

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PLANT PROTECTION SCIENCES



IAPPS
January 2007

“Short” Notes from the IAPPS Secretary General

This being the first Newsletter for 2007, please let me take this opportunity to wish you a happy and productive year. Yes! This is the year for the **XVI International Plant Protection Congress to be held at the SECC, Glasgow, Scotland 15-18 October**. I have enclosed a portion of the first announcement and call for papers. The announcement has been previously sent to all IAPPS members by our Membership Manager, Marilyn Weidner and is also posted on the IAPPS website <<http://www.plantprotection.org/>> and on the BCPC website <http://www.bcpc.org/>. For information on submitting a paper or poster go to the website: <http://www.bcpc.org/IPPC2007/>. Please note that the deadline of April 5 for submitting a paper is fast approaching.

Chair for the 2011 IPPC, Dr. Bill Tweedy and his committee, are busy selecting a site. We expect to announce the site prior to the 2007 IPPC.

Striga, a devastating parasitic weed worldwide, has been a research topic of a number of agencies, including the IPM CRSP and INTSORMIL, where I am currently serving as a consultant. I have enclosed an interesting article published in *Haustorium* reporting on the symposium ‘*Integrating New Technologies for Striga control: ending the Witch-hunt*’, held at Addis Ababa from 5 – 11 November 2006.

The USAID –sponsored Sorghum, Millets and Other Grains CRSP (INTSORMIL) has recently released Requests for Proposals for 15 projects including two IPM projects. I have included the RFP in this Newsletter. Please note that applications are limited to U.S. institutions.

We have a number of new members who have recently joined IAPPS. We welcome each of you and look forward to your contribution to Global IPM via IAPPS. Please contact me if you have suggestions or ideas for ways for IAPPS to increase its global impact.

Short

HAUSTORIUM

Parasitic Plants Newsletter

Official Organ of the International Parasitic Plant Society

50th ISSUE!

January 2007

Number 50

TOWARDS ENDING THE WITCH-HUNT?

A report on the Symposium 'Integrating New Technologies for *Striga* control: ending the Witch-hunt', Addis Ababa from 5 – 11 November 2006.

The completion of the current phase of the International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program (INTSORMIL) was the catalyst for bringing together the *Striga* research community in Addis Ababa from 5 – 11 November 2006. With generous support from USAID the symposium 'Integrating New Technologies for *Striga* control: ending the Witch-hunt' provided the platform for more than 60 workers from 20 countries in Africa, Europe and USA. The meeting and subsequent field trip to eastern Ethiopia was most ably organized by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research in collaboration with Purdue University, USA. This was the most comprehensive gathering of *Striga* researchers for some time. The meeting discussed how to build on our current understanding, to make use of emerging research methods and practical technologies to ensure widespread impacts on the lives of the millions of resource-poor households which are affected by these weeds. A list of the presentations made at the meeting is included later in this newsletter. These are being collated into a book that will summarise our current knowledge.

The meeting conveyed a spirit of considerable optimism that at long last the many years of cumulative research on the biology and management of *Striga* are bearing fruit with increasing dissemination and adoption of the current generation of resistant or tolerant cultivars and locally adapted management

practices. We never cease to be amazed by the complexities of the parasite/host association. While many questions remain, the meeting reviewed some completely new insights that have been made possible by advances in analytical techniques with emerging molecular methods promising much in the near future.

Results from studies of the chemical signaling involved in *Striga* germination, the molecular basis of host detection by parasites and of allelochemicals associated with *Desmodium* opens up the possibility of engineered resistance in hosts and the development of enhanced activity from trap crops. *John Yoder (University of California, Davis, USA)* described work to identify the genes involved in production of the chemicals associated with haustorial formation in the facultative parasites *Triphysaria* as a route to identifying target genes for future engineering of resistance to parasitic weeds. These are being searched for through the analysis of mapping populations generated from inter-specific crosses of *Triphysaria*. These can parasitise other species in the genus but not themselves. Possibilities include the use of haustorial translocated RNA that is inhibitory for critical functions in the parasite, targeting genes that effect the reduction of quinines to semi-quinones in the parasite root at the critical phase of haustorial formation. Recent work from *Harro Bouwmeester (Wageningen University, The Netherlands)* suggests an important role for mycorrhiza. These use strigolactones to identify the

