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*Butomus umbellatus* or flowering rush is a perennial plant native to Eurasia. It has become rather rare in some parts of Europe. It is, however, regarded as an invasive species in the USA and is quite common in the Northern States, especially in the Great Lakes area. Flowering rush grows along shorelines and as a submersed plant in lakes and rivers. It was brought to the USA as a garden plant. It established later on in nature and replaced a number of endemic species. This example shows how ambivalent our view of nice looking plants can be and that a rare plant here in Europe can be a weed somewhere else in the world. The picture was taken at Lichenskie Park on September 2<sup>nd</sup> during an excursion at the occasion of the Aquatic Plant Symposium in Poznan, Poland. (Picture and text: Hansjörg Krährmer).

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## FROM THE BOARD

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues and friends,



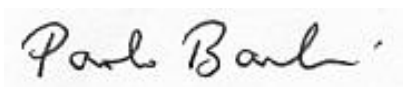
In Europe herbicide resistant (tolerant) crops are often at the forefront of discussion both in science and the public opinion – the latter being traditionally critical on genetically-engineered crops. The recent release of a peer-reviewed paper by a team lead by Prof. Gilles-Eric Séralini, based at the University of Caen (France) is likely to fuel this discussion. The paper, entitled “Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize” was published online in September 2012 in the peer-reviewed journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology*. According to the authors, the main findings of their paper, a long-term carcinogenesis study on rats, are that: (1) both Roundup-tolerant maize given as feed and Roundup diluted in drinking water provoked chronic hormone and sex dependent pathologies; (2) female rats mortality was 2 to 3 times higher mostly due to large mammary tumours and disabled pituitary; (3) male rats had liver congestions, necrosis, severe kidney nephropathies and large palpable tumours. The authors sustain that these results may be due to endocrine disruption linked to Roundup and a new metabolism due to the transgene. They also sustain that GMOs and formulated pesticides must be evaluated by long term studies to measure toxic effects.

Unsurprisingly, this study prompted reactions from government bodies, NGOs, scientific academies and the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), the latter accused by Séralini of downplaying food safety risks related to the use of GMOs in food and feed. The majority of the European scientists involved in the paper scrutiny highlighted substantial flaws, including insubstantial evidence, poor statistics and methodological approach, especially the inappropriateness of the rat strain used for long-term studies. They also urged Séralini to disclose his full dataset, something he refused to do until Monsanto release the full dataset which accompanied their dossier on Roundup-tolerant maize submitted to EFSA. I welcome all of you to read the paper and build up your own opinion. The paper can be accessed at the journal webpage: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0278691512005637>.

Whatever the outcome, the Séralini saga makes me think that the EWRS decision to establish a new Working Group on Herbicide Tolerant Crops (HTC) is particularly appropriate to keep the momentum and introduce the perspective of weed scientists in the scientific and larger debate on GM crops. The founders of this new Working Group will meet in Frankfurt at the end of November 2012 to set up the agenda for the future. SciCom has already provided them with its 'wish list', expecting that the Working Group will deal with multiple issues spanning from the agronomy and ecology of HTC to their environmental risk assessment, economic viability and beyond. You will find a report of this preliminary meeting in the next newsletter.

The next EWRS Symposium (Samsun, Turkey, 23 to 27 June 2013) is well on track. The local organisers received >200 contributions, which will be screened by SciCom in a dedicated meeting (Pisa, 5 November 2012) aimed to shape the final Scientific Programme. Please stay tuned to the Symposium website (<http://www.ewrs2013.org>) to get the most recent information about our major oncoming event.

*Ad majora!*



## OBITUARY

Elena Raquel Sánchez Olguín, a PhD student from Costa Rica attending the Weed Science Programme at Oregon State University (US) and recipient of a student award, sadly passed away at the age of 33 in Hangzhou, China. She became ill while attending the VI International Weed Science Congress and unfortunately was unable to recover.

The European Weed Research Society has always been committed to the support of young research fellows attending weed science events worldwide. For this reason I feel particularly touched by this sad news, and want to express sincere condolences to Elena's family and colleagues on behalf of the whole Society.

