NEMATROPICA



THIRD INTERNATIONAL NEMATOLOGY CONGRESS ABSTRACTS

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PREFACE

"What We Are Going to Be Should Concern Us More than What We Are"

This is the message provided by the worldwide exchange of information and ideas at the Third International Nematology Congress (THINC), organized by ONTA, ESN, and SON and hosted by INRA, ORSTOM, and CIRAD in Guadeloupe, July 7-12, 1996. While classical plant nematology remains indispensable, new and vital disciplines were well represented at THINC.

In the second half of this century, the use of efficient nematicides demonstrated the great importances of nematodes as major world agricultural pests. Much research was devoted in this period to the identification of nematode diseases and their control, especially with chemical strategies. After the 1970's, the concern for the environmental and human impact of the improper use of chemical management of nematode pests promoted a new phase of research focusing on microscopy, protein electrophoresis analysis, and more recently, all the spectrum of molecular techniques in nematology brought new opportunities and achievement. It has been possible to analyze the membranes supporting virus transmission in virus-vectoring nematodes, to collect and identify molecules produced by nematodes which are involved in the formation of specialized trophic cells, and also to isolate genes determining specific plant-nematode interactions. Also and least we understate, there has been dynamic and ever-increasing work with entomopathogenic nematodes and basic ecology of plant-parasitic and free-living nematodes.

THINC provided a real opportunity to establish a bridge among the many disciplines which are interconnected with agricultural/environmental nematology. The impact of these disciplines makes it clear that some of us will no longer bear the pure "plant nematologist" logo on our cap. Already, among our assemblage are those involved in molecular studies who forgot they once studied nematodes, while others continue to integrate their nematological background with agricultural disciplines. Some, close to retirement, will never be replaced, their mission no longer pursued. However, we believe strongly, at this ending of the century, that agricultural nematology will continue to bear fruit into the next.

The common effort of ONTA, ESN, and SON to organize this Congress was symbolic because at the end of the 20th century, developing nations, mainly tropical, require the concerted efforts of scientists worldwide to assure an adequate and safe diet to 5-6 billion people. We need the means to achieve efficient integrated management of nematodes in order to limit crop losses. THINC demonstrated the importance of new biological knowledge relative to nematodes in the integrated management of pests.

The scientific event of THINC? The tremendous job by Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kàbana, his team and the members of the Program Committee satisfied all, not only the nematologists. The Congress itself? Will you ever forget the local music? Anyway, we did it, all together (hurricane Bertha included), and it was nothing less than an incredibly great, warm, and dynamic moment of science and friendship.

Many thanks are due to our local, national, and international sponsors who were determinant for the local arrangements of the Congress. In particular, we appreciated the support of the Regional Council and General Council of Guadeloupe; the Ministeries of Research (DISTNB), Cooperation, and Foreign Affairs of France; the European Community (DG12); CTA (Lome' 4); and many very supportive private companies. Specieal recognition is extended to the members of the planning committees (especially Financial and Local Arrangement Committees) and Coordinators. The efforts, time, and unselfish dedication of these persons made this scientific event possible.

Alain Kermarrec and Antonio Dalmasso for all of us.

THINC ABSTRACTS

July 7-12, 1996 Gosier, Guadeloupe Antilles, French West Indies

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