presence of their hosts. Critically there appears to be reduced *Striga* stimulant production from mycorrhiza infected sorghum roots. Mycorrhiza, furthermore, are implicated in phosphate uptake by host plants, particularly on poor soils. This raises the possibilities that phosphate levels may be part of the explanation of why *Striga* is such a problem as soil fertility declines and that soil nutrient management practices that optimize mycorrhiza colonization may also reduce *Striga* infestation. Work at Wageningen has also investigated maize mutants with no carotenoids. These stimulate little or no *Striga* germination suggesting that carotenoids are important in the synthesis of strigolactones. Further understanding of this pathway may lead to opportunities for knocking out strigolactones in engineered hosts. *John Pickett's* (Rothamsted Research, UK) group has investigated the allelochemicals produced by *Desmodium* that appear to be responsible for the death of *Striga* seedlings in the 'push-pull' system. Elucidation of the pathway leading to the production of these uncyanones leads to the possibility that this could be searched for or engineered into food legumes including beans and cowpeas for use in inter-crops or rotation with cereals on *Striga* infested land.

Working with *Striga* resistant rice lines *Julie Scholes* (University of Sheffield, UK) has been working to unravel the molecular genetic basis of resistance by studying quantitative trait loci. The aim is to identify QTLs associated with resistance that are homologous in sorghum and to identify host genes that are either up or down regulated during infection. Those that are up-regulated in association with *Striga* defense reactions in the host could be pyramided to provide durable resistance. Work on the genetic analysis of resistance in cowpea to *S. gesnerioides* and *Alectra vogelii* is now well advanced as part of the international Cowpea Genomics Initiative. *Mike Timko* (University of Virginia, USA) has used mapping populations to identify molecular markers. These are now available for the response of cowpea to different *S. gesnerioides* races. Markers are also under development for sorghum. *Cecile Grenier* (Purdue University, USA) described progress to develop cultivars incorporating resistance from N13 through a process of marker assisted selection and participatory variety selection. The combination of markers and use of the gel bioassay to check for lines with low stimulant production provides a more reliable process to select for resistance than traditional field screening methods.

The considerable efforts to develop the use of fungal biocontrol systems, particularly in West Africa were discussed by *Alan Watson* (McGill University, Canada) and *Fenton Beed* (Institute of Tropical

Agriculture, Benin), particularly those based on *Fusarium oxysporum*. Although effective in on-farm trials, there has been no progress to date to perfect or promote durable delivery systems to farmers. The institutional challenges are immense, particularly for sorghum or open pollinated maize crops that are commonly established from farm-saved seed making reliable seed dressing with fungal spores difficult.

The meeting heard of farmer adoption of outputs of research to develop *Striga* resistant cereal cultivars, and suppression of the parasite by use of the 'push-pull' or herbicide tolerant maize systems. *Gebisa Ejeta* (Purdue University) described the complex of traits that can be employed to confer resistance in sorghum. Breeding work at Purdue led to seed of a number of *Striga* resistant sorghum lines with the low stimulant trait being made available to national programmes for field evaluation in Africa. *Tesfaye Tesso* (Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research) and *Ambonesigwe Mbwaga* (Uyole Agricultural Research Institute, Tanzania) described how selection and validation with farmers has led to the release and promotion of Purdue lines as the cultivars 'Gubiye' and 'Abshir' in Ethiopia and 'Hakika' and 'Wahi' in Tanzania. In Ethiopia some 100, 000 households have now received seed while promotion activities in Tanzania have been initiated in nine districts with seed multiplication and demonstrations. The emphasis is on Integrated *Striga* Management based on the use of the resistant cultivars linked to inter-cropping with cowpea or groundnut and application of manure. For farmers with dairy cattle, the 'push-pull' system described by *Zeyaur Khan* (International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya) produces valuable fodder from the *Desmodium* inter-crop that also contributes to maize stemborer control and *Striga* suppression. This system was being used by over 6,000 farmers by 2006, largely in areas with over 700 mm rainfall per season. The challenge is now to find selections of *Desmodium* that are adapted to the lower rainfall areas and to demonstrate that these can be used here without a detrimental competitive impact on maize yield. Also from Kenya, *Fred Kanampiu* (International Maize and Wheat improvement Centre) highlighted the increasing adoption of herbicide tolerant maize now that the 'Strigaway' herbicide seed dressing has been commercialized. More than 15,000 demonstrations of the technology have been undertaken of the herbicide tolerant cultivar 'Kajongo'. Problems remain of retaining herbicide activity in the maize root zone during periods of high rainfall and work is underway to develop a slow release formulation of the herbicide imazapyr to use as a seed dressing. A dynamic public/private partnership has ensured that the herbicide tolerant maize has become available to

farmers in Kenya but in many countries the lack of efficient seed distribution systems constrains out-scaling of the technology.