Paolo Bàrberi  
EWRS President

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## **16<sup>TH</sup> EWRS SYMPOSIUM: SUBSIDY TO YOUNG SCIENTISTS**

The EWRS has decided to allocate a total sum of 12,000 Euro to facilitate participation of young research fellows in the 16<sup>th</sup> EWRS Symposium taking place at the Ondokuz Mayıs University, Samsun, Turkey in June 24 to 27, 2013. Applicants must comply with the following conditions:

- to present an oral or poster paper at the Symposium,
- to not exceed 35 years of age at the starting date of the Symposium,
- to have not previously received a subsidy to participate in the EWRS / IWSS Symposia (e.g. in the 12<sup>th</sup> EWRS Symposium – Papendal, NL 2002; the 7<sup>th</sup> EWRS Mediterranean Symposium – Adana, TR 2003, the 4<sup>th</sup> IWSC – Durban, ZA 2004, the 13<sup>th</sup> EWRS Symposium - Bari, IT 2005 or the 14<sup>th</sup> EWRS Symposium - Hamar, NO 2007, 5<sup>th</sup> IWSC, Vancouver, CA 2008, 15<sup>th</sup> EWRS Symposium - Kaposvar, HU 2010, 6<sup>th</sup> IWSC – Hangzhou, China, 2012).

If you meet these three conditions and are interested in the possibility of getting a partial subsidy (maximum 500 Euro) from the EWRS, please send your application no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 (absolute deadline) by e-mail to the EWRS Scientific Secretary ([soukup@af.czu.cz](mailto:soukup@af.czu.cz)).

Your application must include:

- A Curriculum Vitae;
- A motivation letter, including the reasons why you are asking for subsidy;
- A budget (estimation of the costs for travel, registration, accommodation and meals, including the costs covered by your home institution);
- The abstract of your paper (version submitted to the session organisers after notification of acceptance: see first Symposium circular for details on author's duties and relevant deadlines).

Successful applicants will be warned by the EWRS Scientific Secretary in due time. Details on allocation of the subsidy will be provided later by the EWRS Treasurer.

Prof. Ing. Josef Soukup, CSc.  
EWRS Scientific Secretary

## **INVITATION TO HOST THE 17<sup>TH</sup> EWRS SYMPOSIUM IN 2015**

Dear EWRS members,

As you all know, EWRS Symposia represent the most important forum of our Society for meeting, interacting, and discussing weed science-related issues with scientists from all over Europe and overseas.

The 17<sup>th</sup> EWRS Symposium is scheduled for 2015. If you are interested in hosting this important event, please send a letter of intent (preferably by e-mail) to the Scientific Secretary before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. In order to give the EWRS Scientific Committee a sound basis for evaluating the received proposals, please indicate:

- The requirements (visa, health insurance, etc.) to enter your country;
- The situation, size, and facilities of the venue;
- The accommodation facilities for participants (estimated cost range);
- Estimated conference fees;
- The public transport facilities (international connections, e.g. airports, railway stations, etc.);
- The names of the institutions and local EWRS members who are willing to actively participate in the Programme Committee;
- Any other issues that might play in favour of your suggested venue.



The EWRS Scientific Committee will actively help to organise the Symposium in close connection with the Programme Committee and will provide seed money for the event. As usual, all Working Groups of the EWRS Scientific Committee will offer their assistance to put together the Scientific Programme of the Symposium. The venue selected to host the 17<sup>th</sup> EWRS Symposium will be announced during the closing session of the 16<sup>th</sup> EWRS Symposium (Samsun, Turkey, 24-27 June 2013).

I look forward to receiving your proposals!

Prof. Ing. Josef Soukup, CSc.  
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## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

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### EWRS EDUCATION AND TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE FREE STATISTICAL SOFTWARE R

Jens Carl Streibig; Coordinator of the EWRS Working Group 'Education and Training'; [jcs@life.ku.dk](mailto:jcs@life.ku.dk)

The title of this specific course presented during the VI<sup>th</sup> International Weed Science Congress, Hangzhou, China was 'Use of linear and nonlinear regression in physical, chemical and biological weed control'. The course was held by Jens Carl Streibig of the Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Uncertainty happens and we must use statistics to determine how closely data correspond to our working hypotheses. A total of 13 students from five countries participated in order to get an idea of how to use regression models with **R**, which within the last few years has become the *lingua franca* in the quest for proper graphical and statistical analyses of biological experiments.



