



*The Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences and the
National Botanic Garden of Belgium*

are pleased to invite you to the

International Symposium
BOTANICAL DIVERSITY:
EXPLORATION, UNDERSTANDING AND USE

Thursday 16 – Saturday 18 September, 2010

The United Nations have declared 2010 to be the Biodiversity Year. The Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences and the National Botanic Garden of Belgium join the numerous initiatives in organizing a three days symposium. All groups of plants – green plants, fungi, selected groups of protists – will be covered. Themes are (1) history of exploration, (2) study of richness, evolution and conservation, and (3) traditional and modern uses. Geographical emphasis is tropical.

This symposium covers a wide range of topics and shows the multidisciplinary nature of research in the field of biodiversity. The first theme (History of exploration) is about history and humanities. The second (Study of richness, evolution and conservation) refers to the biological sciences and more specifically to phylogeny and systematics of plants in the wide sense. The third component (Traditional and modern uses) concerns the more practical aspects and economic botany.

Aims

- stimulate a wide interest to the topic in the Biodiversity Year
- highlight the contribution of Belgian scientists to overseas biodiversity research
- demonstrate the importance of biodiversity conservation

We warmly invite you to participate and we will do our utmost to make your stay in Belgium memorable.

General Information

Language

The official languages of the congress are English (preferred) and French.

Venue

The opening ceremony, oral presentations and poster sessions as well as all related social activities will take place at the National Botanic Garden of Belgium.

The Botanic Garden is housed at Meise, in the northern outskirts of Brussels. In 1938 the Belgian state bought the Bouchout estate in Meise, a domain of 92 ha, from the Royal Family to build a new botanic garden. Formerly the Botanic Garden was situated in the centre of Brussels, but this former location in town was closed down at the beginning of the seventies of last century.

The symposium will be held in Bouchout Castle in the heart of the Botanic Garden; the oldest parts of the castle date back to the 12th century. The last inhabitant was empress Charlotte of Mexico, sister of King Leopold II.

National Botanic Garden of Belgium
Domein van Bouchout
Nieuwelaan 38
B-1860 Meise
BELGIUM
<http://www.botanicgarden.be>

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e-mail: congress@br.fgov.be

website: <http://www.br.fgov.be/RESEARCH/MEETINGS/Botanicaldiversitysymposium.php>

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The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office

Scientific Committee

Prof. M. De Dapper, Prof. J.-P. Descy, Prof. P. Ozer, Prof. J. Rammeloo, Prof. E. Robbrecht, Prof. D. Swinne, Prof. L. André, Dr. S. Dessein, Prof. Em. F. Malaisse, Prof. J. Poesen, Prof. E. Van Ranst, Dr. C. Baeteman, Dr. D. de Lame, Prof. Em. Y. Verhasselt, Dr. J.-P. Malingreau, Prof. Em. A. Ozer, Prof. Em. J.-J. Symoens, Dr. T. Camelbeeck, Prof. Em. W. Loy, Prof. Em. R. Paepe & Prof. Em. J.J. Peters

Organizing Committee

Prof. M. De Dapper, Prof. J.-P. Descy, Dr. S. Dessein, Prof. J. Rammeloo, Prof. E. Robbrecht, Prof. D. Swinne, Prof. B. Vanhoudt, Mrs. A. Bogaerts, Mrs. C. Kosolovsky & Mrs. P. Bulanza

Contributions

Call for contributions

Delegates are invited to contribute to the congress. Contributions should be oral or poster presentations.

Participants interested in contributing are invited to submit an abstract of their proposed contribution before July 2, 2010. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to refuse a contribution or to propose a different form. Abstracts of accepted contributions will be published in the abstract book.

Instructions for contributions

Instructions for oral presentation

Each oral presentation will be strictly limited to 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of discussion. Oral presentations should be in English (preferred) or French. All powerpoint files should be delivered in the conference office at the Bouchout castle, a day before the lecture at the latest.

