

# HAUSTORIUM

*Parasitic Plants Newsletter*

ISSN 1944-6969

**Official Organ of the International Parasitic Plant  
Society**

(<http://www.parasiticplants.org/>)

December 2018

Number 75

## CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE IPPS PRESIDENT (Julie Scholes).....	2
<b>MEETING REPORTS</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> International Strigolactone (Cristina Prandi).....	2
4th International Symposium on Broomrape in Sunflower (Maria Pacuraenu).....	5
<b>New Project</b>	
N2Africa – a new <i>Striga</i> project (Travis Goron).....	7
<b>NOTE</b>	
Mistletoe in pear (Dietmar Fennel).....	9
<b>CONGRATULATIONS</b>	
Prof. Lytton Musselman.....	9
Dr Chris Thorogood.....	9
Dr G.N. Dhanapal.....	9
<b>PRESS REPORTS</b>	
Sphynx molecule to rescue Afrcan farmers from witchweed.....	9
<i>Cuscuta</i> seed extract market growing demand 2018-2025.....	10
Biska – one ofg the smallest cities in the world specialises in mistletoe brandy.....	11
Improved cowpea in then offing for Ghanaian farmers.....	11
Chinese herbs healing – art of herbal remedies revealed – <i>Loranthus</i> (Mulberry mistletoe).....	12
New miastletoe named after Piany environmentalist.....	13
Rare native mistletoe blooking on Hutt tracks (NZ).....	13
<b>THESIS</b>	
The role of strigolactones and control of <i>Striga</i> infection in sorghum (NasreldinAhmed).....	14
<b>CORRIGENDUM</b>	
Papers by Yoneyama <i>et a.</i> , 2018 and Uraguchi <i>et al.</i> , 2018.....	15
<b>FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:</b>	
International Conference on Legume Genetics and Genomics, May 13-17, 2019, Dijon, France.....	15
15 <sup>th</sup> World Congress on Parasitic Plants, 30 June – 5 July 2019, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.....	15
IUFRO World Congress, 29 Sept-5 Oct, Curatiba, Brazil.....	16
GENERAL WEBSITES.....	16
LITERATURE.....	16
End Notes.....	36

## MESSAGE FROM THE IPPS PRESIDENT

Dear IPPS Members,

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and lots of success with your parasitic plant research!

This year we have the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Parasitic Plants, which will take place in Amsterdam from June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup>. The venue looks fantastic and the meeting is a great opportunity to see friends and to network. Prof. Harro Bouwmeester is the local organizer and Registration and Abstract submission are now open on the WCPP-15 website (<https://www.wcpp2019.org/program/>). Please note that early registration at a reduced price is available until the 28<sup>th</sup> February so please register as soon as possible!

We have an exciting program of talks and poster presentations that cover different aspects of parasitic plant biology. There will be seven sessions including Host Plant Resistance, Genes and Genomes, Ecology, Phylogeny and Evolution, Molecules and Biochemistry, Control and Management, Parasitic Plant Biology and Parasitic plant-host interactions, so there's something for everyone! There will also be a conference tour (to be announced) and conference dinner.

On other matters, we are due to elect a new Editor for the IPPS Executive committee shortly, as Prof. Hinanit Koltai has now completed four years as Editor. I would like to take this opportunity thank Hinanit very much, for all the work she has done on the committee on behalf of the IPPS, it is much appreciated. I will send information to all IPPS members about the election of a new Editor in the next few weeks.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Amsterdam in June.

Best wishes,

Julie Scholes, IPPS President  
J.Scholes@Sheffield.ac.uk

## MEETING REPORTS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Strigolactones, Turin, Italy, 27<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

The Second International Congress on Strigolactones was held in Turin (Italy) on 27<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The meeting was organized in the framework of the COST Action FA1206 'Strigolactones: biological roles and applications'. The meeting, organized by Prof Cristina Prandi, Chair of the Action FA1206 (University of Turin, Department of Chemistry) and Local Organizer, was held at Cavallerizza Reale in Turin.

The meeting was arranged into the following 7 sessions. Posters were displayed during the whole event.

#### Session 1. Strigolactones: perception and transport

In this session, new findings regarding Strigolactone signaling were presented, including new insight into D14 receptor, an ancestral role for D14 and KAI2 in signalling pathways, the activity and role of the Strigolactone transporter PDR1 under phosphate poor conditions, and new insight into the evolution of Strigolactone signaling.

#### Presentations:

- Paola Bonfante, University of Torino, Italy - 'Strigolactones cross the kingdoms: plants, mycorrhizal fungi and bacteria'
- Daoxin Xie, Tsinghua University, China - 'DWARF14 is a non-canonical hormone receptor for strigolactone'
- Junko Kyoizuka, Tohoku University, Japan - 'Analysis of ancestral role of D14/KAI2 signaling pathway'
- Lorenzo Borghi, University of Zurich, Switzerland - 'The strigolactone transporter PDR1 regulates plant biomass production on phosphate-poor soil'
- Tom Bennett, University of Leeds, UK - 'The evolution of Strigolactone signalling'
- Weiqiang Li - 'OaMAX2 of *Orobanchae aegyptiaca* and Arabidopsis AtMAX2 share conserved functions in both development and drought responses'
- Kaori Yoneyama, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science, JAPAN - 'Biochemical characterization of MAX1 orthologs involved in strigolactone biosynthesis'
- Elena Sanchez, CSIC, Cordoba, Spain - 'Control of DWARF14 stability in Arabidopsis thaliana'

## Session 2. Strigolactones and microbiota

In this session new insight into the tight interactions between SLs released in the rhizosphere and their effects on the soil microbiota have been presented. A special focus was dedicated to the effects of SLs on AMF with emphasis on the recent progresses in the identification of SLs receptor in fungi.

### Presentations:

- Caroline Gutjahr, LMU Munich, Germany - 'KARRIKIN signaling in arbuscular mycorrhiza development. Design and use of profluorescent probes'
- Michael H. Walter, Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Germany - 'Strigolactone levels in mycorrhizal roots of dicots are determined by carotenoid pre-cursor supply driven by phytoene synthase 3'
- Eloise Foo, University of Tasmania, AUSTRALIA - 'Determining the site of action of Strigolactones during nodulation'
- Juan Antonio López-Ráez, CSIC, Cordoba, Spain - 'Role of strigolactones in the Rhizobium-legume symbiosis: effect on bacterial motility and regulation by nodulation'
- Valentina Fiorilli, University of Torino, Italy - 'Looking for genes encoding strigolactones receptors in fungi'
- Rocío Pineda-Martos, University of Huelva, Spain - 'Chemotropic sensing responses of fungal biocontrol agents to Strigolactones. The three-player system: host-parasite-Fusarium'
- Piotr Rozpadek, Jagiellonian University, Poland - 'Strigolactone is necessary for the establishment of a beneficial interaction between *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Mucor* sp.'
- In Sun Yoon, National Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Republic of Korea - 'OsTCP6 is a positive regulator of tiller formation in rice and involved in the transcriptional activation of cell cycle genes'

## Session 3. Strigolactones as plant hormones

In this session new insight into Strigolactone biosynthesis and transport were given. New biosynthesis components that result with different newly identified precursors and end products were presented, as well as new findings regarding the plasma membrane localization of a Strigolactone transporter.

### Presentations:

- Ottoline Leyser, University of Cambridge, UK - 'Auxin, Strigolactone and the control of shoot branching'
- Lam-Son Tran, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science, Japan - 'Strigolactones: function and potential crosstalk with cytokinins in drought response'
- Kaori Yoneyama, Utsunomiya University, Japan - 'Biochemical characterization of lateral branching oxidoreductase involved in strigolactone biosynthesis'
- Christine Beveridge, University of Queensland, Australia - 'Shoot branching. Role of Strigolactones and interactions with other signals'
- Markus Geisler, University of Fribourg, Switzerland - 'TWISTED DWARF1 integrates auxin and strigolactone actions on plant development'
- Guo-Wei Liu, University of Zurich, Switzerland - 'The phytohormone strigolactone regulates the maintenance of hypodermal passage cells and Mg<sup>2+</sup> uptake'
- Francesca Cardinale, University of Turin, Italy - 'Strigolactones are crucial for miR156 inducibility by drought in tomato'

## Session 4. Chemistry of Strigolactones

This session was dedicated to new synthetic sequences leading to natural and synthetic Strigolactones. Impressive progresses have been made to enantioselective synthesis as enantiopure compounds are needed to evaluate biological effects directly related to Strigolactones and not to karrikins.