Figure 1 Working hard during the Workshop and a group picture after the handing over of certificates (Photo, Rahamdad Khan and Hussain Zahid)

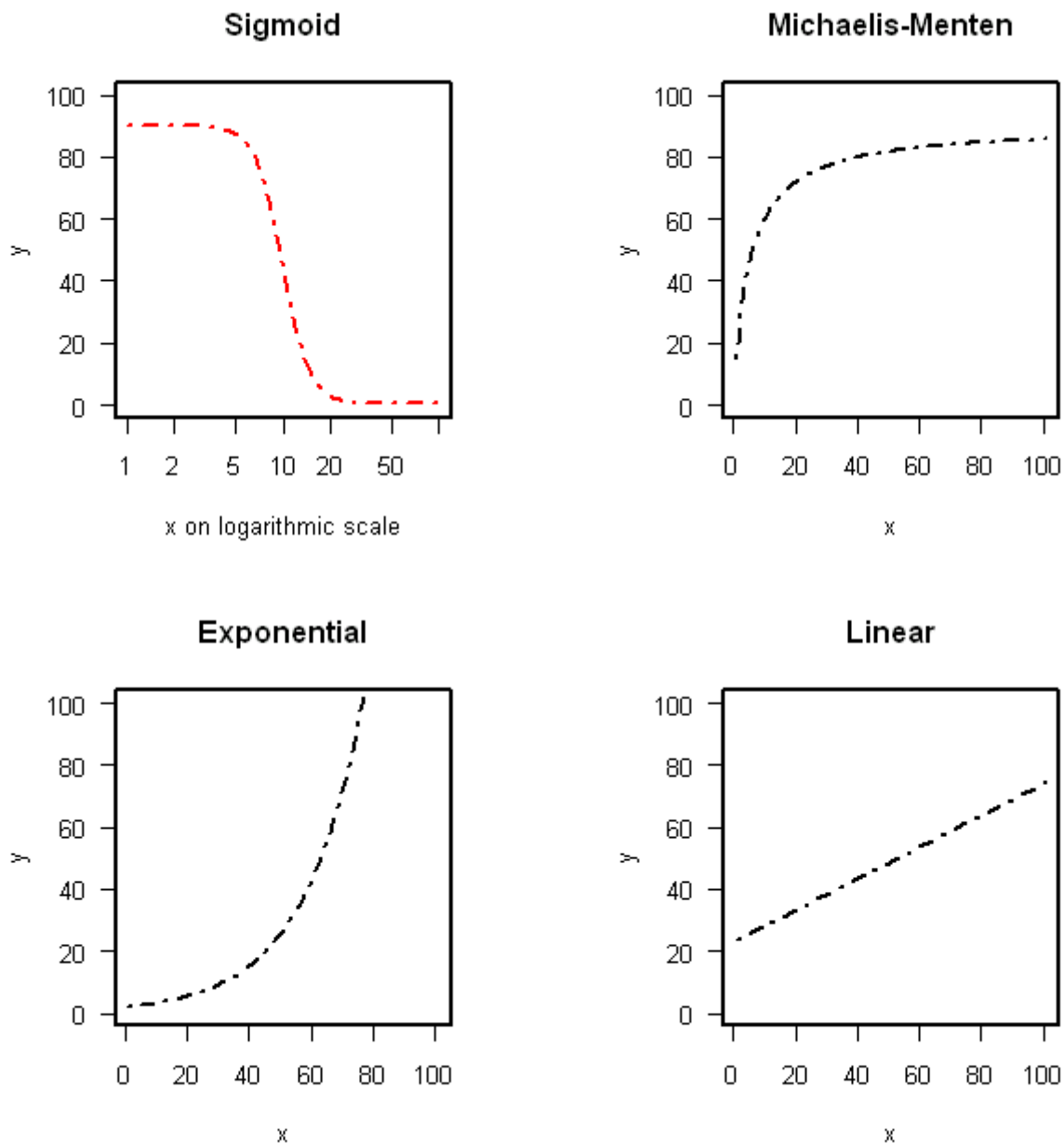


Figure 2. Commonly used regression models in the biological sciences. Except for the linear model the others may have upper and/or lower limits.