Sustained donor and national government support for *Striga* research has been a perennial problem. The scale of the *Striga* pandemic is just too great for the limited human resource capacity of many national programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa to deal with without a wider range of scientific expertise that comes from international collaboration. It is to be hoped that the potential for the increasing farm-level impact of our research to date and particularly the exciting future opportunities highlighted by the meeting can be used to demonstrate the very real value of previous funding.

Charlie Riches

Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK. Email: charlie@riches27.freemove.co.uk

This is vital if we are to attract the greatly increased level of support from development agencies and foundations that will be needed to make a truly significant impact on the problem across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The meeting organizer Dr Gebisa Ejeta, the leader of *Striga* research for INTSORMIL and Purdue University, was honored for his contributions to combating *Striga* in Ethiopia and across Africa in a presentation made on behalf of the Ethiopian Government by H.E. Addissu Legesse, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture. Meeting participants added their congratulations for this well deserved award.

XVI International Plant Protection Congress

15 - 18 October 2007 Scottish Exhibition & Conference Centre, Glasgow, Scotland, UK



In association with IAPPS and the BCPC
International Congress & Exhibition



The 2007 Congress

BCPC and the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS) are delighted to announce that the XVI International Plant Protection Congress (IAPPS) is to be held in association with the BCPC International Conference & Exhibition – Crop Science & Technology 2007. IAPPS Congresses are held every four years at different locations around the world – the last one was hosted by the China Society of Plant Protection in Beijing – so BCPC welcomes IAPPS delegates to Glasgow. As a result, the BCPC Congress in 2007 will be a much expanded event with the scientific programme extended and running for a full four days. The annual BCPC event is already acknowledged as the main event in the crop protection calendar – so the 2007 Congress will be an event not to be missed.

The Congress program

Running over four days (15 - 18 October 2007), the Congress programme will cover a very wide subject area. Familiar topics such as arable and horticultural crop protection in both temperate and tropical climates, biological control, resistance, organic production and beneficial organisms will naturally be covered. In addition, the well known new compounds and new uses session will obviously be included. More novel sessions have also been incorporated within the programme. These include biofuels and bioenergy, bioterrorism, biosensors, biopharmaceuticals, viruses and phytoplasmas. Specialist sessions including post-harvest disease control, neonicotinoids, semiochemicals, soybean rust and mycotoxins will provide added value to the extensive programme. Other new developments in the programme include sessions covering much wider social issues – worldwide agriculture is under the spotlight – all citizens are consumers of agricultural products. Technical expertise may have improved, but increasingly a series of social, ethical and environmental concerns have to be met – as illustrated by the attempts to introduce transgenic crops into Europe. Also to be discussed is the role agriculture plays in the alleviation of poverty globally. This topic forms an entire day's programme and is being organised by the Pest Management Group of the Society for Chemical Industry.

2007 is the centenary of the birth of Rachel Carson. The occasion will be marked by a debate centred on the issues with which she was concerned. *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, dealt not only with pesticides. The proposal to be debated is

This House Believes That Rachel Carson Would Not Today Have Written Silent Spring. Leading for the motion will be led by Dr Lewis Smith from Syngenta, Jealott's Hill, Bracknell, UK, with the opposition being led by Lord Peter Melchett, Policy Director from the Soil Association, Bristol, UK. The Congress opens on Monday 15 October 2007 with the opening ceremony which includes the presentation of the IAPPS International Plant Protection Award of Distinction (IPPAD) and the Congress keynote lectures. These are to be presented by Dr Christian Verschueren, (Director General of CropLife International, Brussels, Belgium), who will address the progress being made by the industry in providing responsible stewardship, whilst looking at what still needs to be done in the future. Professor Tony Hardy, (Science Director, Agri-Environment, Central Science Laboratory, York, UK and Chair of the European Food Safety Authority Scientific Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues) will address current concerns of food safety. Finally Simon Browne, (Meyrick Estates, Winchester, UK) will consider practical farming in this technology rich age. With over 40 platform sessions, discussion fora and debate, fully supported by complementary poster sessions, this Congress promises to be an essential event for all interested in crop protection and crop production. Researchers are invited to offer platform or poster papers to this event – a full listing of topics and how to offer a paper is shown on the next page. Registration details for delegates will be available in mid 2007.