### Presentations:

- Tadao Asami, University of Tokyo - 'Chemical regulation of strigolactone functions'
- François-Didier Boyer, Institut Jean-Pierre Bourgin, INRA, France - 'Mechanism of Strigolactone reception in vascular plants. Design and use of profluorescent probes'
- Francisco Antonio Macias Dominguez, University of Cadiz, Spain - 'Natural products as source for new Strigolactones mimics'
- Salim Al Babili, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia - 'A negative regulator of Strigolactone biosynthesis and efficient Strigolactone analogs'
- Christopher McErlean, University of Sydney, Australia - 'Synthetic strategies to aryl Strigolactones'
- José Maria González Molinillo, University of Cadiz, Spain - 'Preparation and activity evaluation of Eudesmanestrigolactones from Costunolide'

- Sofie Goormachtig, Ghent University, Belgium -  
‘Strigolactone signaling through the eye of the mass spectrometer’
- Carlos Rial Cumbreira, University of Cadiz, Spain -  
‘Evaluation of germination stimulant activity of the guaianolide Lappalone and its derivatives on parasitic weeds’
- Salar Torabi, University of Munich, Germany -  
‘Karrikin signaling in *Lotus japonicas*’

### Session 5. Strigolactones: perception and signalling

In this session the role of SLs as seeds germination inducers of parasitic plants has been evaluated and new progresses in this field have been presented by the speakers. The exploitation of SLs as a tool to combat parasitic weeds infestation has been discussed.

#### Presentations:

- Shinjiro Yamaguchi, Tohoku University, Japan -  
‘Strigolactone biosynthesis and its regulation’
- Sandrine Bonhomme, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay, France - ‘Strigolactone signaling pathway evolution - inputs of *Physcomitrella patens* mutants’
- Samy Carbonnel, LMU Munich, Germany -  
‘Characterization of Karrikin and Strigolactone signaling in the legume *Lotus japonicus*’
- Laura Ravazzolo, University of Padova -  
‘Strigolactones involvement in maize root response to nitrate fluctuations’
- Yuichiro Tsuchiya, Nagoya University, Japan -  
‘Development of a germination stimulant for a parasitic plant *Striga*’
- Attila Végh, Centre for Agricultural Research, Hungary - ‘Comprehensive analysis of DWARF14-LIKE2 (DLK2) reveals its role in seedling light responses’

### Session 6. Strigolactones and germination

In this session, a number of speeches dealing with the roles of Strigolactones and related compounds on the germination processes of parasitic plants were grouped. (Many of the presentations in this and the following session which were included in Journal of Experimental Botany, are briefly reviewed in included in the Literature section below.)

#### Presentations:

- David Nelson, University of California, USA - ‘Roles and regulation of the SMXL/D53 family’
- Mark Waters, University of Western Australia -  
‘Diversity in KARRIKIN receptor proteins. What can we learn beyond *Arabidopsis*?’

- Steven M. Smith, University of Tasmania, Australia -  
‘KARRIKIN signalling increases the sensitivity of *Arabidopsis* seed germination to osmotic stress’

- Philippe Delavault, University of Nantes, France -  
‘Parasitic and non-parasitic plants share a Strigolactone signaling pathway leading to seed germination through abscisic acid catabolism’

- Harro Bouwmeester, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands - ‘Structural diversity in Strigolactones: biosynthesis and significance’

- Antonio Evidente, Università di Napoli Federico II, Italy - ‘Root plant and fungal metabolites to alternatively and biologically Lukas Braem - ‘A protein approach towards investigating parasitic plant germination’

- Lukas Braem - VIB, Belgium – ‘A protein approach towards investigating parasitic plant germination’

- Evgenia Dor - ‘Characterization of the Carotenoid Cleavage Dioxygenase 7 (CCD7) chickpea mutant’

### Session 7. New challenges for Strigolactones

In this session, unforeseen and unprecedented SLs role and effects have been presented. Non canonical Strigolactones have been shown to be as effective as canonical SLs. Antitumoral activity of SLs analogues has been presented by Dr. Yarden, USA.

#### Presentations:

- Koichi Yoneyama, Utsunomiya University, Japan -  
‘Distribution of canonical and non-canonical strigolactones in the plant kingdom’
- Claudio Screpanti, Syngenta Crop Protection, Switzerland - ‘Strigolactones and their potential role in modern agriculture’
- Antonio Cala Peralta, University of Cadiz, Spain - ‘A Study on the germination activity of Dehydrocostuslactone derivatives on parasitic weeds’
- Hailey Larose, Virginia Tech, USA - ‘The *Orobancha cumana* x *Orobancha cernua* genetic system provides insight into the regulation of host specificity in a parasitic plant’
- Ronit Yarden, Georgetown University, USA - ‘The anti-tumorigenic activities of Strigolactone analogs’

### Closing lecture

- Binne Zwanenburg, Radboud University, The Netherlands - ‘Strigolactones: new plant hormones on the move’

#### 4th International Symposium on Broomrape in Sunflower, Bucharest, Romania, July 2-4, 2018.

This symposium was the fourth specific symposium on broomrape in sunflower after those held in Turkey 2008, Moldova 2011 and Spain 2014. It was organized by the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute of Fundulea and the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, with the ISA, under the coordination of Maria Pacureanu, and attracted 203 participants from 17 countries including those most concerned by the infestations of *Orobanche cumana* on sunflower and/or research on this topics - Central and Eastern Europe, Spain, Turkey, Israel, Iran, Karakhsan and China - were present. About two thirds of the participants were from private companies and one third from public research and universities, reflecting the importance of such events for the coordination of research and innovation.

27 oral presentations and 26 posters were presented, organized in the following four sessions, offering a quite complete overview of the diversity of the work on sunflower broomrape. The symposium ended with a workshop on the creation of an International Consortium on Sunflower broomrape resistance and was followed by a field trip to the Braila Research Station and Soare Constantin Society, in Constanta area.

#### Biology and genetics of *Orobanche cumana*:

Philippe Delavault (University of Nantes) explained the interest of the focus on the germination process in the perspective to implement biocontrol methods of the *Orobanche*. Using a transcriptomic approach applied to *P. ramosa*, they showed that the germination stimulants produced by the host plant, induce a modification of only 28 transcripts out of 2500 and that 2 of them induce a gene active in ABA catabolism, producing an enzyme CYP707A involved in the control of seed dormancy and germination. They conclude that *P. ramosa* seeds germinate after the endogenous ABA content reaches a sufficiently low level through CYP707A dependent catabolism triggered by the germination stimulants. The work carried out at Nantes and Toulouse on *O. cumana* permitted to obtain a reference transcriptome of *O. cumana*, a transcriptomic profiling during the broomrape development and an annotation of the *O. cumana*

genome sequence. Work is continuing with a PhD thesis (Sabrina Tourneur/ poster) and the project miPEPITO, aiming at identifying micropeptides involved in the regulation of specific target genes in *Orobanche* and sunflower, in order to implement biocontrol methods.

Maria Joita-Pacureanu (National Agricultural research and Development Institute Fundulea) presented the current global situation of the sunflower broomrape which concerns 70% of the world production area and 60% of the production; and the evolution of broomrape populations. The newest populations determined in some countries were called G, H and I, but there is a doubt in the description of races in different countries, especially for the recent ones. To facilitate communication and comparisons, proposals have been made for a universal adoption of the coded triplets system based on differential sets of sunflower lines, similarly to other plant pathogens. Sources of resistance to the races G and following have been identified in wild *Helianthus* species. The presentation concludes on the necessity to complexify the breeding strategy, using pyramiding of single dominant *Or* genes, and use of quantitative non-race-specific tolerance. Using resistance to the AHAS-inhibiting herbicides is part of the strategies. (Sanrui Agri Tech) and Maria Duca (University of Academy of Science of Moldova) presented the status of *Orobanche* monitoring in China and Moldova respectively. In China, the results show a trend towards a higher pressure of broomrape. Hybrids resistant to races E and F were developed, but a race G is present already in Inner Mongolia and will probably increase. In Moldova, broomrape has a long history since 1935 with races A and B; the latest monitoring results show a rather unfavorable situation with a higher presence of the parasite in the south of the country, with more than 60% of infested lands, and a gradient from south to north, but the latest races F, G, H are present in all regions. Molecular studies and phylogenetics have been achieved, showing a pathogen-host co-evolution. Jian Wang (Zhejiang University) detailed the situation and control techniques in Inner Mongolia, China: it seems that water soaking from irrigation can affect the vigor of *O. cumana* seeds and decrease their germination rate. Faisal Islam (Zhejiang University) reviewed the possible management levers against *Orobanche*, including agronomic ones.