The conference hall will be fully equipped with audio-visual devices including microphones. The computer platform running PowerPoint software is IBM PC compatible only.

Instructions for poster presentation

Poster presentation is preferably in English or French. Posters will be displayed on smooth boards. Exhibitors are responsible for mounting posters and removing them. Materials for poster mounting will be provided. Authors should comply with the following guidelines when preparing posters: maximum size not to exceed 90 cm in width by 150 cm in height. Title, authors' names and affiliation should be included at the top of the poster. Lettering should be legible from a distance of 1m. The poster should consist of objectives, methods, results and discussions. It should be clear, simple and self-explanatory; although time will be reserved for poster viewing and discussion, posters must be understandable in the absence of the author.

Instructions for abstracts

Each abstract should be written in English (preferred) or French and limited to fewer than 400 words in length including title, author(s) and affiliation.

Abstracts should be clear and concise with objectives, methods, results, and conclusions. Authors can submit one abstract for the oral presentations and a maximum of two abstracts for the poster sessions, but they can also be listed as co-authors on other abstracts. When writing the abstract, we strongly recommend:

- the title should be in bold using small characters
- author(s) (last name in bold) on one line followed by the e-mail address of the first author; the presenting authors should be underlined
- affiliations on a separate line
- then a blank line before the text begins
- plain text, single line-spacing
- Times New Roman font, Font size 12
- 160 mm wide by 230 mm long

Names and terms represented by abbreviations must be written in full when they are first mentioned, with abbreviations in parentheses.

Send your abstracts by e-mail to congress@br.fgov.be as an MS-Word file attachment. The first authors will receive an e-mail acknowledgement from the Symposium organization within a few days of receipt of their abstracts. Hard copies should be mailed (or faxed) ONLY if there is no e-mail access. The Scientific Committee is responsible for reviewing the abstracts to be presented at the Symposium. All abstracts will be published in the series *Scripta Botanica Belgica*.

Abstract Example:

Oral presentation: _____ Poster presentation: _____

Botanical Diversity: Exploration, Understanding and Use

Jan Rammeloo, Elmar **Robbrecht & Danielle **Swinne****

Rammeloo@br.fgov.be

National Botanic Garden of Belgium, Department of Bryophyta & Thallophyta, Domein van Bouchout, B-1860 Meise, Belgium

Abstract's content [MS-Word, single-space typing, Times New Roman, font size 12]

One page maximum

Publication

Full papers from the Congress (oral and poster presentations) will be published by the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences.

Practical information

The symposium is free to all participants. Registration is necessary. Registration is done by completing the attached registration form and sending it by e-mail (congress@br.fgov.be), mail or fax (+32 2 260 09 45) to the Biodiversity Symposium Secretariat before August 2, 2010. Registration will be confirmed by e-mail. This entitles you to participate in all scientific activities and includes all lunches, coffee and tea breaks, as well as the reception on Saturday at noon. For the conference dinner on Friday evening an amount of 25 euro has to be paid before September 2, 2010.

For the accompanying persons we will organise a guided visit through the Botanic Garden of 1.5 hours on Saturday, September 18, during the morning. You can register for this on the registration form. After the tour you will have the possibility to join the participants of the congress at the reception.

Coming to Belgium

How to reach the Garden

See page: <http://www.botanicgarden.be/PUBLIC/GENERAL/howtoeach.php>

Applying for a Visa

All information you need to know for applying for a Visa you can find on the following website: http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/travel_to_belgium/visa_for_belgium/short_stay/

General information:

Ministry of Foreign affairs - Belgium:

Tel.: +32 2 501 84 72

<http://www.diplobel.fgov.be>

A list of all Belgian Embassies and Consulates you can consult on the following website: http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/embassies_and_consulates/

Insurance

It is recommended that participants arrange their own insurance against medical expenses, loss of life, accidents during the congress and loss of property. The organizing committee cannot accept responsibility for loss of life, accidents, illness or loss of property incurred by participants while in transit to and from Belgium or during their stay in Belgium.