For information on submitting a paper or poster go to the website:

<http://www.bcpc.org/IPPC2007/>

Congress topics

A full list of Congress topics is shown below. Some of the topics will be of two, or even four, platform session lengths so facilitating a large number of presentations. Subject to suitable offers, each topic will consist of a platform and a complementary poster session.

Click on the title of each topic as further information will then be displayed – this will help you choose the most appropriate session for your offer.

- ◆ **Advances in the diagnosis and forecasting of plant diseases**
- ◆ **Arable crop protection at the crossroads!**
- ◆ **Assessing and managing the risks posed by invasive alien species**
- ◆ **Beyond 91/414 - what will the new regulation mean in practice?**
- ◆ **Biodiversity in cropping systems**
- ◆ **Biopharmaceuticals**
- ◆ **Biosensors – a role in diagnostics**
- ◆ **Bioterrorism – identifying the threats and preventing damage**
- ◆ **Changes in land use**
- ◆ **Chemical residues in food**
- ◆ **Closing the yield gap: crop protection for poverty alleviation**
- ◆ **Crop protection practice: formulae for success**
- ◆ **Developments in crop protection, including IPM-strategies, in modern horticultural crop production systems**
- ◆ **Efficacy of biological control, using living organisms and natural products**
- ◆ **Formulation and application technology for the future**
- ◆ **Mycotoxins – a food safety issue**
- ◆ **Natural resistance mechanisms of plants: arms race or balancing selection?**
- ◆ **Neonicotinoid insecticides – present status and future challenges**
- ◆ **New compounds, new concepts, new uses and new approaches**
- ◆ **Organic production**
- ◆ ***Phytophthora ramorum* and related pathogens**
- ◆ **Post-harvest biology and storage technology**
- ◆ **Post-graduate student posters**
- ◆ **Resistance to crop protection agents: monitoring, mechanisms and management**
- ◆ **Securing crop feedstock for the expanding biofuel and bioenergy markets**
- ◆ **Semiochemicals in practice**
This session will review the current state of the art of using semiochemicals in management of insect pests. Papers are invited on practical applications of pheromones and all other types of synthetic or naturally-occurring semiochemicals in pest management programmes.
- ◆ **Sociological and ethical issues of crop protection**
- ◆ **The threat of Asian soybean rust – fact or fancy?**
- ◆ **The use of beneficial organisms in plant protection – population level management**

- ◆ Tropical and subtropical crop protection
- ◆ Viruses and phytoplasmas, and their transmission
- ◆ Water: a valuable but declining resource

How to make your offer:

All offers for consideration by the Congress Programme Committee **must** be made on the [Offer a Paper form](#). All authors are required to:

- Make their submission on the Offer a Paper form;
- Provide a 150 - 200 word synopsis (not for publication);
- Specify to which session they are making their offer;
- Complete and submit their offer **before 5 April 2007***

* Deadline for offers to the new compounds session is 25 May 2007

Sorghum, Millet and Other Grains Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP)



Request for Proposals



The Sorghum, Millet and Other Grains Collaborative Research Support Program is requesting proposals for new projects to focus on increasing food security and promoting market development of sorghum and pearl millet products for developing and transforming countries. The projects will develop linkages between the United States and Host Countries for Global Research, Capacity Building and Institutional Development. The RFPs are designed to attract proposals from U.S. institutions with demonstrated capacity to participate in a research effort to expand the knowledge base for improvement of the productivity, resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, utilization and economic benefits of sorghum and pearl millet in Africa, Central America and the United States. Targeted basic and applied research, education, short-term training and technology transfer will promote adoption and economic impact. The approach involves regional, interdisciplinary and multi-organizational teams. These projects will involve working with scientists of national agricultural research systems (NARS) in Africa and Central America to develop strategies to work effectively with farmers, technology transfer agents and processors. The projects will be designed to improve the NARS research capability by providing technical support and training through on-site consultation in host countries, degree training and short-term training/study visits of host country national staff to the U.S. or regional centers. The project shall also contribute to the development of the sorghum and millet industry in the United States. Proposals are requested for the following projects:

Breeding

RFP 107 - Breeding Pearl Millet with Improved Performance, Stability and Resistance to Pests

