

EMA Electronic Newsletter

Issue #2, 21 February 2005

European Mycological Association: www.euromould.org

Newsletter edited by T.V. Andrianova & D.W. Minter
Address for correspondence: tand@darwin.relc.com



Message from the President

Dear friends and colleagues,

Thank you for your continued involvement in our new Association and for the many contributions made by different members since its inception. As reported in the EMA's first Electronic Newsletter (15 September 2004), our Constitution was accepted by a very strong majority with the result that the Association has now begun to function. This second Electronic Newsletter contains information about recent developments within the Association. In particular, the EMA is now recognized by the *International Mycological Association* as the representative body for mycology in Europe, and listed as such on its website.

The first meeting of the EMA Governing Committee has been held, in Prague, in January 2005. Important policy decisions were made there: the EMA will promote mycology as a discipline separate from botany and zoology, and avoid and discourage fungi being treated as a group of plants, mycology being treated as a branch of botany, and mycologists being treated as botanists; subscription levels were established; approval was given to a proposal establishing a Mediterranean Mycology Working Group; outline plans were agreed for an EMA-wide collective project building an internet electronic mycological library.

Work has begun on the XV Congress of European Mycologists to be held in St Petersburg in 2007. Preparations are also being made for other EMA meetings connected to be held in 2005 and 2006. Information about those meetings will be posted on the Association's website. I look forward to meeting as many as possible of you at those events.

David Minter

First meeting of the Governing Committee

The first meeting of the Governing Committee was held in the Czech Republic at the Narodni Muzeum, Prague, from 29-30 January 2005. The EMA President is grateful to Dr T.V. Andrianova and Dr J. Holec, who organized the event without even a shoestring budget, and to participants who travelled and were accommodated entirely at their own expense. The EMA warmly thanks Dr M. Lukes (Director of the Museum), the Czech mycologists (Dr V. Antonín, Mgr L. Edrová, Dr J. Holec and Dr J. Kokourková) who so ably hosted the event, and Prof. T. Schumacher, President of the IMA, who also attended the meeting.



Mycologists in Prague (left to right): Jan Holec, Sasha Kovalenko, Trond Schumacher, Dave Minter, Erast Parmasto, Reinhard Agerer, Steph Diamandis, Maria Ławrynowicz, Tetiana Andrianova, Reinhold Pöder, Giuseppe Venturella, David Hawksworth, Anders Bohlin, Leo van Griensven, Vladimir Antonín, Jana Kokourková.

The meeting had two parts. The first, which was open and informal in character, addressed different aspects of European mycology, looking in particular at the EMA and the problems and challenges it faces. A programme was offered as a general guide, and in each case, named participants were invited to encourage discussion by saying a few words on the indicated topic.

The following topics were covered: "Some words about Czech mycology" (Dr V. Antonin / Dr J. Holec); "Activities of the EMA in its first year" (Dr D.W. Minter / Dr T.V. Andrianova); "The EMA and its role within the IMA" (Prof. T. Schumacher); "What makes the EMA something real?" (Dr R. Pöder); "Financing the EMA" (Dr S. Diamandis); "Future possible activities of the EMA (experimental & applied mycology)" (Prof. L. van Griensven); "The EMA and its relation with other European mycological societies" (Prof. D.L. Hawksworth); "Communicating with members and the scientific world: options for the EMA" (Prof. R. Agerer); "Future possible activities of the EMA (field & systematic mycology)" (Prof. E. Parmasto); "Proposal for an EMA specialist Mediterranean Group" (Dr G. Venturella); "Future possible activities of the EMA (generation of policies & projects)" (Dr D.W. Minter); "The ECCF and its role within the EMA" (Mr A. Bohlin); "A review of CEMs from their initiation to the present" (Prof. M. Ławrynowicz); "XV CEM (St Petersburg, 2007)" (Dr A.Ye. Kovalenko). Dr C. Perini was due to speak on "The EMA and non-mycological societies", but exceptional weather conditions in Italy prevented her from attending the meeting.

After the open meeting, there was a formal business meeting of the Governing Committee itself. The results and decisions made at that meeting are reported throughout the rest of this newsletter.

Policy: mycology is not botany

The Governing Committee considered the relation between mycology and other life sciences, and ruled that the new Association would, as a matter of policy, promote mycology as a discipline separate from botany, microbiology and zoology, and would avoid and discourage fungi being treated as a group of plants, mycology being treated as a branch of botany, and mycologists being treated as botanists.