Safety

There are no safety problems in the area. However, be always aware of pickpockets, especially when visiting larger cities. Within Brussels a few areas are not recommended to visit at night. You can get the information during the congress at the congress secretariat.

Weather

Sunshine is rather common in September, daytime temperature is about 17 °C, but cooler and rainy conditions may occur.

Tentative Program

Thursday, September 16, 2010

10.00 Registration and mounting of posters

11.00 Official opening

THEME 1 – HISTORY OF EXPLORATION

Topics considered in particular:

- Overseas plant hunters
- Exploration of the tropics

Dr. Lorelai KURY (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz – Fiocruz and Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro – UERJ - Brazil)
Accounts of tropical nature in scientific expeditions (18th and 19th centuries)

Dr. Jan VANDERSMISSEN (Université de Liège - Belgium)
Final title to be defined [*Biological exploration of the tropics*]

Friday, September 17, 2010

THEME 2 – STUDY OF RICHNESS, EVOLUTION AND CONSERVATION

Topics considered in particular:

- Measurement of biodiversity richness
- Phylogenetic and phylogeographic studies of botanical diversity
- Conservation biology of tropical plants
- *Ex situ* and *in situ* conservation

Dr. Pedro CROUS (Centraal Bureau voor Schimmelcultures, Utrecht – The Netherlands)
Fungal Biodiversity: hiding in plain sight

Dr. Inés O'FARRELL (Department of Ecology, Genetics and Evolution, University of Buenos Aires – Argentina)
Final title to be defined [*Phytoplankton biodiversity along a period of 10 years at different water bodies in Argentina*]

Dr. Irina IZAGUIRRE (Department of Ecology, Genetics and Evolution, University of Buenos Aires – Argentina)
Final title to be defined [*Latitudinal variation in phytoplankton diversity along a Patagonian-Antarctic transect*]

Dr. Gideon SMITH (South African National Biodiversity Institute, University of Pretoria – South Africa)

If conservation is a responsibility for all, why are taxonomists going extinct? Or are they? Perspectives from South Africa.

Dr. Pete LOWRY (Africa and Madagascar Department, Missouri Botanical Garden – USA)

The essential role of botanical exploration and natural history collections for informing conservation of tropical plants

Dr. Kingsley DIXON (Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Perth – Australia)

Final title to be defined [*Fire: reviewing traits with a focus on smoke stimulated germination*]

Dr. Benny BYTEBIER (Bews Herbarium, University of KwaZulu-Natal – South Africa)

Have phylogenetic studies contributed to a better understanding of the African flora?

Dr. Balthazar MPAWENAYO (Egerton University – Kenya)

The angiosperm flora associated with Lake Rwihinda (Burundi)

Dr. Muthama MUASYA (Department of Botany, University of Cape Town – South Africa)

On the recent origin and assembly of the African savanna biome – evidence from dated phylogenies

Dr. Shango MUTAMBUE (Ecole Régionale Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et Gestion Intégrés des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux, University of Kinshasa – RDCongo)

La place des produits forestiers non ligneux dans l'aménagement durable de la Réserve de biosphère de Luki en République Démocratique du Congo

Saturday, September 18, 2010

THEME 3 – TRADITIONAL AND MODERN USES

Topics considered in particular:

- Tropical ethnobotany
- Sustainable use
- Non timber forest products
- Biofuels
- Plants as architectural and technological models

Dr. Rainer BUSSMANN (William L. Brown Center, Missouri Botanical Garden – USA)

The William L. Brown Center at Missouri Botanical Garden: Two decades of global ethnobotanical research and sustainable resource development

Dr. Brice SINSIN (Faculté des Sciences agronomiques, Université d'Abomey-Calavi – Benin)

Final title to be defined [*Non timber forest products in West Africa*]

Dr. Elias BIZURU (Department of Biology, National University of Rwanda – Rwanda)

Final title to be defined [*Use of woody species from the forests of Rwanda and Burundi*]