All models above have parameters of biological meaning and three of the curves are nonlinear. The linear one can easily be fitted in basic **R**, whilst the nonlinear curves can be fitted by using the add-on package **drc** in **R**, which can make complicated nonlinear regression with simple codes. Presentations of regression parameters with biological meaning make it easy to summarise experiments, and proper graphic presentations, which are worth more than a thousand words.

Some students provide data that were collectively analysed by linear and nonlinear regression models and the regression parameters were interpreted. Furthermore, we illustrated how complex models could be reduced to much simpler ones on the basis of associated statistics and in the end this reduction made the interpretation of an otherwise complex model easy to comprehend.

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**REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AQUATIC PLANTS – PLANTS IN HYDRO-SYSTEMS:  
FROM FUNCTIONAL ECOLOGY TO WEED RESEARCH**

By Hansjörg Krähmer, EWRS past President; [Kraehmer-Hofheim@t-online.de](mailto:Kraehmer-Hofheim@t-online.de)

The International Symposium on Aquatic Systems took place in Poznan, Poland, from August 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. It was a joint event of EWRS (13<sup>th</sup> EWRS International Symposium on Aquatic Plants) and SIL (2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop of the Working Group on Macrophytes), organized to a considerable extent by members of the Poznan University of Life Sciences and of the Polish Hydrobiological Society. Around 170 participants from more than 30 countries attended this well-organized event with about 150 presentations.



Warta river in the Rogalin Landscape Park



The Czarne Lake with participants of the post-symposium excursion.



Keynote lectures on “The role of aquatic vegetation in biogeochemical cycling” (J.T.A. Verhoeven, Utrecht), “Charophytes as bioindicators” (I. Blindow, Greifswald), and “Flow resistance of emergent rigid and flexible vegetation” (J. Aberle, Trondheim) introduced the audience into various aspects of aquatic habitats. One major issue was devoted to the reconstitution of turbid systems and the control of dominant species. More than 75 posters allowed an intensive discussion of special findings from Europe, Africa, Asia, New Zealand, Latin America and North America. Pre-symposium workshops, mid-symposium and post-symposium excursions were offered for practical demonstrations.

H. Krähmer was invited to attend the Symposium Board Meeting for the preparation of the next symposium in Edinburgh, Scotland, 2015.

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## MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

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### HISTOLOGY OF *CICHORIUM INTYBUS* L.

Dear Colleagues,

*Cichorium intybus* L. (Bayer code: CICIN) or chicory is a perennial, in advanced stages woody species that can be dominant along roadsides. It belongs to the Asteraceae or Compositae family just as *Centaurea cyanus* L. which was the histology topic of the last Newsletter. The flowers of chicory are arranged in ligulate flower heads with ray florets. The flower heads start to open in the morning and close in the late afternoon. In Europe, chicory is usually not regarded as a weed problem. Some varieties are even cultivated as crops. In some US states chicory has the status of a noxious weed.



Flower head of *C. intybus*



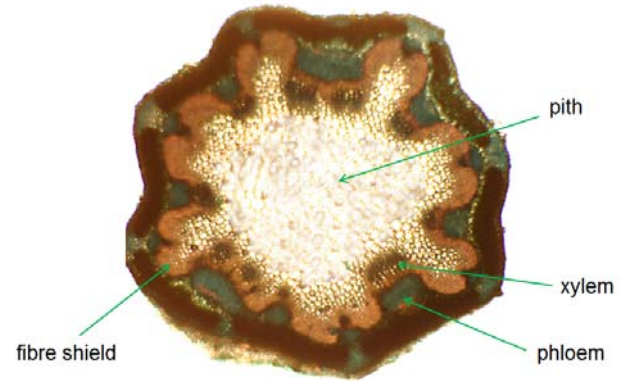
*C. intybus* along roadside near Frankfurt, Germany