Subscription levels established

At the Governing Committee meeting, Dr Diamandis presented a table showing different levels of GDP in European countries. He proposed a two-tier payment structure, with a division at the €1000 GDP level (between Greek Cyprus and the Czech Republic in his table). The benefits and disadvantages of tiered payment structures were discussed, and an alternative three-tiered structure was considered. Following debate, votes were taken: a clear majority was in favour of a two-tier structure divided at the €1000 GDP level as proposed by Dr Diamandis. As a result, Members and Associates from the following European countries qualify for the lower tier of subscriptions: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Rumania, the Russian Federation, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine. Different possible levels of subscription fee were also debated. Following examination of various options, votes showed clear majorities for annual subscriptions as follows:

- €20 / €10 (upper / lower tier) for Founder Members and Ordinary Members;
- €10 / €5 (upper / lower tier) for Student Members and Associates;
- €500 for a sustaining member.

The subscription for Life Membership was set at 15 × the Founder Member / Ordinary Member annual subscription.

Benefits for members were discussed and it was agreed that members and associates should receive some discount in registration fees for Congresses of European Mycologists.

So it's now time to pay!

All Members of the EMA are now urged to send their subscription for 2005 as soon as possible to Dr S. Diamandis (address: NAGREF - Forest Research Institute, Vassilika, Thessaloniki, 57006, Greece. E-mail: diamandi@fri.gr).

Membership Secretary appointed

Dr Izabella Kałucka, of the University of Łódź, Poland (ikalucka@biol.uni.lodz.pl) has kindly agreed to take on the job of Membership Secretary. At the time of preparing this *Newsletter*, information about members has not yet been passed to her. At present, therefore, if you wish to report any change of address, please send the information to d.minter@cabi.org. A notice will be posted on the EMA website when Dr Kałucka is ready to receive communications regarding membership.

ECCF Meeting, Spain, October 2005

The next meeting of the EMA's conservation body, the European Council for Conservation of Fungi, will take place in Córdoba, Spain from 12-16 October 2005. For further information about this meeting, contact Mr Anders Bohlin (anders.bohlin@telia.com). The European red list of Basidiomycetes currently in preparation will be an important topic for that meeting. The scope of ECCF activities was discussed by the Governing Committee, and it was agreed that microscopic fungi and lichen-forming fungi should also be covered by the ECCF. A debate about how to achieve that will form part of the Córdoba agenda.

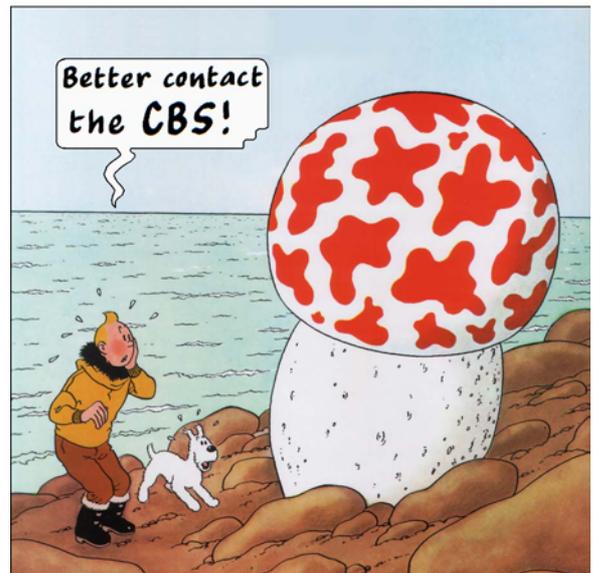


The new Mycology Building at the Komarov Institute in St Petersburg - scheduled for completion and occupation in early 2005 - congratulations to Sasha Kovalenko and his colleagues for a real achievement in promoting mycology

Mediterranean Mycology Working Group

A proposal by a group of mycologists from mediterranean countries to form a Mediterranean Mycology Working Group within the EMA was presented by Dr G. Venturella and was discussed at the Governing Committee meeting in Prague. A vote showed a clear majority to accept the proposal which had been formulated at a meeting in Palermo in May 2004. Dr Venturella has now begun to establish the group which, it is hoped, will include representatives from around the Mediterranean and from other European countries with a mediterranean climate. Those interested in participating should, in the first instance, contact him (e-mail address: gvent@unipa.it). Further information about this Working Group will be posted on the EMA website when it becomes available.

1904-2004 Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures



Centenary congratulations from the
European Mycological Association



In the EMA's first Electronic Newsletter, it was reported that Dr Pedro Crous, Director of the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures was presented with a small picture to commemorate the institute's centenary. That picture, with thanks to Herdé, is reproduced above.

XV CEM St Petersburg, 2007

At the Governing Committee meeting in Prague, Dr Kovalenko described the proposed arrangements for this Congress. Dr Minter advised that the domain name XVCEM.org was already registered for the Association. The proposed programme was discussed, and there was a strong feeling that it needed to have a wider scope. Following discussions, it was agreed to add sessions on various topics including the fungal genome, lichen forming fungi, other fungal symbioses and plant pathology. The composition of the Organizing Committee was discussed. The President and Secretary are ex officio members. It was agreed that Prof. van Griensven and Prof. Hawksworth should be added to the Committee, and two other specialists should be invited to join the Organizing Committee.