### Resistance mechanisms in sunflower

Alberto Martin Sanz (Corteva) presented a complete review of the resistance mechanisms to *O. cumana* in sunflower, distinguishing pre-attachment and post-attachment phases, the latter being divided into pre-haustorial and post-haustorial, and describing the mechanisms identified in the literature. The action of some of the major resistance genes may be attributed to a dominant mechanism (e.g pre-haustorial for *Or7*). Na Zhang et al (Zhejiang University) tested in controlled conditions a pre-treatment of sunflower seeds with brassinolide, revealing positive effects on sunflower growth and biomass. Mireille Chabaud (INRA) presented the phenotyping device used in Toulouse for the study of the resistance of sunflower to *Orobanche* at early stages, in a rhizotron with automation of imaging and image analysis and optimization of the nutrient solution.

### Genetic resistance

Leonardo Velasco (CSIC) introduced the session with a review of the recent developments of breeding for resistance against broomrape, pointing out a coexistence of more than one century between the crop and its parasite with a gene to gene resistance system, and a complexifying racial situation. The *Orobanche* variability and increase in virulence is not due solely to mutations: recent studies in Spain have shown the existence of a certain level of cross-fertilization and genetic recombination between individuals of different gene pools. Also in Bulgaria it was found that there was a gene flow between populations parasitizing wild hosts and populations parasitizing sunflower. Velasco listed and commented on 5 complementary research strategies in a scenario of racial uncertainty: 1. Racial characterization of broomrape populations, 2. Discovery of new resistance genes, 3. Genetic and physiological characterization of resistance genes in sunflower, 4. Genetic and physiological characterization of avirulence genes in broomrape, 5. Developing diagnostic molecular markers for resistance and for avirulence genes. Concerning the 3<sup>rd</sup> strategy, he insisted on the fact that genetic and physiological characterization of the resistance are equally important in the perspective to associate gene pyramiding with a physiology-based strategy.

Stéphane Munos (INRA) presented the work carried out in the French-Spanish Helior project: observing that cell wall modifications seem to be involved in both compatible and incompatible attachments and that genes from both broomrape

and sunflower are expressed in the attachments samples of the two categories, the team carried out transcriptomic studies to measure the gene expression from both *O. cumana* and sunflower during the early stages of the interaction. For this, they produced a complete sequence and first genetic map of *O. cumana* using the segregating populations of *O. cumana* identified in Spain. Work on transcriptomics is going on to annotate the two genomes.

Dragan Skoric reviewed the progress in sunflower breeding for the resistance to *Orobanche* and observed that the permanent change in populations of *O. cumana* hinders the success of breeding for resistance and concludes on the pregnant need of methods to compare the results of different studies and to evaluate the resistances. Gerald Seiler (USDA) showed, based on literature reports, that sunflower is among the species for which the use of genetic resources from wild relatives is the most important, especially concerning resistances to biotic stresses. 37 sources of resistance to broomrape have been identified in wild relatives, 29 of them in perennials. Notably resistances to races E, F, G are available in several perennial *Helianthus*.

### Herbicide tolerance and other control methods.

Johannes Bessai (BASF) highlighted the interest of imidazolinone herbicides and Clearfield system for completing the genetic control of *Orobanche* specially in specific areas with a high pressure of *Orobanche* and the presence of very virulent races. He also pointed out the risk of development of *Orobanche* biotypes resistant to these herbicides as for any weed species, and concludes that a 'golden standard' for broomrape control would associate Clearfield sunflowers with the latest genetic broomrape resistance, that would also allow the genetic resistances to stay longer in the market and gain time for new breeding developments. Then he gave comparative information on the two imazamox systems Clearfield and Clearfield plus. Luis Carlos Alonso (Syngenta) reminded us of important basic elements of the biology of *Orobanche*, conditioning the success of the control strategies: the fields are infested by mixtures of different races, the characterization of races by letters is not reliable when considering different countries, and the importance of the wind in the dispersal of the *Orobanche* seeds seems to be quite relative. Strategies combining genetic, chemical control and agronomic practices including long rotations and trap crops seem to have shown the possibility to eradicate *Orobanche* in one irrigated farm in

Spain, at the opposite of previous heavy eradication programs on parasitic plants in Australia and USA.

### Call for collaboration

The last session of the symposium was devoted to a workshop on the constitution of an

**International consortium on Sunflower broomrape resistance**, on a joint initiative of CSIC Cordoba, Spain and INRA France, whose purpose is to bring together a wide range of public and private partners working on the sunflower broomrape system to define and implement long-term research and control strategies. The operational objectives are a) to define a clear set of differential lines to universally classify broomrape races, b) to develop a collection of well-characterized broomrape populations based on their virulence degree, c) to use these collected genetic resources for molecular diversity, d) to progress on the functional characterization of the interaction at all stages (from seeds to flowering shoot). Open to public and private organisations, the funding would come from private companies and from public projects, on the principles of sharing the part of the results that fit the objectives.

### NEW PROJECT

#### N<sub>2</sub>AFRICA – new *Striga* project

N<sub>2</sub>Africa is a large scale, science-based ‘research-in-development’ project focused on putting nitrogen fixation to work for smallholder farmers growing legume crops in Africa.

With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, N<sub>2</sub>Africa has been active since 2013 in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda, and since 2009 in DR Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. Focal legume crops are common bean, chickpea, cowpea, faba bean, groundnut and soyabean.

A recent review by Franke *et al.* (2018), noted below, looks at the benefits from inclusion of legumes in the rotation, particularly on the yield of cereal crops. This is mainly (but apparently not exclusively) due to the increase in N. Where *Striga* occurs there are two additional benefits as the N decreases the damaging effect on the crop while at the same time most legumes reduce the *Striga* seed bank via suicidal germination. Intercropping is not necessarily so beneficial. They refer to a paper by Rusinamhodzi *et al.* (2012) in

which a study of the effect of legume rotation on cereal yield had to exclude one result where pigeonpea caused an 800% increase in maize, mainly due to reduction of *Striga*. (Rusinamhodzi, L., Corbeels, M., Nyamangara, J., Giller, K.E., 2012. Maize–grain legume intercropping is an attractive option for ecological intensification that reduces climatic risk for smallholder farmers in central Mozambique. *Field Crop Res.* 136, 12–22.)

The potential effects of legumes on *Striga* are now the subject of a new project being conducted under the programme by Dr Travis Goron at Wageningen. Dr Travis writes as follows:

‘My first set of experiments is being conducted in Western Kenya, in Bungoma, Busia, and Kakamega counties, areas known for their high infestation levels. My objectives are to quantify the *Striga* seed bank in maize fields of high and low infestation, correlate the seed bank and *Striga* emergence with soil physiochemical characteristics, and compare *Striga* emergence and seed bank between maize in monoculture or rotation with a legume crop.

This past June, I conducted a survey with help from IITA scientists, to identify farmers with maize fields of both high and low infestation levels. I asked these farmers questions regarding their management practices in the fields of both the high and low infestations, including fertilizer/manure input use, variety, and importantly, cropping history. At all of these fields, I also took soil samples which are currently being tested for percent clay, silt, and sand, available P and N, organic content, pH, macronutrients (K, Ca, Mg, Na), and micronutrients (Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn). Also, the *Striga* seed bank from these soil samples is being quantified by both microscopy.

During a future growing season, I will return to these farmers, and in each field two treatments of either legume or monoculture maize will be planted, with high/zero N fertilization treatments to disentangle the legume N<sub>2</sub>-fixation benefit. *Striga* reduction in the subsequent maize crop will be compared between the cropping treatments with visual inspection, and analysis of the seed bank as described above. It is hypothesized that rotating maize with legumes will reduce the *Striga* seed bank and subsequent parasitism of a maize crop in a variety of environments?’