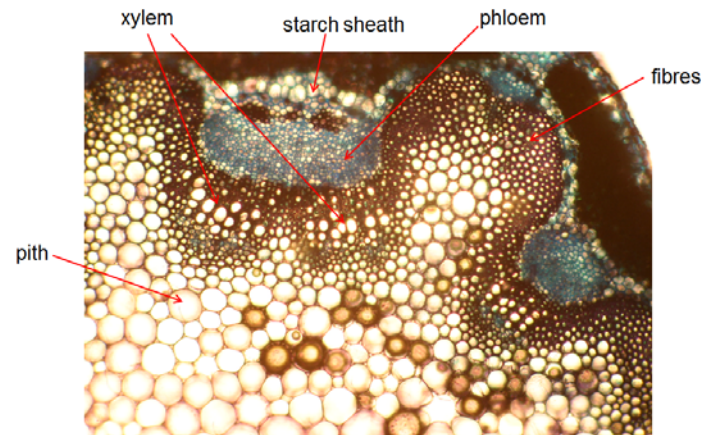
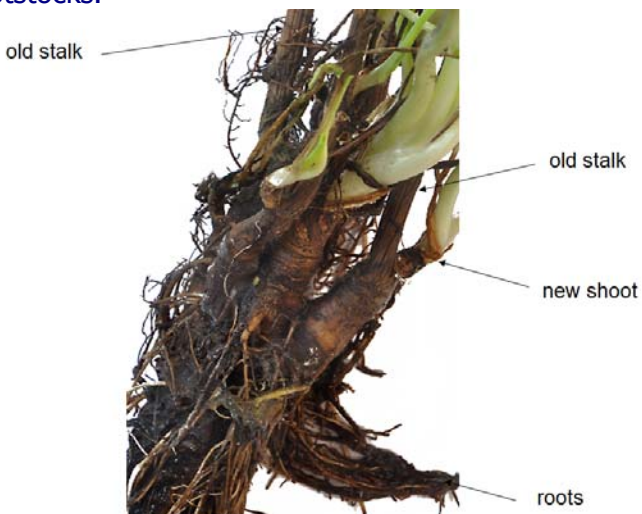


Inflorescence of *C. intybus* with closed flower heads.

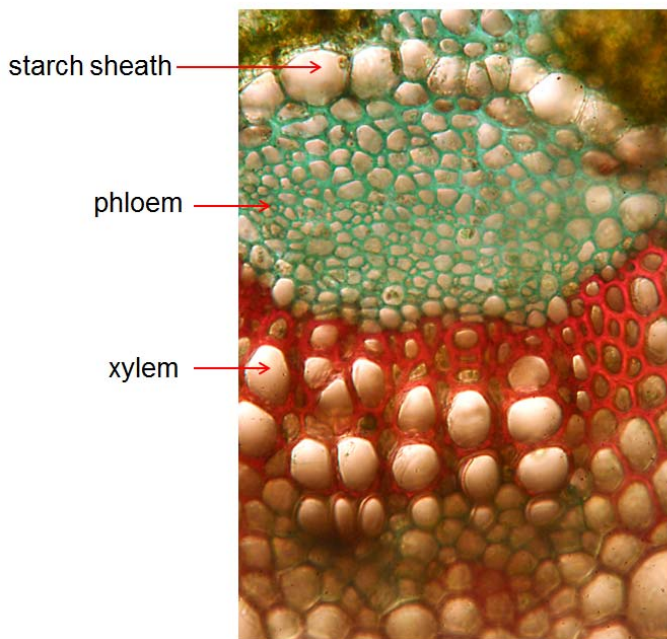
Roots become thick with time and form tuber-like storage organs. The following two pictures show how chicory rejuvenates from thickened rootstocks.