RFP 407 - Breeding Sorghum with Improved Grain Quality, Performance, Stability and Resistance to Biotic and Abiotic Stresses

RFP 507 - Breeding Sorghum for Improved Resistance to Striga and Drought in Africa

RFP 607 - Breeding Sorghum for Improved Grain, Forage Quality and Yield for Central America

RFP 707 - Breeding Sorghum for Improved Resistance to Biotic and Abiotic Stresses and Enhanced End-Use Characteristics for Southern Africa

Integrated Pest Management

RFP 207 - Ecologically – Based Management of Sorghum and Pearl Millet Insect Pests

RFP 307 - Ecologically – Based Management of Sorghum and Pearl Millet Diseases

Agronomy

RFP 807 - Crop, Soil and Water Management to Optimize Grain Yield and Quality for Value-Added Markets in West Africa

RFP 907 - Crop, Soil and Water Management to Optimize Grain Yield and Quality for Value-Added Markets in East and Southern Africa

Food Science

RFP 1007 - Product and Market Development for Sorghum and Pearl Millet in Southern Africa and Central America

RFP 1107 - Product and Market Development for Sorghum and Pearl Millet in East Africa
RFP 1307 - Product and Market Development for Sorghum and Pearl Millet in West Africa

Animal Nutrition

RFP 1207- Poultry Nutrition

Marketing Economics

RFP 1407 - Development of Input Markets in East and Southern Africa

RFP 1507 - Development of Input Markets in West Africa

The deadline for submission of proposals is 5:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, Monday, **April 16, 2007**. For detailed information, see the INTSORMIL web site, <<http://intsormil.org>>, or contact the Sorghum, Millet and Other Grains CRSP Management Entity Office by phone, (402) 472-6032; fax (402) 472-7978; or Email SRMLCRSP@UNL.EDU

To assure widespread distribution, please forward this announcement to potentially interested individuals.

John M. Yohe, Program Director
Sorghum, Millet and Other Grains CRSP



IAPPS NEWSLETTER

Number II February, 2007

DR. SEGENET KELEMU RECEIVES FRIENDSHIP AWARD

Dr. Segenet Kelemu, IAPPS Governing Board member and Coordinator for Region VIII (Latin America/Caribbean) has been conferred the 2006 "Friendship Award" by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, authorized by the State Council of the People's Republic of China.



Selected from more than 200,000 foreigners working in China, 46 experts received the award, the highest honor that the Chinese Government can confer on foreigners. The winners, from 19 countries, have expertise in a wide range of fields. Dr. Kelemu was the only **CGIAR** representative to win the award this year.

On behalf of the entire IAPPS family, I wish to congratulate Segenet for this outstanding achievement.

Dr. E. A. "Short" Heinrichs

IAPPS Secretary General

E-mail: eheinric@vt.edu

NEW DATE ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce the new date and invite you to participate in the International Conference "**Novel and Sustainable Weed Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Agro-Ecosystems.**" The conference will take place on October 7 to October 12, 2007 in Rehovot, Israel.

Details on abstract submission, the program, registration and accommodation are available on our web page: <http://agri3.huji.ac.il/aridconference> **Prof. Baruch Rubin**

J & R Liss Professor of Agronomy & Weed Science

IAPPS Vice-President

E-mail: rubin@agri.huji.ac.il

THE PESTICIDE MANUAL - THE BEST SOURCE OF CROP PROTECTION INFORMATION IN THE WORLD

The fourteenth edition of *The Pesticide Manual*, and the fully searchable CD version, *The e-Pesticide Manual* are now available from BCPC (British Crop Production Council). The information within the new edition of this comprehensive and internationally acclaimed source of



the world's pesticide data has been completely revised and updated. Commenting on the publication, Professor John Pickett, Head of Biological Chemistry at Rothamsted Research, UK says, "I find *The Pesticide Manual* an invaluable reference source for many aspects of my work. I use it constantly in my research and invariably take it with me to meetings. It provides detailed coverage and allows me to answer questions on the nature and properties of any pesticide in use, anywhere in the world." "It is nearly 40 years since *The Pesticide Manual* was first published," explains Dr Barry Thomas, Chairman of BCPC. "During that time it has established itself as a unique reference book for those requiring authoritative, impartial and accurate information on crop protection active ingredients. Its contents have

been progressively expanded to include not only active ingredients used for the control of crop pests, diseases and weeds but also ectoparasites, pests in public health as well as plant growth regulators, repellents, synergists, herbicide safeners and pheromones." Each main entry contains comprehensive information including chemical structure, nomenclature, physico-chemical properties, history, biological and product data, mammalian and eco-toxicological data and environmental fate information. References to toxicological and environmental reviews now include the Annex 1 status of List 1 and 'new' substances under the EC Directive 91/414.

