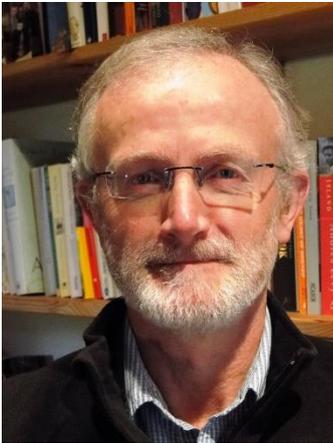


[The Trinity College Dublin Botany Department Newsletter](#)**New People**

Welcome to **Henry Lamb**, our new Adjunct Professor in Botany. Henry is a graduate from Botany and was class mates with **Norman Allott**. Henry went on to do his PhD in Cambridge and is Professor of Quaternary Science at Aberystwyth University. He is currently undertaking research in east Africa linked to early hominids as well as analyses of deep laminated sediments from a Japanese crater lake. He is planning more research in the Irish midlands over the coming years. Henry Joined us for coffee in the library earlier this month and he will be delivering an inaugural lecture early in the New Year.

He can be contacted at hfl@aber.ac.uk and you can find out more about his research [here](#).

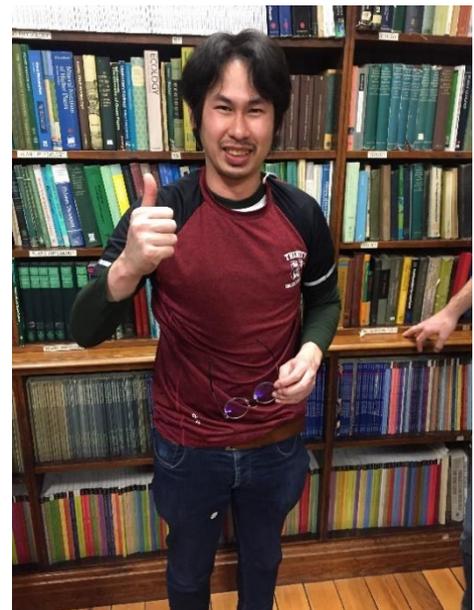
Accomplishments

There was great festivity in the Botany Library on the evening of Thursday 7th November to celebrate the completion of the PhD by **Ponlawat Pattarakulpisutti**, aka **Tai**.

Tai's thesis has now been lodged with the College library and he has returned to Thailand to take up his teaching duties at Surattani Rajabhat University.

Tai was investigating the impact of the monsoonal flooding regime on the vegetation composition of floodplain forests along the Ta Pi river in peninsular Thailand. This is one of the last un-dammed large rivers in South East Asia and Tai's research has produced vital data for the conservation and restoration of the now very scarce floodplain forests across the region.

This was certainly an excuse for celebration and many bottles had to be opened to perfect the toasting technique from the numerous cultures that were represented on the evening.



Tai sporting his new Trinity College cycling jersey presented to him as a reminder of his time in the Botany Department. (Top)



The motley crew toasting Tai's achievements with him wearing yet another new jersey! (Left)

Publications

Data Science: **Matthew Saunders** and **Ana Lopez-Ballesteros** are co-authors on a paper on the "[Development of a Climate Forcing Observation System for Africa: Data-Related Considerations](#)" that has been published in the Data Science Journal. This paper discusses the appropriate observation requirements for the variables that are considered essential to constrain Africa-wide climate forcing, with particular focus on data gaps, needs and priorities.

International Union for Conservation of Nature: The European Red List for Bryophytes following the IUCN criteria is coming out! The publication summarizing the threat status of each species was just published. Here's an extract: "[A miniature world in decline: European Red List of Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts](#) provides the first-ever comprehensive assessment of the extinction risk of all native bryophyte species to Europe. With 1,817 species assessed, this assessment highlights that 22.5% of bryophyte species are threatened with extinction in Europe" H. Delgado Rosa in Hodgetts *et al.* 2019.

Although only the regional coordinators of the project get to be authors of the complete red list, **Maude Baudraz**, from Zoology, collaborated as an assessor for over 30 species in the list and is delighted to share the final work with us today!

Irish Times: **Jane Stout** did an interview with Sean Duke for an article entitled "[Our campaign to eliminate insects is self-destructive](#)"

Projects and Funding



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A small delegation from Botany (**Jane Stout**, **Matt Saunders**, **Jenny McElwain** and **Daniel Kelly**) visited Birr Castle on Friday 8th November to discuss potential future collaborative projects with Lord Rosse and General Manager of Birr Castle Grainne O Malley.

A future joint project to digitize the **Birr Castle living plant collections** (estimated 5000 species) and Trinity Botanic Gardens Collections (estimated 5000 species) is planned with a joint application to SFI discovery programme in 2020/2021.

Discussions will continue of a range of additional collaborative projects.