Transverse section through stem of *C. intybus*; Etzold blue, 40x; folded fibre-shields (orange) protect vascular bundles

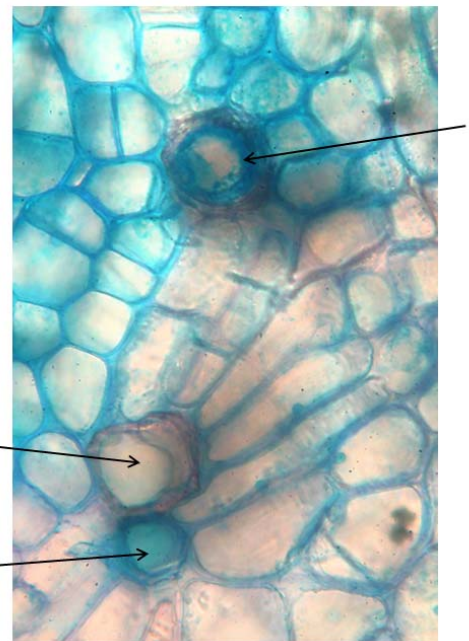


Transverse section through stem of *C. intybus*; modified Etzold green, 100x



Transverse section through stem of *C. intybus*, Etzold green 400x

Typical of chicory are laticifers as shown in the next picture.



Laticifers (arrows) in transverse section through root of *C. intybus*, modified Etzold green 400x

H. Krämer

### WEED SEMINARS FROM NAIPSC

The North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Courses (NAIPSC) programme for 2012-2013 is regularly updated on the NAIPSC website <http://ipscourse.unl.edu> and speakers for October through December are close to being completed. Here is a list with dates and titles (tentative). All webinars begin at noon (CST).

- November 7: Dr. Laura Meyerson, University of Rhode Island, "Hybridization of *Phragmites australis* in North America";
- December 12: Dr. Jane Mangold, Montana State University, "Involving stakeholders in the art and science of invasive plant management".

Additional speakers for October and November:

- Dr. Chad Jones, Connecticut College, "Spatial distribution and predicting invasive plant species spread";
- Dr. John Kartesz, BONAP, "Identification of plants and new invaders on the horizon";
- Lori Williams, National Invasive Species Council US Department of the Interior, "Invasive plants: perspectives and critical issues at the national level".

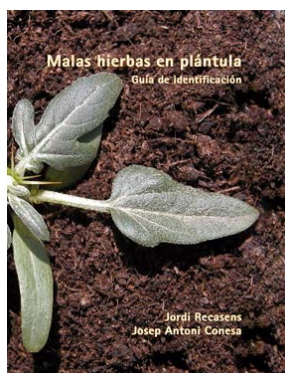
For NAIPSC online community members, this is what you will hear about in the coming months. If you are not a member, you need to register and then click on the link on the left to visit the NAIPSC Online Community and sign up (at <http://ipscourse.unl.edu>).

For any further information please visit the NAIPSC website or contact Steve Young, NAIPSC organizer at [steve.young@unl.edu](mailto:steve.young@unl.edu).

## WEED SEEDLING IDENTIFICATION COURSES

The Weed Science department from the Universitat de Lleida (Spain) organises every year two courses on weed seedlings identification. One deals with winter weeds and the other with summer weeds. The course is oriented to technicians, members of herbicide companies and research institutions, and has two main parts, a theoretical one and a practical one. After the theoretical lessons, seedlings are identified on the field and analysed in the laboratory afterwards. A complete documentation report is offered. All participants will receive the book: "Malas hierbas en plántula. Guía de identificación".

Both courses are in Spanish and only the Latin names are used for weed description and identification. Particular English translations will be facilitated by the professors during the theoretical classes and laboratory and field sessions.



Course of identification of winter weed seedlings  
29, 30, 31 January and 1 February of 2013:  
Duration: 30 hours  
Price: 360 €

Course of identification of summer weed seedlings  
8 and 9 May 2013:  
Duration: 15 hours  
Price: 200 €

PhD students can obtain a reduced price: 150 € and 80 € respectively.

For more information contact Dr. Jordi Recasens: [jrecasens@hbj.udl.cat](mailto:jrecasens@hbj.udl.cat)

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## CALL FOR CONFERENCES

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### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE GLOBAL HERBICIDE RESISTANCE CHALLENGE 2013

18-22 February 2013  
Perth, Australia

Global food production is one of the greatest challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Sustaining world food production requires reliable control of yield reducing crop weeds. Herbicides are the principal tool for crop weed control yet their sustainability is threatened by the evolution of herbicide resistant weed populations in many parts of the world. The latest chapter in resistance evolution is the widespread appearance of glyphosate resistant weeds threatening the success of glyphosate resistant crops. Crops with new herbicide resistance gene traits, new herbicides and non-chemical methods to manage weeds are being introduced to counter the weed/resistance threats.

