



IAS

Volume 8, No. 1
January 2009

International Allelopathy Society

Newsletter

President's Message



The dust is now well settled on the 5th World Congress on Allelopathy held in Saratoga Springs, New York, USA on Sept. 21-25, 2008. From most of the feedback that the other organizers (Leslie Weston and Prasanta Bhowmik) and I received, the meeting was quite successful. The meeting was attended by 171 delegates from 28 countries. The program contained 137 oral presentations and 68 posters. The social events, including a wonderful dinner cruise on beautiful Lake George, were enjoyable to most all of us. The field trip to view historic Saratoga battlefields from the Revolutionary War period plus key invasive plants in NY State was very well attended and drew many positive comments. Delegates generally enjoyed the town of Saratoga Springs for shopping, walking and its fine restaurants. We were happy to see many young delegates, the future of our discipline, as well as quite a few new faces who have never before attended an IAS-sponsored meeting. Of course, we were also quite happy to see many familiar faces of those who have been the bulwarks of IAS over the years. The number of delegates from distant points, particularly China, who had to make a great effort to attend, was impressive. I want to thank all who helped to make this meeting a success, including the organizing committee, the program committee, and the delegates.

Although the organizing committee was busy with administrative responsibilities through most of the meeting and had little time to attend sessions, we were struck by the generally high quality of much of the research being presented. Editors of three major journals that publish allelopathy and/or natural products papers attended the entire meeting and seemed quite interested in many of the papers. They were Norman Lewis (*Phytochemistry*), John Romeo (*Journal of Chemical Ecology*), Francisco Macias (*Phytochemistry Letters*). Obviously much progress in identification of bioactive allelochemicals has been made in recent years and molecular biology has provided tools to further our understanding of biochemical pathways and genes involved in allelochemical production. Are we developing a critical mass in participation and quality of research that will provide allelopathy the place that it deserves among other disciplines? I hope so. Certainly, the number of journal papers with the words allelopathy or allelochemical in them, as searched on SciFinder, has increased over the past few decades (11 in 1970, 27 in 1980, 86 in 1990, 129 in 2000, and 237 in 2007), as have the number of papers on allelopathy in high impact journals. The number of national and regional allelopathy

societies keeps growing. It appears that the Asian Allelopathy Society will soon have its first congress.

The IAS Board of Directors decided to hold the 6th World Congress on Allelopathy in Guangzhou, China in 2011. The upcoming meeting in scenic Guangzhou should provide an opportunity to see diverse plant life and history in southern China and visit a beautiful city with modern conference facilities. The organizing committee is headed by Prof. Luo Shiming. You will find a section in this newsletter that provides more details on this.

In closing, please provide me with suggestions for IAS activities for the next three years, until our next congress. I would like to keep the momentum from our last congress going with some type of activity that will allow our members to interact more than just once every three years. This may be a critical point in the growth of allelopathy and for IAS. I am not sure about what this activity would be, other than, perhaps, organizing symposia or graduate training sessions on allelopathy as part of other meetings held during the interim. Your thoughts on this are welcome (sduke@olemiss.edu).

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2009.

Stephen Duke
President



Field Trip to Saratoga Battlefield on Hudson River

Vice President's Summary

As our president noted, we were extremely happy with the outcome of the 5th World Congress in Saratoga Springs. Despite some uncertainty about our attendance until the last minute, and some reductions in registration numbers due to visa problems and financial challenges associated with attending an international meeting, our attendance numbers were strong and a diverse international group was able to travel to Saratoga Springs. The meeting went smoothly from a planning perspective (we can say that now), and we were especially grateful to the dedicated members of the planning committee and the IAS board, as well as the Saratoga Hilton hotel staff. We appreciated their gracious attention to our needs, the comfortable and convenient facilities and excellent meals prepared by the hard working catering staff and chef. The weather in