Collaborative project

At the XIV CEM in Crimea many Founder Members commented that a collective project would be a good way to bring the new Association together. The Governing Committee considered this question and agreed. A proposal was debated for a collective project to digitize old and hard-to-obtain mycological literature, making it freely available on the internet, and it was agreed that the Association could participate. Any EMA Member or Associate with suitable equipment and access to appropriate mycological literature will be able to participate, donating their time to digitize publications using a scanner. The scanned images will then be stored in a directory on the EMA's website, being made available through a new EMA interface and/or with appropriate acknowledgements through existing interfaces provided by the two collaborative websites Cyberliber (www.cybertruffle.org.uk/cyberliber) and LibriFungorum (www.librifungorum.org). Further information about this project and how to participate will be posted on the EMA website.

A new fund is to be set up

The Vice-President has proposed to establish a fund within the Association to provide support for mycologists who need financial assistance to attend Association meetings and Congresses of European Mycologists. The proposal must be further considered by the Governing Committee. When the fund is established, information - initially about how to contribute to the fund and later, if successful, about how to apply for support from the fund - will be posted on the Association's website.

Meetings programme

The Governing Committee agreed that a meetings programme should now be developed. Prof. Parmasto stressed the effectiveness and success of small and not very crowded meetings. The Secretary reported that there had so far been no response to requests for a volunteer Meetings Secretary. She asked those present to try to help resolve this situation with the understanding that, if a volunteer is found, that person can then be co-opted without further delay (at the time of preparing this Newsletter, one Founder Member has indicated that they may be able to help). In the meantime, the President said he was prepared to organize a small number of modest-sized meetings to get the programme started. Possible topics were discussed, and the following were considered suitable (but not exclusively) potential subjects for meetings:

- A discomycete workshop, perhaps based in the Czech Republic;
- A workshop on hypogeous fungi, perhaps based in Poland, perhaps in 2006;
- A meeting dealing with invasive fungi;
- A meeting dealing with climate change and mycology;
- A meeting in Sweden in spring 2007 to commemorate the Linnaeus tercentenary.

In addition, a further event has been proposed in Slovakia, at which the EMA Council may also be able to meet.

Publicizing the EMA

Now that the Association is functioning with a Constitution, an effort is being made to publicise the activities of the EMA. If you are webmaster of a mycological internet site, or if you know someone who is, you can help by ensuring a hyperlink to the EMA website (<http://www.euromould.org/index.htm>) is added to any links provided by your internet site, and by sending a note to d.minter@cabi.org to say this has been done.

Mycological news

XVI Symposium of Mycologists & Lichenologists of the Baltic States, Līgatne, Latvia, 21-25 September 2005

The Symposium has the following sections: Systematics & Taxonomy, Ecology & Diversity, Conservation, Applied mycology. Līgatne is situated in the Gauja National Park (<http://www.gnp.lv/eng/index.htm>), 70 km from Riga.

Organizing Committee: Diāna Meiere (Natural History Museum of Latvia), Bankina Biruta (Latvian University of Agriculture), Ilze Irbe (Latvian State Institute of Wood Chemistry), Ligita Liepiņa (University of Latvia), Alfons Piterāns (University of Latvia), Ilze Priekule (Latvian State Centre of Plant Protection), Edgars Vimba (University of Latvia).

Abstracts must be written in English on one A4 page with a headline (title), author(s), address(es), and text of up to 250 words maximum. Authors should indicate the topic and whether they wish an oral presentation or a poster. Full texts of presentations, both oral or poster, will be published in the proceedings. Deadlines:

- Pre-Registration (28 February 2005);
- Abstracts Submission (28 February 2005);
- Notification of acceptance of oral/poster papers to authors (15 April 2005);
- Second Circular (15 April 2005);
- Receipt of full papers (30 June 2005).

Contact address: Diāna Meiere, Latvian Mycological Society, K. Barona 4, Riga, Latvia, LV 1712. Phone: +371 7356036. Fax + 371 7356027. E-mail: miko@dabasmuzejs.gov.lv.

Conference “Fungi in Natural and Man-made Ecosystems” (in memory of Prof. A. Bondartsev). Komarov Institute, St Petersburg, Russia, 24-28 April 2005

Conference topics are: Phylogeny, Systematics, Biodiversity, Geography of Fungi & Lichens; Ecology of Fungi & Lichens in Natural & Disturbed Ecosystems, Conservation; Physiology & Biochemistry, Ontogeny of Fungi & Lichens; Interrelation (Symbiosis) of Fungi with Plants (Mycorrhizas, Pathogenesis). Working languages are Russian and English (where appropriate, translation will be provided). President of Organizing Committee: Prof. Margarita A. Bondartseva.