The Global Resistance Challenge 2013 conference offers a multidisciplinary forum focused on all aspects of herbicide resistance in crops and weeds and their impact on global food production. Scientific sessions will range from the molecular basis of herbicide resistance evolution through agro-ecology and agronomy to on-farm resistance management.

The Global Resistance Challenge 2013 conference will provide a stage for young and established private and public sector researchers, crop consultants and others to present their work in front of a welcoming international audience in the beautiful portside city of Fremantle, Perth, Western Australia. We welcome everyone who wishes to discover the latest advances in herbicide resistance to Perth in February 2013, to experience a magnificent Western Australian late summer. For more information: <http://www.herbicide-resistance-conference.com.au/>



## **16<sup>TH</sup> EWRS SYMPOSIUM**

24 – 27 June 2013  
Samsun, Turkey

Venue: Ondokuz Mayıs University, Samsun, Turkey

The First circular is now available. Click on the link below to download it:  
([EWRS 16<sup>th</sup> Symposium Samsun 1<sup>st</sup> circular.pdf](#), 7.3 Mb)

The EWRS 2013 Meeting Website has been launched.  
Go to <http://www.ewrs2013.org/default.aspx> or more details.

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## **UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

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### **2012 CANADIAN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**

12-15 November 2012  
The Fairmont, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
<http://www.weedscience.ca/home>

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### **17<sup>TH</sup> GREEK WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

22– 24 November 2012  
Athens, Greece  
[www.eze.org.gr](http://www.eze.org.gr)

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### **CROP PROTECTION IN SOUTHERN BRITAIN (AAB/BCPC/AICC CONFERENCE)**

27-28 November 2012  
East of England Showground, Peterborough, UK  
<http://www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=136&basket=wwwshowconfdets>

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### **10<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PLANT DISEASES**

3 - 5 December 2012  
Tours, France  
<http://www.afpp.net>

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### **WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING**

4-7 February 2013  
Baltimore, Maryland, USA  
<http://www.wssa.net/>

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### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE GLOBAL HERBICIDE RESISTANCE CHALLENGE 2013**

18-22 February 2013  
Perth, Australia  
<http://www.herbicideresistanceconference.com.au/>

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### **1<sup>ST</sup> PURE CONGRESS**

19-21 March 2013  
Riva del Garda, Italy  
<http://www.pure-ipm.eu/>

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### **18<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES**

21 – 25 April 2013  
Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada  
<http://www.icaais.org/>

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**16<sup>TH</sup> EWRS SYMPOSIUM**

24 – 27 June 2013

Samsun, Turkey

<http://www.ewrs-org>

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**9<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON PRECISION AGRICULTURE (ECPA)**

7 – 11 July 2013

Lleida, Spain

<http://www.ecpa2013.udl.cat>

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**22<sup>ND</sup> COLUMA CONFERENCE – INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON WEED CONTROL**

10-12 December 2013

Dijon, France

[afpp@afpp.net](mailto:afpp@afpp.net) – <http://www.afpp.net>

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**4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WEEDS AND INVASIVE PLANTS**

18 – 23 May 2014

Montpellier, France

<http://www.ansespro.fr/invasiveplants2014/>

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## EDITORIAL

### EWRS BOARD 2012–2013

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2012-2013

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

**Deadline for contributions to be published in the following Newsletter issue:  
7 January 2013**

#### Photographic images

It is possible to include photographic material. Please make sure that the images are taken at no less than 300 dpi otherwise the picture quality drops.

#### Questions

If you have any problems in writing or formatting your article, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'll be happy to assist you. As Technical Editor of the Newsletter, I prepare the final layout of the Newsletter prior to publishing. You can contact me by sending an E-mail to [newsletter@ewrs.org](mailto:newsletter@ewrs.org) / [moonen@sssup.it](mailto:moonen@sssup.it) or by calling me at +39 050 883567. I'm looking forward to receiving your contributions.

Camilla Moonen

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