Saratoga Springs was absolutely glorious the entire week (we planned that right), and we were able to enjoy walks through downtown Saratoga and its historic parks, and our field trip to the Saratoga battlefield and our dinner cruise on Lake George. We would also like to extend our thanks Steve Flynn and colleagues who assisted us in leading the field trip. The views over the Hudson River were lovely and we saw an interesting array of invasive non-native and native weeds including members of the knapweed family, Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, goldenrod, among others. The views from the evening paddleboat cruise on the lake were equally spectacular, and gave us a flavor of this scenic Adirondack region. Although the local arrangements committee did not have much time to interact with all the delegates, it was excellent to meet new participants and members of our society. Our final banquet, complete with celtic harp music, provided a nice close to an interesting week. IAS award recipients were honored during this time, and in 2008 these included the Molisch award which was presented to Jim Pratley of Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga Australia, for his lifetime research achievements in the field of allelopathy. Scott Baerson and co-authors were the recipients of the Grodzinsky award for excellence in research publication, since 2005. Scott is located in Oxford MS USA at the USDA's Center for Natural Products Research. Finally, our youngest award recipient was M.D. Marko from the University of Minnesota, USA for her high quality presentation during the congress. She was the well-deserved winner of the Rice Award for presentation excellence. Each recipient received an engraved plaque from IAS. The next day we held our final general business meeting and most of the delegates happily departed for some additional sight-seeing or visits before returning home. We appreciate everyone's efforts to travel a long distance to attend this meeting in historic Saratoga Springs NY. We are all looking forward to an exciting and interesting meeting in Guangzhou China in 2011 and renewing our friendships and strong international linkages.

Leslie A. Weston, April 2000

Vice President IAS and coordinator of local arrangements for the 5th World Congress

Leslie Weston,
President-Elect IAS

Minutes of the General Body Meeting (GBM) of the International Society of Allelopathy (IAS), Saratoga Springs, New York, USA, September 25 2008.

The meeting of general membership of the International Society of Allelopathy (IAS) was conducted on September 25 2008 at the 5th World Allelopathy Congress organized at Saratoga Springs, New York, USA from September 21 – 25 2008. Over 50 IAS members attended the meeting. Except for Stephen Duke (President Elect), all officers of the IAS Executive Board (2005-2008) attended the meeting. Stephen Duke left early on September 25th due to personal reasons.

Yoshiharu Fujii, the IAS President chaired the meeting. He thanked the general membership for supporting him as President and IAS in general during last three years. Inderjit, the IAS Secretary then presented the agenda of the meeting to membership, which was approved by the membership. He presented minutes of the last GBM which were published in the IAS Newsletter (that includes bylaws) for the approval of the membership. Membership approved it unanimously. Inderjit then invited Prasanta Bhowmik, the IAS Treasurer to present his report.

Prasanta Bhowmik first requested Jim Pratley to present his report on 4th World Allelopathy Congress organized at Wagga Wagga Australia in 2005. Prasanta Bhowmik then presented his report for the last three years, which was approved by the membership.

Inderjit then invited Azim Mallik, Chair of the nomination Committee to present the nomination of the IAS officers for next three years (2008 – 2011). Azim Mallik presented following slate of candidates to the membership.

1. Stephen Duke – President
2. Leslie Weston – President Elect
3. Inderjit – Secretary
4. Prasanta Bhowmik – Treasurer
5. Azim Mallik – Editor
6. Member at large (non-voting members) – Zahid Cheema (Pakistan), Augustine G.N. Fongod (Cameroon), Ana Anaya (Mexico), Catherine Fernandez (France), and Silvia Leicach (Argentina)
7. Yoshiharu Fujii becomes the Past President for next three years.

Membership was encouraged to nominate any IAS member for any position from the floor. Membership, however, did not nominate any officer from the floor. Frank Dayan moved the motion to approve the slate of candidates put forward by Azim Mallik, and A.S. Ahluwalia seconded it. The elected IAS Board of Directors for the next three years is below.

1. **President** – Stephen Duke
2. **President Elect** - Leslie Weston
3. **Secretary** - Inderjit
4. **Treasurer** - Prasanta Bhowmik
5. **Editor** - Azim Mallik
6. **Past President** - Yoshiharu Fujii
7. **Congress Vice President** – Organizer of the 6th World Allelopathy Congress
8. **Member at large** (non-voting members) – Zahid Cheema (Pakistan), Augustine G.N. Fongod (Cameroon), Ana Anaya (Mexico), Catherine Fernandez (France), and Silvia Leicach (Argentina)

Inderjit informed the membership about the next venue. He informed the house that there were three good proposals – two from China and one from Poland. Inderjit told membership that IAS Executive Board listened to presentations from the three contenders, and after discussion decided to invite Shiming Luo, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, China to organize the 6th World Allelopathy Congress at South China Agricultural University, Guanzhou in 2011. Shiming Luo then gave a brief presentation and told membership about the next venue. He informed the house that next meeting would be either in November or December 2011. Shiming Luo therefore will now be the IAS Congress Vice President. The position of Congress Vice President is no longer tied to President Elect.