Travis Goron, Wageningen, The Netherlands

### Taking the lead toward witchweed control

The first specific inhibitor for an uncontrollable plant pest, the witchweed *Striga hermonthica*, has been discovered through collaboration between two groups at KAUST, led by plant biochemist Salim Al-Babili and structural biologist Stefan Arold.

Witchweed is a parasitic plant that attaches to the roots of cereal plants, stealing their water and nutrients. It affects more than 60 percent of farmland in sub-Saharan Africa, and is spreading across other areas, including Asia, Southeast Europe and Saudi Arabia. Commercial losses for sub-Saharan Africa alone exceed 7 billion US dollars. *Striga* and related species have become one of the most serious threats to global food security,' says Imran Haider, from KAUST. The magnitude of its destruction led the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation to award substantial funding to Al-Babili who teamed up with other researchers in the biological sciences and those from the Computational Bioscience Research Center and Core Labs units.

'The breakthrough was fortuitous,' says postdoc Umar Hameed, whose team was studying the molecular structure of a cell membrane receptor protein involved in the germination of *Striga* seeds. This protein, ShHTL7, must bind to natural plant compounds called strigolactones during seed germination. While working to determine the structure of ShHTL7, the researchers used the molecule Triton X-100 to assist preparation of samples of the protein. 'We noticed that our ShHTL7 molecules always had Triton X-100 bound to them,' says Hameed. The next crucial discovery was that this binding of Triton X-100 molecules inhibits the germination of the *Striga* seeds, acting as an *antagonist* by preventing the natural strigolactones from binding.

'We soon realized that we had stumbled upon the first lead compound that could inhibit *Striga* seed germination without also affecting the host plant infected with *Striga*,' says Haider. A lead compound demonstrates useful biological activity that can be refined by developing structurally similar, but more effective, compounds. Hameed and Haider, together with Salim Al-Babili and Stefan Arold, are using their results as a stepping stone to develop more potent inhibitors that will bind more tightly and permanently to the site that Triton X-100 has identified.

The researchers believe that this success is a great demonstration of the power of structural analysis of proteins in identifying compounds that can selectively bind to proteins to inhibit their activities. They hope this approach can be applied more widely.

Another target on their radar is the *Orobanch* (broomrape) parasite that infests commercially significant crops, such as tomato and sunflower, in the northern hemisphere.

### Reference:

Hameed, U.S., Haider, I., Jamil, M., Kountche, B.A., Guo, X., Zarban, R.A., Kim, D., Al-Babili, S. and Arold, S.T. 2018. Structural basis for specific inhibition of the highly sensitive ShHTL7 receptor. EMBO Reports - advance online publication, 18 July 2018.

### NOTE

#### Mistletoe in pear

In the older literature there are mentioned among others as host for *Viscum album* in addition to the family/genus *Malus* also the genus *Pyrus*. *V. album* however very seldom grows on pear trees. Approx. 30 years ago I infected 40 young wild pears *Pyrus pyraster* with seeds of *V. album* - however with little success (either the seedlings became dry or the pear tree died below the infection). Only one infection was successful. Unfortunately, I'm not able to inform you about the further history of the pear mistletoe. It was handed over to an open-air museum where it disappeared (much to my regret !).

But 12 years ago my hometown Radevormwald established in Radevormwald-Herbeck an orchard with old varieties of fruit. This orchard is grazed extensively by sheep. There are also some beehives. Furthermore, perches for owls, kestrels and buzzards were installed. A hedge with various *Rosa canina*, *Cornus* sp., *Corylus avellana*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Crataegus* sp., *Prunus spinosa* was planted around the orchard. There is a great variety of insects. *V. album* is growing abundantly on a pear tree *Pyrus communis* of the old species 'Gellert's Butterbirne'. Due to a very hot and long summer period the pear tree doesn't have any fruits, contrary to the other fruit trees of the orchard.

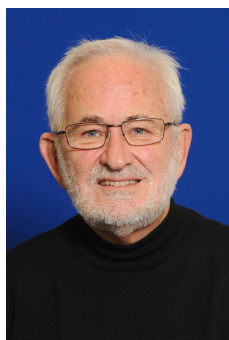




Dietmar Fennel

<https://bergischer-naturschutzverein.de/wer-macht-was/>

### CONGRATULATIONS



**To Prof. Lytton Musselman**, congratulations on having a new species of *Striga* named *Striga musselmanii* – see Moolayil, O. and Sreenivas, V.K. 2018, below.



**To Dr Chris Thorogood**, congratulations on publication of his latest book – ‘Weird Plants’ (see listing below) which he aims at the general public with vivid descriptions of insectivorous and other exotic plants including parasitic *Rafflesia*, *Hydnora* and *Orobanche*. Also for his valuable paper of the *Hydnora* genus in his paper, also listed below, both lavishly illustrated with photographs and his own superb art-work.

**To Dr G.N. Dhanapal**,

congratulations on becoming a fellow of Indian Society of Weed at their Golden Jubilee International Conference held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2018.

### REQUEST FOR SEEDS OF *OROBANCHE CRENATA*

Professor Gianniantonio Domina, University of Palermo, Italy, is launching a project to establish seed banks of *Orobanche* and *Phelipanche* samples from across Europe and the Mediterranean. He will appreciate offers of seed at [gianniantonio.domina@unipa.it](mailto:gianniantonio.domina@unipa.it).

### PRESS REPORTS

#### **Sphinx molecule to rescue African farmers from witchweed: discovery of a hypersensitive suicide germination stimulant.** (abridged)

An interdisciplinary team led by researchers at Nagoya University has discovered a highly potent and selective molecule, SPL7, that can lead seeds of the noxious parasitic weed *Striga* to suicide germination. *Striga*, also known as witchweed, has seriously affected millions of hectares of crop fields in Africa and poses a major threat to food security.

The molecular structure of a strigolactone (SL) is composed of an ABC-ring linked with a D-ring. Upon entering into the pocket of the SL receptor protein, SL is decomposed at the linker site. It has been thought that the structure of the D-ring is important, as it stays in the pocket to activate the receptor and lead *Striga* seeds to germinate. On the other hand, modifying the ABC-portion has been leading to the development of variable SL-like molecules. Nonetheless, the exact structure providing *Striga*-selectivity was still unknown. The plant biology team at the Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules led by Yuichiro Tsuchiya initiated the search for a *Striga*-selective molecule from 12,000 synthetic molecules with random structures, and was able to identify a series of hit compounds (represented by a

molecule called SAM690) that bind to an SL receptor in *Striga*, but not to that in the model plant *Arabidopsis*, and stimulate *Striga* seed germination with moderate activity (micromolar-range; 10-6 M).

The research went on with a serendipitous discovery of a highly active byproduct generated during the synthesis of hit molecules. The chemistry team led by Daisuke Uruguchi and Takashi Ooi isolated minuscule amount (0.01%) of the by-product from a crude mixture of a SAM compound and identified its structure as a hybrid of SAM690 and the D-ring component of SLs. The optimized molecule, which is called sphynolactone-7 (SPL7), stimulated *Striga* germination at femtomolar (10-15 M) range, yet only bound to the SL receptor in *Striga*. The potency is on a par with the natural strigolactone, 5-deoxystriogl (5DS), which is the strongest germination stimulant to *Striga* among all commercially available compounds. Named after sphinx (a mystical creature with the head of a lion and the body of a human), SPL7 appeared as a hybrid molecule which inherits *Striga*-selectivity from SAM690 and high potency from SLs.

As expected from the selective binding to the SL receptor in *Striga*, SPL7 did not show typical SL activity in *Arabidopsis*, such as reduction of the number of shoot branches or elongation of root hairs. Not only to *Arabidopsis*, but SPL7 also appeared to have a limited effect on the growth of AM-fungi, which is an agronomically important microbe. Finally, the research team confirmed that SPL7 did induce suicidal germination of *Striga* and protected maize plant from *Striga* parasitism in laboratory experiments. In conclusion, the team has proven that SPL7 is an effective *Striga*-selective suicide germination stimulant at least in laboratory experiments. The research team is planning to extend the discovery to field trials of SPL7 in Kenya.

Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules (ITbM), Nagoya University  
Media Contact  
Dr. Yuichiro Tsuchiya  
yuichiro@itbm.nagoya-u.ac.jp

EurekAlert, 17-Dec-2018

(NB This release refers to the paper by Uruguchi *et al*, 2018 – see below)

### ***Cuscuta* Seed Extract Market Growing Demand 2018 to 2025 (abridged)**



Global *Cuscuta* Seed Extract Market Insights, Forecast to 2025 covers key market updates, the impact of regulations and technological updates. New startups entering the space of Global *Cuscuta* Seed Extract need to carefully pick their niches and genres so that they can compete on an equal footing with global companies who have an end to end development studios, production capabilities and global skills and experience backing them. New vendors in the market are facing tough competition from established international vendors as they struggle with technological innovations, reliability and quality issues. The report will answer questions about the current market developments and the scope of competition, opportunity cost and more.

The report systematically analyzes the most significant details of the Global *Cuscuta* Seed Extract Market with the help of a thorough and specialized analysis. Characterized in a ground-up manner, the report presents an extensive synopsis of the market in view of the factors that are foreseen to have a considerable and measurable impact on the market's developmental states over the conjecture time frame.

The prominent players in the global *Cuscuta* Seed Extract market are Active Herb Technology, Barlowe's Herbal Elixirs, Bristol Botanicals, Stakich, Nutra Green Biotechnology. *Cuscuta* seed extract powder, liquid *Cuscuta* seed extract are used in medicines, food additives, dietary supplements.

Get a sample copy of this report at:  
<https://www.marketinsightsreports.com/report-s/0905822138/global-Cuscuta-seed-extract-market-insights-forecast-to->

[2025/inquiry?source=businessstrategies24&Mode=23](#)  
(NB cost -\$3,900!)

[tanmay@marketinsightsreports.com](mailto:tanmay@marketinsightsreports.com)  
September 5, 2018

### **Biska - One of the smallest cities in the world specializes in mistletoe brandy.**

According to the legend, the city of Hum, Croatia, was built by giants. One day long ago, the massive creatures were heaving rocks along the valley of the Mirna River to build their homes. After they'd finished, a few stones remained. To tidy up, the giants placed the leftover slabs upon the ridge above them and one of the smallest cities in the world was born. Today, the city of Hum hovers around a population of 20 people, but with its surrounding walls, entrance gate, castle, and hospital, the area doesn't lack for much, especially liquor.

Hum is located on the Istrian Peninsula, the stomping grounds for many a culture over the years. But the Celtic Druids are said to be the ones who left behind an original recipe for the mistletoe brandy known as *biska* 2,000 years ago. Hum has become famous for its production of the herb-infused brandy, which enjoys a special celebration at the end of October during the annual *Rakija* Festival. Although Hum offers its locally made biska throughout the year, at the festival people can find a host of the homemade batches that producers from throughout the region bring to be judged and, hopefully, awarded for their top-notch flavor. Attendees can also taste a bit of Istria while hearing poetry dedicated to brandy.

(It is a blend of apple distillate and carefully selected mistletoe leaves prepared according to a traditional recipe. Traditionally Biska is made in Istria, but the original recipe comes from the Celts who lived on the Istrian peninsula and is about two thousand years old. Biska is the local name for mistletoe (*Viscum album*), whose healing force was already known in ancient times. It was highly esteemed by the Celtic druids, Greeks and Romans. Delikroat) What does biska taste like? First, strong. Referred to as a type of rakija, biska is essentially a fruit brandy or grappa that has been infused with mistletoe and herbs. Mistletoe, actually a parasitic plant (known by some for dangerously dangling over door frames during Christmastime), gets gathered from local apple trees before being

soaked in the distilled brandy. After one last distillation to remove impurities, the final, herbaceous brandy becomes, as one poet puts it, 'the medicine whose drops warm our hearts.' Need to Know - If you're keen on visiting Hum's Rakija Festival, stop by on the last Sunday in October.

Atlas Obscura.

### **Improved cowpea in the offing for Ghanaian smallholders**

Accra. Ghanaian smallholders could by the end of this year get access to new, disease-resistant cowpea varieties that mature early and improve yields, says an expert who developed the varieties. According to researchers, cowpea is a major source of plant protein in the diet of Ghanaians but suffers up to 100 per cent yield losses from stress induced by drought, viruses and *Striga gesnerioides* also called cowpea witchweed. Examples of recipes in Ghana that include cowpeas are *tubaani* (steamed cowpea pudding) and *waakye* (rice and red or brown cowpeas cooked together).

'The three newly developed cowpeas with resistant traits to all known races of *Striga* in West Africa were first to have been reported,' says Aaron Asare, principal investigator of the project that developed the new varieties. 'These novel cowpeas will sustain the cowpea industry and provide foundation for further breeding and improvement of the crop. 'Cowpea seeds may be initially distributed free to farmers if funded and subsequently certified seeds will be produced by seed companies for farmers to buy from agro-shops and Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture.'

The new varieties require eight weeks to mature, have yield potential of almost four tonnes per hectare unlike existing yields with almost three tonnes per potential, and are highly tolerant to drought, rust and several viruses that attack cowpeas including cowpea severe mottle virus and cucumber mosaic virus. The new cowpea varieties are subject to approval by Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture based on recommendation by the National Varietal Release and Registration Committee, adds Asare, who is head of the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at Ghana's University of Cape Coast.

During an inspection workshop which took place at the University of Cape Coast last month (18 September), Asare told *SciDev.Net* that the evaluation and selection of the cowpea varieties involved farmer and consumer participatory activities. The project, which began in April 2016 and is to end in April 2019, has partners including Ghana's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and US-based University of Virginia.

The novel cowpeas were developed through classical breeding techniques involving genetic crosses of *Striga*-resistant parental donor with recipient parents.

Michael Timko, a professor of biology and public health at the University of Virginia, says that breeding improved cowpea varieties that are disease- and pest-resistant and can cope with climate change ensures future food security for people in Sub-Saharan Africa. 'The lives and livelihoods of smallholders depend on their abilities to produce cowpea for food, forage and economic value, thus having improved varieties is essential,' he explains.

Richard Akromah, an associate professor of crop science and plants breeding at Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, tells *SciDev.Net* that the varieties can benefit small-scale farmers who cannot afford irrigation and thus depend on rain-fed agriculture. 'During the trials, whereas other varieties were failing due to erratic rainfall patterns, the new varieties were performing better, which would benefit Sub-Saharan Africa due to similar ecological conditions,' explains Akromah, who is a member of Ghana's National Varietal Release and Registration Committee.

Samuel Hinneh, SciDev.Net  
4 August, 2018

### **Chinese Herbs Healing - Art of Herbal Remedies Revealed - *Loranthus* (Mulberry Mistletoe, Sang Ji Sheng)**

*Loranthus*, also known as mulberry mistletoe or Sang Ji Sheng in mandarin, has long been characterized by increasing lifespan and preserving health in many medical classics. It was first mentioned as a medicine by Shen Nong Ben Cao Jing (the Divine Farmer's Materia Medica). Medicinally people often confuse it with mistletoe (*Viscum album*). But it is generally accepted by doing so since they are quite similar in healing properties. In summary, *Loranthus*

health benefits include lowering blood pressure, treating an abnormal heart rhythm, increasing coronary blood flow, improving coronary circulation, enhancing cardiac contractility, reducing myocardial oxygen consumption, inhibiting platelet aggregation, preventing thrombosis, promoting microcirculation, suppressing tumor growth, curing hepatitis, and so on.

As a matter of fact, *Loranthus* refers to a genus rather than a certain species. The typical *Loranthus* characteristic is that all of its plants are parasitic. That being said, *Loranthus parasiticus* (= *Scurrula parasitica*) lives on other woody trees, apparently fed by directly robbing water and nutrients from the host. When it comes to such a mode of existence, *Loranthus* is not alone and actually it is just only one member in a bigger group – the showy mistletoe family (Loranthaceae), which consists of 73 genera and more than 900 species. Hence, Loranthaceae is also known as the largest family of mistletoes.