Easy to keep up-to-date

The e-Pesticide Manual Version 4 offers users speedy access to all the data that appears in the book plus more. "For the first time this year users will be able to update the CD annually each November via the web, ensuring access to the most up-to-date information," explains Dr Thomas.

The CD includes more than 7,000 current and 2,000 discontinued names, plus additional information on superseded substances. Smiles codes enable chemists to enter chemically meaningful structures directly into most structure-handling software. The CD software for PCs is user-friendly, allowing users to undertake their own complex tailor-made searches. Information can be customized to download or print, direct links can be made to websites and chemical structure graphics can be exported for use in presentations. Network users can export search results for use in spreadsheets. *The Pesticide Manual* book is available now priced £220. *The e-Pesticide Manual* Version 4 with no updates is priced £275 + VAT. Users can also buy Version 4 of *The e-Pesticide Manual* plus two annual on line updates for £500 + VAT. Copies can be ordered from:



BCPC Publications Sales,

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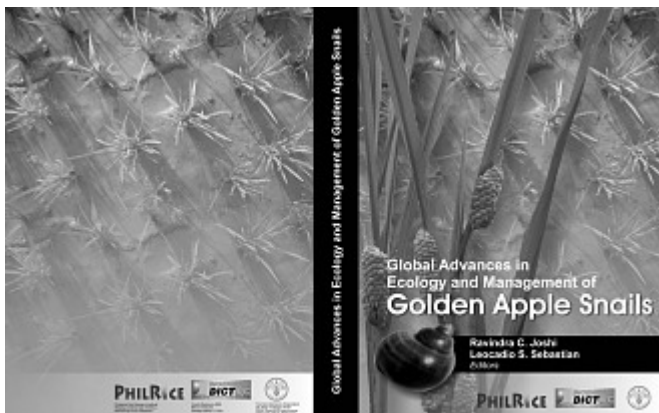
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NEW BOOK ON GOLDEN APPLE SNAILS



A new book titled 'Global advances in the ecology and management of golden apple snails' edited by Ravindra C. Joshi and Leocadio S. Sebastian, and published by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has just been launched. In this book of over 600 pages, one can find all information known so far about golden apple snails (GAS) and the rice systems and countries they have affected. According to IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), GSID (Global Species Information Database), and

ISSG (Invasive Species Specialist Group), GAS is considered one of the worst invasive alien species, with no less than US\$ 1 billion reported as losses due to its activity.

This work encompasses all aspects of ecology and management of GAS, covering the various aspects of snail taxonomy (traditional as well as molecular tools), impacts of GAS on aquatic ecosystems and farmers' health, and pesticide abuse/misuse. A section is provided for detailed reports from GAS-invaded countries. Further chapters are dedicated to the utilization of GAS as food and as natural paddy weeder, with some information available on the biorational approach in its management and control.

According to authorities that have contributed to this work, no other book is presently available having the same extensive information on GAS. Chapter contributors have put in their life's work - accumulated knowledge and experiences - on these pages. It will take at least another 10-15 years for any new and significant advances on this snail species and its management. This book is intended to be a manual addressing the needs of all type of researchers: from extension workers to molecular taxonomists, and a reference textbook for graduate students.

For more information:

Dr. R. C. Joshi

Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)

E-mail: rcjoshi@philrice.gov.ph

Website: www.philrice.gov.ph

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IAPPS Mission: to provide a global forum for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, integrating, and promoting plant protection concepts, technologies, and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.

It seeks to provide a global umbrella for the plant protection sciences to facilitate and promote the application of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to a the world's crop and forest ecosystems.

Membership Information: IAPPS has four classes of membership (individual, affiliate, associate, and corporate) which are described [here](#).

The *IAPPS Newsletter* welcomes news, letters, and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondence and information to:

Dr. Manuele Tamo, Editor
IAPPS Newsletter
Biological Control Center for Africa, IITA-Benin
08 B.P. 0932 Tri Postal, Cotonou, Republic of Benin
E-mail: m.tamo@cgiar.org