Jane Stout is leading a project to complete a biodiversity audit at **Áras an Uachtaráin**. Postdocs, **Aoibheann Gaughran**, **Ruth Kelly** and **Steph Maher**, PhD student **Cian White**, Emeritus **Paul Dowding** and the infamous **Collie Ennis** are part of the team of experts involved in the project. See [here](#).

Events and Activities

Catherine Farrell led a series of workshops for the EPA-funded **INCASE project**, led by **Jane Stout**. The workshops, with project steering committee members and other stakeholders, determined case-study catchments, explored data sharing, and allowed initial development of data sheets to progress creation of natural capital accounts. See project website [incaseproject.com](#).

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Environmental Sciences Field Trip



Matthew Saunders participated in the **Tropical Ecology and Conservation** module which comprises a nine day residential field course in East Africa. The module introduces students to the ecology and biodiversity of various ecosystems and habitats in Kenya, ranging from aquatic ecosystems to tropical forests and arid grasslands.



Science Week

Jenny McElwain gave two talks for science week and took part in Newstalk's Moncrieff's show - all themed around climate change and how plants can be used as a technology for climate action. The talks included a lecture co-hosted by [The Botanic Gardens Glasnevin and Teagasc](#) on 14th November and a short presentation and discussion session at the launch of the Irish Association for Primary Science Education (IAPSE) on the theme of climate change education in primary schools and citizen science projects - see [here](#).

Jane Stout also did an interview as part of Science week, with TheJournal.ie for SFI. The resulting article is entitled "[Ireland's ecosystem is home to almost 16,500 species - here are 7 you may not have spotted](#)".

On the occasion of Science Week, the beautiful Botany Building hosted a radio live show for the 10th anniversary of **Futureproof**. The presenter **Jonathan McCrea** - with various panels of guest speakers - discussed climate action, the science of climate change and the cutting-edge research that is attempting to help us tackle the vital signs of the issues around the globe. He also reminisced about ten years of Science Broadcasting for Ireland's only science radio show. The podcast of the event is available [here](#).

FUTUREPROOF



Meetings and Conferences



Jane Stout, **Catherine Farrell**, **Hannah Hamilton** and **Andrew Neill** took part in a **Bord Iascaigh Mhara** event on "Exploring Natural Capital Solutions for our Shared Marine Environment". Jane gave a presentation on the Irish Forum on Natural Capital and work to date – more information [here](#).

***BIM event** - People from left to right :
Carl Obst (IDEEA), Grainne Devine (BIM),
Jane Stout (IFNC), Jim O'Toole (BIM),
Mark Eigenraam (IDEEA)*

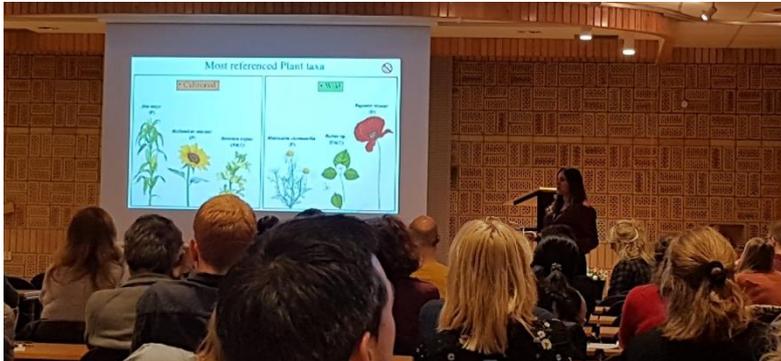
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Jane Stout and **Hannah Hamilton** presented to the Dublin Branch of the Irish Wildlife Trust on the **natural capital approach**. Despite some initial scepticism, the audience welcomed the potential of using the language of business and economics to contribute to nature conservation efforts, particularly at policy and corporate level.

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Scandinavian Association for Pollination Ecology Conference

Jane Stout, Simon Hodge, Cian White, Elena Zioga and Irene Bottero attended the Scandinavian Association for Pollination Ecology conference in Backagården in southern Sweden. This is the premiere pollination ecology conference and was attended by more than 130 delegates from across the world. **Elena** and **Irene** both gave oral presentations, whilst **Jane** and **Cian** presented posters.



Whilst in Backagården, **Jane** and **Simon** led an EU PoshBee project meeting for the work package TCD is co-ordinating, which both **Irene** and **Elena** attended.



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 ...



[Home and Away: Would a Rosella by any other name smell as sweet?](#)
by Jacintha Kong



[EcoEvo Blog Photo competition winner announcement!](#)
(Spoiler: it's not this one)

[Erika Soldi](#) and her "Green Micro Planet, where fungi and plants are close trading partners" was selected in the top 5.



[The seven stages of fieldwork grief](#)
By Sam Ross



[Home and Away: Monotreme mistakes](#)
By Jacintha Kong

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