Medicinally it mainly refers to the dried aerial parts of *Taxillus chinensis* (DC.) Danser (*Loranthus chinensis* Dc.) But the fact is China's ancient herbalists used to obtain it from several different genera in the family Loranthaceae, including *Taxillus*, *Scurrula*, and *Viscum*. To date *Viscum coloratum* (Komar.) Nakai is still mixed up with *Taxillus chinensis* even though it has been recorded separately in the 'Chinese Pharmacopoeia.' Besides, *Taxillus sutchuenensis* (*Loranthus sutchuenensis* Lecomte), *Scurrula parasitica* L. (*Loranthus scurrula* L.), *Taxillus nigrans* (Hance) Danser, and others are also used medicinally as *Loranthus* mulberry mistletoe. Therefore, other names of this herb include Mulberry Mistletoe Stem, Herba Taxilli, *Loranthus* stem, parasitizing *Morus*, Sangjisheng, *Loranthus parasiticus*, *Loranthus ramulus*, and more. In China, it is mainly produced in Guangdong, Guangxi, and Yunnan. It is usually collected in winter and next spring. After the harvest, it needs to remove big stems, cut into sections, and then dry. Medicinally it is generally used raw and in thick slices.

Numerous clinical studies have shown that mistletoe has a certain effect on the treatment of angina pectoris, hyperlipidemia, acute and sequelae of poliomyelitis, arrhythmia, etc. In addition, the pharmacological studies have also shown that mistletoe preparations are anticancer while mistletoe extract has immunogenic



properties, which can be used as the adjuvant treatment of precancerous symptoms, prevention of the relapse after surgery, and advanced cancer.

(The report continues with a detailed description of *Taxillus chinensis*. Also further detail of uses and side effects, and specific Chinese preparations. For the full report see <http://www.chineseherbshealing.com/loranthus-mistletoe/>)

#### **New mistletoe species named after Pinay environmentalist**



A newly discovered mistletoe species has been named after a Filipina environmentalist, according to an article published in the scientific journal *Phytotaxa*.

The new species named *Amyema lisae*, was named after Lisa Paguntalan, Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (PBCFI) Executive Director, 'a champion of biodiversity conservation in the Philippines.'



The authors of the article, namely: Pieter B. Pelser, Shiella Mae B. Olimpos, Peter O'byrne, and Julie Barcelona, said the new species was named after Paguntalan 'to honor her contributions to nature conservation in the Philippines.' 'Lisa has been an epitome of a

conservationist who is most successful in bringing together stakeholders in the conservation of biodiversity. She is a champion of organizing and involving local communities in conservation programs in many parts of the country,' they added.

The new mistletoe species was discovered in November 2017, in Balinsasayao - Twin Lakes Natural Park on the island of Negros as part of the PBCFI-USAID Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in the Negros Island Regional Development Agenda Project.

Paguntalan told GMA News Online that she is honored by the gesture and added that 'usually adto ni sa mga tao nga dako (ang) contribution sa plant conservation or research [usually this is done for people who have a big contribution to plant conservation or research].'

A graduate of Silliman University in Dumaguete City, Paguntalan has ventured into conservation right after taking BS Biology in 1996 and proceed to take a Master's degree which she finished in 2002. In 2000, she received the BP Conservation Award in London for her work. The award, Paguntalan says, started her career in wildlife research and conservation science. She is known in Cebu for her work in the conservation of endemic bird species, the black shama or Siloy, Cebu flowerpecker, and the Cebu hawk owl, among others.

#### **BAP, GMA News**

September 25, 2018 11:51pm

#### **Rare native mistletoe blooming on Hutt tracks**

The rare native mistletoe (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*), known as beech mistletoe, has been spotted lately on a number of tracks in Kaitoke Regional Park and Pakuratahi Forest.

'We are seeing more and more beech mistletoe blooms each year, which we believe is largely due to our possum control work in the area,' says Barrett Pistoll, Senior Monitoring Environmental Officer at Greater Wellington Regional Council. 'The best way to spot them is to look for a carpet of red petals on the ground. If you do, be sure to look up – they often grow quite high up.'

The Beech mistletoes are now becoming quite rare in New Zealand's forests, especially in the North Island. This is mainly due to forest clearance, invasive predators, and the decline in native bird species that act as pollinators and seed-dispersers. 'Possums love to browse the fleshy

leaves of these species. The presence of mistletoes still in our regional parks is a testament to our ongoing pest control efforts and forest management practices.'



Mistletoe is a famously romantic plant. According to Norse mythology, when the god Odin's son Baldur was prophesied to die, his mother Frigg, the goddess of love, went to all the animals and plants of the natural world and asked them to promise not to harm him. But Frigg neglected to consult with the unassuming mistletoe, so the god Loki made an arrow from the plant, which was used to kill Baldur. According to happier versions of the myth, the gods were able to resurrect Baldur from the dead. Frigg declared mistletoe a symbol of love and promised a kiss to all who passed beneath it. This is the perfect time of year for a romantic stroll in the bush,' says Mr Pistoll. 'We encourage people to visit the area and enjoy these rare and beautiful flowers.' Beech mistletoe has been monitored by members of Upper Hutt Forest and Bird for more than 10 years. Some key facts about beech mistletoe:

The beech mistletoes in New Zealand are quite unique worldwide as they have a strong mutual relationship with their avian pollinators.

- Unlike some mistletoe species found in other countries, New Zealand mistletoes usually do not harm their hosts.
- Beech mistletoes are some of the few plants in the world with 'explosive' flowers. To be pollinated, these flowers must be twisted open by native birds such as tui and bellbirds. When twisted, the flower petals of the ripe buds spring open and spray the bird with pollen. This pollen can then be transferred to the next flower the bird visits, which allows that mistletoe plant to produce seeds. Amazingly, a tiny native bee only one-quarter the size of a red mistletoe bud can also pollinate this plant by twisting open flowers. No other plant in the world is known to have this unusual pollination system!

- Beech mistletoes provide native birds with a very important source of fruit and nectar, which are otherwise scarce in beech forests. Two of the beech mistletoes have bright red flowers that appear around Christmas time and are often mistaken for rata.
  - Beech mistletoes and native birds have developed a mutualism, which is a specialised relationship that benefits both species. Birds rely on the mistletoes for fruit and nectar, and mistletoes depend on birds for pollination and seed dispersal. This mutualism may be evolutionarily dangerous, because if either species declines then the other is in trouble.
- Greater Wellington Regional Council  
14 November 2018

## THESIS

**The role of strigolactones in resistance, tolerance and control of *Striga* infection in sorghum.** Nasreldin Mohamed Ahmed. PhD Thesis, Wageningen University, The Netherlands. (Supervisors, Prof. Harro Bouwmeester, Amsterdam University and Prof. Abdel Gabar Babiker, National Research Centre, Kahhartoum, Sudan.)

**Summary.** Huge yield losses in important staple cereal crops including sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* [L.] Moench) (Parker, 2009) are caused by infections by the root parasitic plant *Striga hermonthica* [Del.] Benth. (*Striga*) particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Integrating host genetic resistance and tolerance with agricultural practices that reduce the *Striga* seed bank in the soil are deemed to be the best control strategy. *Striga* seeds can remain dormant in the soil for up to 20 years. They will germinate when they perceive specific germination inducing compounds that are secreted from the roots of its host and sometimes non-host into the rhizosphere. It was shown that strigolactones (SLs), are the most potent germination stimulants of *Striga* seed. Exudation of less active SLs in sorghum was shown to be associated with field resistance to *Striga* while in pearl millet the production of different SLs seems to make it resistant to the *Striga* that infects sorghum. In contrast, exudation of high amounts of active SLs by non-host intercrops is expected to result in higher suicidal germination and thus help in *Striga* control. In this study I used 36 sorghum genotypes, 2 pearl millets cultivars and 4 intercrop cultivars to investigate the role of variation in SL amount and profile in resistance and *Striga* control through intercropping and to

answer the question if they also play a role in tolerance.