EMA Members are invited to participate. Suitable papers will be considered for inclusion in the programme. Those interested should contact the Organizing Committee with the title of any offered presentation. Papers can be written in Russian or English and may be up to 4 pages of A4 in length. Deadlines:

- Registration (15 February 2005);
- Registration fee submission (15 February 2005);
- Papers Submission (28 February 2005).

Contact address: Dr Vera M. Kotkova, Congress Secretary, Komarov Botanical Institute, Popova Street 2, Sankt-Petersburg, 197376, Russia. Tel.: +7(812)3464479. E-mail: mycoconf@mail.ru.

New websites of interest to mycologists

Two big websites, already noted earlier in this newsletter, have recently been set up to deal with mycological publications. Cyberliber (www.cybertruffle.org.uk/cyberliber) and LibriFungorum (www.librifungorum.org) together provide access to over 60,000 bibliographic references to published mycological works. Cyberliber is relatively strong in earlier publications and literature in the Cyrillic alphabet. Both of these websites are trying to build an electronic library of scanned mycological literature freely available on the internet through collaboration to avoid duplication of effort. Already several volumes of Saccardo, and a substantial part of Fries' *Systema Mycologicum* can be viewed in this way. The availability of such literature through these two websites has already resulted in major enhancements to the IndexFungorum website (<http://www.indexfungorum.org/Names/Names.asp>).

Slovenian mycologists have just set up a website providing an inventory of their country's fungi, with distribution maps, a red list, and a downloadable recording package. The address of the English language version is: www.gozdis.si/departments/forestprotection/boletus/arealnekarte/eng/bi.htm.

Another website which may be of interest is Cybertruffle's Fungal Valhalla (www.cybertruffle.org.uk/valhalla) which provides information about dead mycologists, in some cases linking entries to photographs or other portraits, biographies, obituaries, and lists of publications (these are made through a direct link to Cyberliber). An upgrade enabling the user to find fungal taxa established by each of those mycologists is planned for later this year.

Special Offer of Book

Alfonso de Mena Calvet "Rúsulas Europeas" vol.1 & vol.2. Alfonso de Mena Calvet has published a book devoted to the genus *Russula* in Europe. The language of the book, which is the result of years of study, observations and efforts, is Spanish. Further information is available at the following internet address: <http://www.telefonica.net/web2/rillmenamepa/Bolets/index.htm>.

Other news

XVII International Botanical Congress Vienna, Austria, 17-23 July 2005

As its name suggests, the Congress is overwhelmingly oriented to botany. At the time of preparing this Newsletter there was no explicit mycological content in the sessions advertized on the Congress website (<http://www.abc2005.ac.at/>), though two of the 31 Congress field excursions deal with fungi, one for lichen-forming species, the other for non-lichen-forming species. Mycologists may be interested in the nomenclature session immediately preceding the Congress. The call for abstracts is open and other online services are available on the Congress web site, as follows:

- Abstract submission (deadline 31 January 2005);
- Registration (deadline for reduced fee 15 April 2005);
- Accommodation;
- Updated Programme (symposia, excursions, etc.);
- Second circular & additional information.

No Fungi: no life

Examples of why mycologists need a co-ordinated and loud voice for fungal conservation. If you know other examples, please send them to d.minter@cabi.org.

European Commission Nature & Biodiversity

This website (http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/mission_statement/index_en.htm) contains the European Commission's "mission statement" on biodiversity. Mammals, birds, reptiles & amphibians, fish, plants and invertebrates are all mentioned. Fungi are not.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

This fund supports conservation work in the Caucasus. The priorities listed on its website for the Caucasus (http://www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/where_we_work/caucasus/investment_priorities.xml) include the statement: provide funds for research and implementation of the Caucasus Red List re-assessments, particularly for poorly represented taxa such as plants, invertebrates, reptiles and fish. A recent proposal to do exactly this type of work for fungi in the Caucasus met the response that "fungi are not a priority".

IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Groups

This website (<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sqs/sqs.htm>) lists the following categories of Specialist Groups: Plants, Mammals, Birds, Reptiles & Amphibians, Fishes, Invertebrates. There are 22 specialist groups for birds, including individual groups for rails, swans, and woodcocks & snipes. By comparison, fungi are not recognized as a separate group. Only two fungal specialist groups exist, one for lichen-forming fungi, the other for non-lichen-forming fungi. These are included within "Plants".

Conservation International Biodiversity Hotspots

Searching this website (<http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/Hotspots/>) for "fungi" produced no hits.