Francisco Macias asked that, in future, the venue of next congress should be first discussed with membership in the GBM before Executive Board makes any decision on the venue. Membership also felt that GBM should be in the middle of the Congress, and not on the last day, which would result in greater participation.

Francisco Macias informed the house that he is exploring the possibility of publishing some selected papers from the 5TH Congress in *Phytochemistry Letters*, and John Romeo is exploring possible publication of some selected papers in *Journal of Chemical Ecology*. Since IAS now has elected its new Editor, both Francisco Macias and Stephen Duke are expected to work with Azim Mallik for potential publication. Azim Mallik also expressed his views about publication proceedings of the symposium as special volume and other publication venues.

Inderjit thanked Stephen Duke, Prasanta Bhowmik and Leslie Weston for organizing an excellent meeting and all their efforts and hard work for putting together a nice program, and the membership joined him in showing their appreciation of the organizers for their wonderful work.

The meeting was adjourned with thanks to the Chair.

Inderjit

Secretary

April, 2009

Treasurer's Report

As Congress Secretary and Treasurer of the Fifth World Congress on Allelopathy in Saratoga Springs, I am pleased to report that we had a successful conference. I thank all of you who helped me at the registration desk.

We had 171 participants from 28 countries, including 8 accompanying persons. The largest number of participants came from USA (43), followed by China (29) and Japan (15). The program contained 137 oral presentations and 68 posters. However, 223 abstracts were published in the Proceeding.



Also, I am pleased to report that our membership has substantially increased as of The Fifth World Congress on Allelopathy in Wagga Wagga. Currently, we have a total of 114 paid members. Congratulations to Anne Louise Gimsing who joined as a Life-time member. We received a total amount of \$8,350.00 as membership for the period (2009-2011). I encourage others to join the society. Please use the current membership form (attached).

Financially, our Fifth World Congress was a successful one. We received \$71,094.00 as congress registration fees. Our expenses for the congress were \$68,115.47. Thus, we have a net balance of \$2,978.53 from this congress. We had a balance of \$6,034.71 at the end of 2007. Currently, the IAS has a net worth of \$17,355.89 as of December 31, 2008.

Prasanta Bhowmik

Treasurer

January, 2009



Group photograph taken on the concluding day of 5th World Allelopathy Congress, Saratoga Springs, USA

Editor's column

Publication is the currency of credibility

It is fair to say that peer-reviewed publication is the currency of a learned society. For this reason alone many scientific societies produce their own journals. They also publish conference proceedings, bulletins, monographs and edited books. Members of a society also publish their work in other peer-reviewed journals. Collectively their publication record creates an image of the discipline serving as an indicator of how substantive is their contribution to the society at large in advancing the disciplinary knowledge. However, not all scientific societies have their own



journal. There are obvious benefits to have a journal, which provides an avenue for publishing the discoveries of its members. Publishing has its many challenges. To initiate and maintain a successful journal there are at least three preconditions, i) the discipline must attain some level of intellectual maturity with sufficient number of colleagues engaged in creative work, ii) a respectable and dedicated editorial board upholding the standard and iii) economic viability of the journal through revenue generation from the sale.

Where does the International Allelopathy Society (IAS) stand in this respect? Allow me to briefly reflect on our history. From a modest beginning and considerable controversy in the past the discipline has now been accepted as a respectable scientific inquiry. This largely because of some excellent work published in high impact journals. We have come a long way from the 1960s, 70s and even in the 80s when the main stream ecologists considerable difficulty accepting a paper using the word allelopathy in it. These days every now and then original research articles appear in most influential journals. For this recognition credit goes to colleagues who took up the challenging task to investigate the allelopathy phenomenon despite its complex and interacting nature. Use of new and advanced technology and most of all creative thinking and strong determination to discover the fundamental principles fueled this development. It came about mainly from the innovative studies on i) the mechanisms of exotic invasion, ii) natural products chemistry and weed science and iii) plant-insect interactions led by individual labs in North America and Europe. Most members of these labs were not directly associated with the IAS but their work brought the field of allelopathy additional recognition.

The contribution of IAS as a society in advancing the discipline has been largely through regular (every four years) conferences and periodic workshops in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia, that provided the opportunity to interact with colleagues, provided hands on training to young scientists and enhanced research networking. Several excellent peer reviewed publications appeared following most of these events. Generally speaking the event organizer(s) took the initiative to edit special volumes by incorporating selected papers presented at these meetings. In one occasion two established journals (Journal of Chemical Ecology and Agronomy Journal) in collaboration with the congress organizer published special issues on Allelopathy. All IAS meetings attract high quality presentations and they are worth publishing. As mentioned in the President's remarks the attendance of editors from three reputable journals speaks for the quality of presentations at the last IAS congress in 2008.

