

## Minutes of the Microbial Control Division Meeting

### SIP 2014, Mainz, Germany

Meeting called to order at 8.00 pm.

**Chair:** Travis Glare

Apologies: Stefan Jaronski; unable to attend

#### Current officers:

Chair	Leon Rabinovitch (Brazil)	2012-2014
Acting Chair	Stefan Jaronski (USA)	2014
Chair-elect	Travis Glare (NZ)	2014-2016
Secretary/Treasurer	Michael Brownbridge (Canada)	2013-2015
Member at large	Pasco Avery (USA)	2013-2015
Member at large	Jarrod Leland (USA)	2012-2014
Student representative	Patricia Golo (Brazil)	2013-2015

#### Finances

MCD finances in good shape: \$6,423.05 in credit

\$1,305 provided in student awards for the 2014 meeting. Able to fund more travel grants in the future, and to provide travel support to non-SIP members to participate in symposia.

#### Membership

119 Regular members

10 Student members

Numbers have declined since 2013; hope to increase in 2014, especially as a result of the large student attendance at the Mainz meeting.

#### Student Travel Awards

Ten applications received for student travel awards. Two regular awards provided to:

- Candice Coombs, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa *"Entomopathogenic fungi for control of false codling moth in South African citrus orchards"*
- Naworaj Acharya, Penn State University, State College PA, USA *"Lethal and sub-lethal impacts of fungal biopesticides on house fly populations in simulated field settings of biocosms"*

Special support (payment of meeting registration costs by MCD) provided **for a student from a country with a 'developing economy'** to :

- Mavis Agyeiwaa Acheampong, University of Ghana, Legon *"Management of Prostephanus truncatus (Horn.) on stored maize using Beauveria bassiana (Bals)."*

#### MCD Symposium

- "Developments/Issues in the Regulation of Microbial Products: Harmonization across Jurisdictions" *Organizers/Moderators: Roma Gwynn and David Grzywacz*

- No joint symposia at 2014 meeting

#### **Microbial Control Presentations at Meeting**

- 28 Oral presentations (8 student)
- 28 Poster presentations (12 students)

#### **MCD Officer Elections**

- Member-at-Large: Jarrod Leland's term is finishing; stepping down after the 2014 meeting

Two nominations received for the position:

- Eduardo Abreo (Instituto Nacional de Investigacion Agropecuaria, Uruguay)
- Timoth Dennehy (Bayer Crop Science, USA)

Neither candidate present at the meeting; election will be carried out later in the year, ballots will be sent out by e-mail to allow voting to take place.

Student representatives

- Patricia Golo (graduated, rotating off the MCD)
- New student representative: Naworaj Acharya

#### **Vancouver 2015**

MCD/Cross Divisional Symposia. Two suggestions received to date:

- Roma Gwynn: What is meaningful microbial agent efficacy, and how do we realistically measure it?
- Rosalind James: Microbial control strategies for invasive pests

#### **Company Presentations**

*New Developments and Products*

1. Deanna Branscome, Valent BioSciences/Sumitomo Chemical Co.

New manufacturing facility completed in Osage, Iowa. Represents a ca. \$150m investment by the company in the development of a 130,000 sq. ft facility on 73 acres. The production facility is situated next to a dedicated formulation plant. The unit has production capacity in excess of 15m gallons, together with associated downstream processing equipment. This is the largest private investment by any company to support production of the existing suite of microbial pesticides and the introduction of new biorational products.

2. Mike Dimock, Certis.

Certis has developed and introduced/will be introducing several new biofungicide products. The mycoinsecticide Pfr 97 was re-launched for use on food crops in 2013. Use in US agriculture is increasing, especially on outdoor crops. The blastospore formulation germinates quickly on contact allowing the product to be positioned more as a 'knock-down' product.

3. Jim Baum/Jarrod Leland, Monsanto/Novozymes.

Monsanto positioning as a fully integrated ag-biotech company, taking a complete systems approach to production and pest management (including RNAi). Product suite includes microbials for pest and

disease management, and bioinoculants to promote plant growth. Alliance with Novozymes around the use of selected products including Met52 and bioinoculants for seed coatings. The shared technology and alliance of different skill sets will create synergies and brings different competencies to develop crop-specific solutions. Use of an advanced microbial testing platform will provide better understanding of plant and microbial genetics, and interactions between the two. Also brings large-scale capacity for multi-locational field trials on a diverse variety of crops.

4. Martin Andermatt, Andermatt Biocontrol.

Continue to invest in R&D, with approximately 60% investment in new products, 30% in optimization/rationalization of product use, 10% in production support. New product for *Helicoverpa armigera* currently going through registration in the EU.

5. Dave Clark, Eurofins AgroScience Services.

Company carries out contract research. Have global representation, allowing studies to be carried out at multiple sites around the world. Services offered include efficacy trials, environmental safety assessments, mammalian toxicity studies. Have seen a large increase in the need for biopesticide/biorational product research.

6. Willem Ravensburg, Koppert.

Following the acquisition of Itaforte BioProdutos Ltd. (Brazil) in 2012, Koppert now produces several bioproducts, primarily biostimulants at the facility. Registered microbial products include *Trichoderma*, *Beauveria bassiana* and *Metarhizium anisopliae*. Working on the development of a microsclerotia-based formulation for spittle bug, and considering registration of a strain of *Isaria fumosorosea* for leaf hopper control in citrus.

7. Mark Kinkema, Ag BiTech, Queensland, Australia.

AgBiTech is a private company founded in 2001. The company manufactures baculovirus insecticides for use in Australia, and was founded on the production of *Helicoverpa* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV) for control of the pest in cotton. There are several viral products in the development pipeline for control of *Spodoptera frugiperda* and *Plutella xylostella*, along with materials to support their use in a range of crops. The company has several research alliances which have allowed it to develop products for sale in the US, and recently has entered the Brazilian market. All viruses are produced in vivo, using optimized processes that provide low-cost, high-quality products for use in IPM.

8. Kristian Kooymanns.

Engaged in the establishment of a bioproduction facility in Morocco. The facility is scheduled for completion in 2015 and will produce a range of biopesticides.

9. Craig Chambers, River BioScience, South Africa.

The company is owned by the Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa was originally set up to commercialize microbial products for citrus protection, a NPV for control of *Helicoverpa*, and is now working to expand the product range for the wider agricultural community. River BioScience was the first South African company to produce a granulovirus product for commercial pest control. The false codling moth (FCM) granulovirus product, Cryptogran, still forms an integral part of most FCM control strategies. River Bioscience was also the first company to register and commercialise a bollworm nucleopolyhedrovirus in South Africa, and new products are expected to come online in late 2014. The company also sells *H. bacteriophora* for control of soil-dwelling stages of FCM, insect bait stations and a range of pest monitoring products.

**Meeting adjourned at 9.45 pm.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michael Brownbridge, Secretary MCD.