In **chapter 2** and **chapter 3** I focus on studying the role of strigolactones in resistance and tolerance to *Striga*. Hereto, I used statistical analysis on the combined results of strigolactones profiling, *in-vitro* germination bioassays, gene expression and molecular marker analysis, crop morphological and physiological traits, and photosynthesis measurements. This showed that the exudation of high amounts of orobanchol in combination with low amounts of 5-deoxystrigol and sorgomol by some sorghum genotypes is associated with low root exudate germination stimulatory activity and low *Striga* infection. Moreover, such genotypes had a higher tolerance to *Striga* and maintained higher photosynthetic capacity under *Striga* infection. All this suggests that selection/breeding for high orobanchol/low 5-deoxystrigol and sorgomol profiles will not only improve pre-attachment resistance but also improve tolerance to the *Striga* that can still attach.

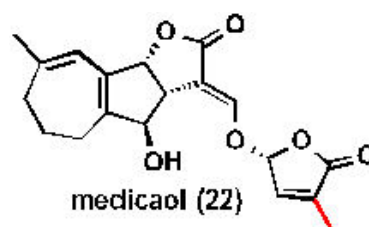
In **chapter 4** I investigated the role of strigolactones in inter- and rotation crops. I showed that exudation of high amounts of orobanchyl acetate in the root exudate of pearl millet is associated with low germination stimulatory activity and low infection of a *Striga* sorghum ecotype, making pearl millet a suitable rotation crop. Vice versa exudation of high amounts of 5-deoxystrigol by sesame and groundnuts correlated with high (suicidal) germination stimulatory activity and low *Striga* infection when sorghum was intercropped with these intercrops. This knowledge enables a more targeted selection/ breeding of resistant rotation crop cultivars or intercrop cultivars that induce more *Striga* suicidal germination. Knowledge on the sensitivity of the target *Striga* ecotype for certain strigolactones is important before a specific intercrop can be advised in the process of combating *Striga* in sorghum and other cereals. In **chapter 5** a field experiment using 5 sorghum genotypes with different strigolactone profiles shows that the results from lab and greenhouse experiments can be translated to the field. For example, sorghum genotypes Fakimustahi and Wadfahel with high production of 5-deoxystrigol and sorgomol and relatively low orobanchol production exhibited high susceptibility to *Striga* in the field whereas Mogud and Wadbaco with much lower 5-deoxystrigol and sorgomol production and higher orobanchol exhibited field resistance.

In **chapter 6** I discuss the main highlights of the present thesis. I showed that there is a relationship between resistance/tolerance and the amount and identity of SL production. I hope that the knowledge generated in my thesis about the role of strigolactones in resistance and tolerance can help breeders with the selection of genotypes better equipped to withstand *Striga*. In addition I hope that the data generated by me can be used for the identification of the underlying genetic regions which would potentially allow the transfer of resistance and tolerance to elite but susceptible sorghum genotypes. The use of these traits in combination with post-attachment resistance mechanisms should result in a better and durable control of this parasite.

## CORRIGENDUM

Yoneyama, K., *et al.* 2018. Which are the major players, canonical or non-canonical strigolactones? *Journal of Experimental Botany* 69: 2231–2239. .

The structure of medicaol (Fig. 1, 22) should have a methyl on the D-ring and that of zealactone (Fig. 2, 24) should have a conjugated double bond as shown below. The error re zealactone also occurs in the paper by Uruguchi *et al.* 2018 – see both papers listed below.



## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**International Conference on Legume Genetics and Genomics (ICLGG). 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Dijon, France May 13th-17th, 2019.** Including a session on Biotic Stress Resistance.

Abstract and Early Bird registration deadlines 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. <http://iclgg2019.com/>

**15<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Parasitic Plants.** Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 30<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**IUFRO World Congress 2019 - Technical Session - Complex interactions of mistletoe, ecosystems, and people.** Curitiba, Brazil. 29 September – 5 October, 2019. Abstract deadline 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018. <http://www.iufro2019.com/>  
Or contact: David Shaw, Oregon State University, [dave.shaw@oregonstate.edu](mailto:dave.shaw@oregonstate.edu)

### GENERAL WEB SITES

For individual web-site papers and reports see  
\* these websites may need copy and paste.

For information on the International Parasitic Plant Society, past issues of Haustorium, etc. see:  
<http://www.parasiticplants.org/>

For the first circular, 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Parasitic Plants, Amsterdam. 2019, see:  
<https://www.wcpp2019.org>

For Dan Nickrent's 'The Parasitic Plant Connection' see: <http://www.parasiticplants.siu.edu/>

\*For the Parasitic Plant Genome Project (PPGP) see:  
<http://ppgp.huck.psu.edu/>

For information on the new Frontiers Journal 'Advances in Parasitic Weed Research' see:  
<http://journal.frontiersin.org/researchtopic/3938/advances-in-parasitic-weed-research>

For information on the EU COST 849 Project (now completed) and reports of its meetings see:  
<http://cost849.ba.cnr.it/>

For a description of the PROMISE project (Promoting Root Microbes for Integrated *Striga* Eradication), see:  
<http://promise.nioo.knaw.nl/en/about>

\*For PARASITE - Preparing African Rice Farmers Against Parasitic Weeds in a Changing Environment: see <http://www.parasite-project.org/>

For the Index of Orobanchaceae prepared by Óscar Sánchez Pedraja, Gerald Schneeweiss and others (updated December 2018), see:  
<http://www.farmalierganes.com/Otrospdf/publica/Orobanchaceae%20Index.htm>

For the Annotated Checklist of Host Plants of Orobanchaceae, see:  
[http://www.farmalierganes.com/Flora/Angiospermae/Orobanchaceae/Host\\_Orobanchaceae\\_Checklist.htm](http://www.farmalierganes.com/Flora/Angiospermae/Orobanchaceae/Host_Orobanchaceae_Checklist.htm)

For information on the EWRS Working Group 'Parasitic weeds' see:

[http://www.ewrs.org/parasitic\\_weeds.asp](http://www.ewrs.org/parasitic_weeds.asp)

For a description and other information about the *Desmodium* technique for *Striga* suppression, see:  
<http://www.push-pull.net/>

For information on the work of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) on *Striga* control in Kenya, including periodical 'Strides in *Striga* Management' and 'Partnerships' newsletters, see: <http://www.aatf-africa.org/>

\*For Access Agriculture (click on cereals for videos on *Striga*) see: <http://www.accessagriculture.org/>

For information on future Mistle in der Tumorthérapie Symposia see:

<http://www.mistelsymposium.de/deutsch/-mistelsymposien.aspx>

For a compilation of literature on *Viscum album* prepared by Institute Hiscia in Arlesheim, Switzerland, see:

<http://www.vfk.ch/informationen/literatursuche> (in German but can be searched by inserting author name).

For the work of Forest Products Commission (FPC) on sandalwood, see:

<http://www.fpc.wa.gov.au/sandalwood>

For 6th Mistletoe Symposium, Germany, November 2015 see:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/09447113/22/supp/S1>

### LITERATURE

**\*indicates web-site reference only**

**Items in bold selected for special interest**  
**Items in blue relate to therapeutic uses of parasitic plants**

Agyeno, O. E., Aigbokhan, E. I., Jayeola, A. A., Elisha, E. B., Dawurung, C. J., Gosomji, Y. J., and Oso, O. A. 2018. Incidence of *Hydnora* Thunb. in Nigeria: First report. Nigerian Field 83 (x) xx-xxx. [Records the first collection of *Hydnora abyssinica* in West Africa, a considerable range extension for this species. It is used in traditional medicine for digestive ailments as reported in eastern and southern Africa. The authors document numerous hosts, all legumes including the first report for parasitism of *Piliopstigma thonningii*.]