All IAS congresses in the past produced peer-reviewed publications. With the strong research and leadership standing of the organizers (Drs. Duke, Weston and Bhowmik), and the newly elected editor it becomes incumbent that we develop a peer-reviewed publication from this congress. I know of several reputable publishers interested in publishing an edited volume based on selected papers presented at this meeting. Alternatively, we can approach one of the journal editors to publish a special issue based on this congress presentation. It is my view that we should continue publishing high quality peer-reviewed volumes following major conferences, workshops and occasional monograph on selected topics inviting one or more colleagues in specialized area. Publications organized by learned society editors and colleagues attract special attention from reputable publishing houses for two reasons, i) quality assurance and ii) revenue from sale to the society members, libraries of their affiliated institutions and the general market. Given the number of peer reviewed publications appearing in various journals on allelopathy and the number of colleagues engaged in the developed and emerging nations these days, I am confident that we can eventually initiate our own journal. However, I feel that first we must first publish a number of high quality edited volumes (special issues,

books, monographs) in a timely fashion, and then embark on a journal for the society. This way by starting from a strong base we as a society and the publisher can have more confidence and credibility in initiating a new journal.

Azim Mallik

Editor

April 2009

Asian Allelopathy Society — a new society in horizon



The science of Allelopathy has been developing quickly since 1970's. Its development has led to the discovery of the fascinating secrets of chemical relationships between plant and plant, plant and microorganism, and plant and insect/animal in the nature. The application of allelopathy knowledge has led to the deeper understanding of plant community succession and its structure, optimum regulation of cropping system, the breeding of “weed free” crop varieties, and the new methods and new products for pest control in agriculture. Although we have just entered the “door step” into the field of allelopathy, it has already shown us a great potential.

As we know, more than 60% of the world's population is in Asia today. There are rich flora and fauna with diverse climate and topography in this region. The history of agriculture in Asia spans more than 10 thousand years. In terms of economic growth, no matter the total GDP or the GDP growth rate, Asia is becoming more and more important in the world. Recently, allelopathic research has gained momentum in Asia. For example, among all 123 papers in the “Proceedings and Selected Papers of the 4th World congress on Allelopathy” which was held in Wagga Wagga Australia 2005, there are 65 papers written by Asian authors from wide range of countries like Japan, China, Indian, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, Korea, Iran, Jordan, and Sri Lanka. Books about allelopathy written or edited by Asian authors like “Allelopathy – new concepts and methodology” (by Yoshiharu Fujii, 2007), “Allelopathy in Sustainable Agriculture and forestry” (by Ren Sen Zeng etc. 2008), “Allelopathy in Crop Production” (by S.S. Narwal, 2004) have been published. Several international meetings on allelopathy have been held in China, Japan, and Pakistan in recent years. The “Allelopathy Journal” based in India has gained more and more attention by academic researchers, and has now been assessed an impact factor.



**Luo Shiming, President AAS
Congress Vice-President**

As an interdisciplinary science, allelopathy especially needs the cooperation among scientists in different fields such as plant science, entomology, microbiology, molecular biology, chemistry, physics, physiology, agronomy, soil science, ecology, aquatic biology and even mathematic and simulation etc. There are roughly around one thousand scientists

engaged in this field in Asia. It strongly shows that the time to form a society for allelopathic research in Asia is ripe. According to the International Workshop on Allelopathy held in Pakistan in 2007, the First International Conference of Asian Allelopathy Society will be held in Guangzhou, China 2009. Later during the 5th World Congress on Allelopathy held in Saratoga, US 2008, the enlarged meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Asian Allelopathy Society (AAS) further decided that the date to hold the conference will be on December 18-22.

The AAS conference will be held each three years around different Asian countries. The website of AAS (<http://www.asian-allelopathy-society.org/>) will be used daily by scientists around Asian countries and the world. The exchange is very important for the scientists from Asian countries that their territories are linked with each other, and the exchanges of species and varieties are in high frequency by natural force and by human activities. It will not only benefit to share our knowledge base on our common background like rice production systems and monsoon climate, but it will also benefit us to fill our knowledge gaps on our social or natural differences. The Asian Allelopathy Society will certainly provide a unique and excellent platform for the exchange and cooperation among the scientists for the future development of this field through our common effort.

