish Foods, Irish Water and semi-state bodies BNM and BIM.

The workshop focused on potential applications of Natural Capital Accounting, as well as highlighting challenges and synergies for INCASE. Overall the event was interactive and provided great feedback for the Project Team around critical areas such as data, policy linkages as well as valuation (whose value is it anyway?!). **Jane Stout**, who led the project, and **Andrew Neill** attended from Botany. More details (and slides) [here](#).



**John Parnell** gave a series of talks at Bangkok, Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai in Thailand at the invitation of the **Irish Embassy in Thailand** ([@IrlEmbBangkok](#)). The talks were on the topic of **A.F.G. Kerr** who was a medical graduate of TCD but who is also known as the father of Thai Botany and whose work in Thailand still forms the basis of much botanical research there. More details (and pictures) [here](#).

The talks also attracted the media and John was interviewed for an article on Kerr which will appear in Citylife Chiang Mai.



The herbarium in the department houses some of Kerr's enormous collection of plants from the country as well as some of the thousands of photographs that he took. Kerr is probably the most famous Irish person ever to have lived and worked in that country having achieved exceptionally high rank in the Thai government service.

## Meetings and Conferences

**Jane Stout** attended the EU H2020 **PoshBee project** annual general meeting in Marseille this month and presented the results of the pan-European site network to assess exposure to stressors for bees, which she coordinated, and was managed by **Simon Hodge**. See [here](#) for more information.



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**Jane Stout, Steph Maher, Irene Bottero, Cian White** and **Sarah Gabel** attended and presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Irish Pollinator Research Network (IPRN)** meeting in Maynooth. The IPRN was established in 2017 to bring together pollinator researchers on the island of Ireland, and this year's meeting was attended by >30 participants from a range of organisations including TCD, UCD, Maynooth University, DCU and the DAFM.



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Botany postdoc **John Devaney** was a member of the Biological & Ecological Sciences judging panel at this year **BT Young Scientist** event. Held at the RDS Dublin from Jan 8th - 11th, the competition showcased 550 high-quality science projects carried out by secondary school students across Ireland.

There were a huge number of plant science projects at this year competition, with projects such as "*Herbal Leys; Milk Production for the future*", "*Amaranth in Ireland: a sustainable path for food security, rural regeneration and climate mitigation*", and "*An investigation on the effectiveness of willow in promoting riverbank biodiversity*" among the prize winners. The future looks bright for botany in Ireland!



## 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 2019 EcoEvo Hall of Fame](#)



Every year, contributors to the blog look back on their favourite papers of the previous year and tell us what it was about these publications that stuck in their mind so much. With a range of different topics and reasons, it's always great to see what each of us thinks makes for a great paper! Find out what we elected as our favourite papers in [2018](#) and [2017](#), and read on for this year's entries:

- Perrot-Minnot, M. J., Guyonnet, E., Bollache, L., & Lagrue, C. (2019). **Differential patterns of definitive host use by two fish acanthocephalans occurring in sympatry: *Pomphorhynchus laevis* and *Pomphorhynchus tereticollis*.** *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife*, 8, 135-144.  
Chosen by [Paula Tierney](#)
- da Silva, R., Pearce-Kelly, P., Zimmerman, B., Knott, M., Foden, W., & Conde, D. A. (2019). **Assessing the conservation potential of fish and corals in aquariums globally.** *Journal for nature conservation*, 48, 1-11.  
Chosen by [Andrew Mooney](#)
- Korell, L., Auge, H., Chase, J. M., Harpole, S., & Knight, T. M. (2019). **We need more realistic climate change experiments for understanding ecosystems of the future.** *Global change biology*.  
Chosen by [Sam Ross](#)
- Pepke, M. L., Irestedt, M., Fjeldså, J., Rahbek, C., & Jønsson, K. A. (2019). **Reconciling supertramps, great speciators and relict species with the taxon cycle stages of a large island radiation (*Aves: Campephagidae*).** *Journal of Biogeography*, 46(6), 1214-1  
Chosen by [Fionn Ó Marcaigh](#)
- White, M. P., Alcock, I., Grellier, J., Wheeler, B. W., Hartig, T., ... & Fleming, L. E. (2019). **Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing.** *Scientific reports*, 9(1), 1-11.  
Chosen by [Cian White](#)
- Queiroz, N., Humphries, N. E., Couto, A., Vedor, M., Da Costa, I., Sequeira, A. M., ... & Abrantes, K. (2019). **Global spatial risk assessment of sharks under the footprint of fisheries.** *Nature*, 572(7770), 461-466.  
Chosen by [Jenny Bortoluzzi](#)
- Tikhonov, M., Kachru, S., & Fisher, D. S. (2019). **Modeling the interplay between plastic tradeoffs and evolution in changing environments.** *BioRxiv*, 711531.  
Chosen by [Jean-Francois Arnoldi](#)

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