Located in the humid subtropical monsoon area, Guangzhou is the southern gate of China and the capital of Guangdong Province. Its only 2 hours drive to the north from Hong Kong to Guangzhou. You will be able to see green vegetation and beautiful flowers in December in the City of Flower (local name for Guangzhou). As the most important agricultural university in Southern China, South China Agricultural University (SCAU) is celebrating her 100 anniversary this year. You will see old buildings facing new buildings and houses hidden by trees and separated by lakes. 40,000 students in SCAU with smiling faces will welcome your arrival! You can open our website at <http://www.asian-allelopathy-society.org/home.htm> for the details of the arena of the 1st AAS.

Luo Shiming

South China Agricultural University
April 2009

Asian Allelopathy Society – Board of Directors

Luo Shiming, President
Rensen Zeng, Secretary;
A.S. Ahluwalia, Treasurer
Zahid A. Cheema, Vice president
Hisashi Kato-Noguchi, Joint Secretary



Luo Shiming,
President of the
Asian Allelopathy



A. S. Ahluwalia,
Treasurer of the *Asian
Allelopathy Society*

Achievements



Our President, Stephen Duke, was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the University of the Basque Country (EHU) in Bilbao, Spain on Nov.26, 2008. The award was given to recognize him for his international contributions to plant and agricultural sciences and for his long standing interactions with EHU. EHU is a major university in Spain with approximately 35,000 students. Duke received his first Ph.D. from Duke University in 1975, and has since worked for the Agricultural Research Service of USDA. In the picture, Prof. Jose Becerril and Stephen Duke preparing for the ceremony.

Newsletter Editor's column

Kindly send material for the next newsletter to Professor Inderjit.

Email: inderjit@cemde.du.ac.in



NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PAYMENT OF DUES

The International Allelopathy Society invites you to join in membership all around the world with scientists of diverse disciplines with a common point of interest: the study and comprehension of allelopathic phenomena. We hope this application will provide you the opportunity to take advantage of the many benefits IAS shall offer to its members.

Please type or print clearly.

1. Name: _____ DATE _____

Email address (required for ALL NEW Members): _____

Mailing address:

Institution: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Postal code _____

State/Province _____ Country _____

Tel: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail address: _____

Interests (keywords) _____

2. Payment: (Membership is paid on a triennial basis. Dues paid now will keep your membership current until the **Sixth World Congress on Allelopathy in Guanzhou, China in 2011**).

Circle amount which applies:

Regular member (\$25 per year) \$ 75 U.S.

Student member (\$10 per year) \$ 30 U.S.

Life member \$ 500 U.S.

Voluntary donation to the Society \$ ----- U.S.

(indicate amount)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ **U.S.**

Bank Draft or International Money Order should be made payable to The International Allelopathy Society, and should be drawn upon a US Bank.

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DRAFT or MONEY ORDER TO:

Dr. Prasanta C. Bhowmik

Treasurer, International Allelopathy Society

c/o Department of Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences

Stockbridge Hall 10

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003-7245 USA

Email for Prasanta C. Bhowmik: pbhowmik@pssci.umass.edu

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
PAYMENT OF DUES**

The International Allelopathy Society invites you to join in membership all around the world with scientists of diverse disciplines with a common point of interest: the study and comprehension of allelopathic phenomena. We hope this application will provide you the opportunity to take advantage of the many benefits IAS shall offer to its members.

Please type or print clearly.

1. Name: _____ DATE _____

Email address (required for ALL NEW Members): _____

Mailing address:

Institution: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Postal code _____

State/Province _____ Country _____

Tel: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail address: _____

Interests (keywords) _____

2. Payment: (Membership is paid on a triennial basis. Dues paid now will keep your membership current until the **Sixth World Congress on Allelopathy in Guanzhou, China in 2011**).

Circle amount which applies:

Regular member (\$25 per year) \$ 75 U.S.

Student member (\$10 per year) \$ 30 U.S.

Life member \$ 500 U.S.

Voluntary donation to the Society \$ ----- U.S.

(indicate amount)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ **U.S.**

Bank Draft or International Money Order should be made payable to The International Allelopathy Society, and should be drawn upon a US Bank.

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DRAFT or MONEY ORDER TO:

Dr. Prasanta C. Bhowmik

Treasurer, International Allelopathy Society

c/o Department of Plant, Soil & Insect Sciences

Stockbridge Hall 10, University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003-7245 USA

Email for Prasanta C. Bhowmik: pshowmik@pssci.umass.edu