Agyigra, I.A., Ejiofor, J.I. and Magaji, M.G. 2017. **Acute and subchronic toxicity evaluation of methanol stem-bark extract of *Ximenia americana* Linn (Olacaceae) in Wistar rats.** Bulletin of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University 55(2): 263-267. [Extracts of the bark of *X. americana*,



- used traditionally in Nigeria to treat bowel ulcers, were shown to be quite safe in mice but have some toxic effect in rats.]
- Ahmed, N.M. 2018. The role of strigolactones in resistance, tolerance and control of *Striga* infection in sorghum. PhD Thesis, Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands, 220 pp. [see Thesis above.]
- Aistova, E.V. and Bezborodov, V.G. 2017. Weevils belonging to the genus *Smicronyx* Schönherr, 1843 (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) affecting dodders (*Cuscuta* Linnaeus, 1753) in the Russian Far East. Russian Journal of Biological Invasions 8(2): 184-188. [*S. rubricatus* occurred on *C. japonica* but did not form galls, while *S. madaranus* infested *C. campestris* and formed galls.]
- Akinagbe, O.M., Adeniran, T P. and Adeniran, A.A. 2018. Intra-household roles in cocoa production in Ondo State, Nigeria. Journal of Agricultural Extension 22(3): 77-86. [Recording that removal of (unspecified) mistletoe is predominantly done by men, but not quantifying how much time is required.]
- Al-Sultany, F.H., Al-Husainy, I.M. and Al-Saadi, A.H. 2018. Determination of cytotoxicity by apoptosis and some liver biochemical indices in type 1 diabetic rats treated with *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam. Biochemical and Cellular Archives 18(Suppl. 1): 1029-1035. [Concluding that diabetic rats treated with 400 mg/Kg body weight of *C. chinensis* extract for two months regained fasting plasma glucose to the normal level and without biochemical evidence of toxicity.]
- Amini, M., Nabiabad, H.S. Deljou, A. 2018. The role of cuscutain-propeptide inhibitor in haustoria parasitism and enhanced resistance to dodder in transgenic alfalfa expressing this propeptide. Plant Biotechnology Reports 12(3): 165-173. [Cuscutain is a cysteine protease produced by dodder essential for the development and penetration of the haustoria in host. Penetrating digitate cells of haustoria could not differentiate into the xylem and phloem hyphae when cuscutain was inhibited.]
- Anam Fatima, Mushtaq Ahmad, Muhammad Zafar, Ghulam Yaseen, Khan, M.P.Z., Butt, M.A. and Shazia Sultana. 2018. Ethnopharmacological relevance of medicinal plants used for the treatment of oral diseases in Central Punjab-Pakistan. Journal of Herbal Medicine 12: 88-110. [Including results for *Cuscuta reflexa*.]
- Anjana Bista. 2018. Polarity nature of seed germination stimulants present in root extract of host plants of *Orobanche* spp. Indian Journal of Weed Science 50(1): 97-99. [Hexane and ethyl acetate fractions of root extract of tobacco, tomato and brinjal induced better germination of *Orobanche cernua* than any other solvent tested.]
- Arti Rani, Meghana, R. and Anil Kush. 2018. Squalene production in the cell suspension cultures of Indian sandalwood (*Santalum album* L.) in shake flasks and air lift bioreactor. Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture 135(1): 155-167. [Describing the generation of squalene, of value in a range of therapeutic uses including cancer, in cell suspensions of *S. album* as an alternative to the current source - shark liver oil.]
- Ashwani Tapwal, Swedha Verma and Gunjan Thakur. 2017. *In vitro* evaluation of *Trichoderma* species and botanicals for the management of *Lasiodiplodia theobromae*. Indian Forester, Dehradun, India. Indian Forester 143(12): 1312-1317. [An extract of *Santalum album* was among the most effective treatments for the control of *L. theobromae*, the causal agent of bark cancer in a wide range of crops species.]
- Aybeke, M. 2018. Transcriptomic effects of *Aspergillus alliaceus* on *Orobanche* during its pathogenesis. Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection 125(1): 33-39. [The pathogenicity of *Aspergillus alliaceus* (Aa), a fungal biocontrol agent, was tested for its effect on *Orobanche* transcriptomics. It was concluded that during Aa pathogenesis, (1) the increased SOD value was associated with ROS (reactive oxygen species) threats; (2) the fungus disturbed protein synthesis metabolism; (3) the inhibited antioxidant and apoptosis-based pathways compared to the control group.]
- Babita Mishra, Sandeep Chakraborty, Sandhya, M.C. and Viswanath, S. 2018. Sandalwood farming in India: problems and prospects. Indian Journal of Tropical Biodiversity 26(1): 1-12. [Noting a substantially increased interest in farming *Santalum album* in India in recent years. Discussing cultivation methods in current farming systems and current and future prospects for increased livelihood opportunities and enhanced farm income.]
- \*Bandaranayake, P.C.G. and Yoder, J.I. 2018. Factors affecting the efficiency of Rhizobium rhizogenes root transformation of the root parasitic plant *Triphysaria versicolor* and its host *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Plant Methods 14: 61 pp. (<https://plantmethods.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s13007-018-0327-2>) [Various environmental, nutritional and procedural conditions were examined for their effects on transformation by *Rhizobium rhizogenes* of the model hemi-parasitic plant *Triphysaria versicolor* and *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Analyses of root

- transformation factors provided a method for recovering transgenic roots from both parasitic plants and their hosts at high frequency.]
- Bartolucci, F. and 20 others. 2017. Notulae to the Italian native vascular flora: 4. Italian Botanist 4: 43-51. [*Melampyrum variegatum* is reported for Lazio, but not confirmed in the regional flora recently published by Anzalone et al. (2010).]
- Baso, A.A. and Mudi, S.Y. 2017. Evaluation of antiulcer and phytochemical activities of leaf extracts from *Tapinanthus dodoneifolius* DC. (*Loranthaceae*) grown on *Tamarindus indica* tree. Bayero Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences 10(1): 392-396. [Results confirm that an aqueous extract from *T. dodoneifolius* growing on tamarind, reduced aspirin-induced ulceration in wistar rats for one week and showed no serious side effects.]
- Beladjila, K.A., Berrehal, D., de Tommasi, N., Granchi, C., Bononi, G., Braca, A. and de Leo, M. 2018. New phenylethanoid glycosides from *Cistanche phelypaea* and their activity as inhibitors of monoacylglycerol lipase (MAGL). Planta Medica 84(9/10): 710-715. [Identifying four new glycosides, one of which showed good activity on MAGL, an enzyme involved in the lipidic metabolism of cancer cells.]
- Belmont, J., Sánchez-Coronado, M.E., Osuna-Fernández, H.R., Orozco-Segovia, A. and Pisanty, I. 2018. Priming effects on seed germination of two perennial herb species in a disturbed lava field in central Mexico. Seed Science Research 28(1): 63-71. [Germination of *Castilleja tenuifolia* was increased by 'priming', a wetting/re-drying regime in the lab, or burying in moist soil for different periods.]
- \*Bilgili, E., Ozturk, M., Coskuner, K.A., Baysal, I., Serdar, B., Yavuz, H., Eroglu, M. and Usta, Y. 2018. Quantifying the effect of pine mistletoe on the growth of Scots pine. Forest Pathology 48(4): e12435. (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14390329>) [Noting that *Viscum album* ssp. *austriacum* causes substantial damage to *Pinus sylvestris* in Turkey and confirming that radial growth could be reduced by 40-60%.]
- Boğa, M., Yaman, S., Doğan, S.C. and Burğut, A. 2018. (Determination of feed value of mistletoe collected in Niğde region by *in vitro* gas production technique.) (in Turkish) Turkish Journal of Agriculture - Food Science and Technology 6(8): 1051-1057. [Unspecified mistletoe (*Viscum album* or *Loranthus europaeus*) proved to be moderate in protein and in fibre and high in crude fat content compared with forages, and very good in metabolizable energy and net energy lactation values. Assuming its safety is confirmed in feeding trials, it has good potential as a feed ingredient in the diets of ruminants.]
- Bouwmeester, H. 2018. Can witchweed be wiped out? Science 362(6420): 1248-1249.**  
[Commenting on the paper by Uraguchi *et al* – see below.]
- Boutet-Mercey, S., Perreau, F., Roux, A., Clavé, G., Pillot, J.P., Schmitz-Afonso, I., Touboul, D., Mouille, G., Rameau, C. and Boyer, F.D. 2018. Validated method for strigolactone quantification by ultra high-performance liquid chromatography - electrospray ionisation tandem mass spectrometry using novel deuterium labelled standards. Phytochemical Analysis 29(1): 59-68. [A method was developed for determining endogenous fabacyl acetate and orobanchyl acetate in plant tissue based on novel deuterium labelled standards. A method of orobanchol quantification using GR24 as internal standard was proposed.]
- \*Bragard, C. and 20 others. 2018. Pest categorisation of *Arceuthobium* spp. (non-EU). EFSA Journal 16(7): e05384. (<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5384>) [Reviewing the dangers from introduction of exotic *Arceuthobium* species into Europe and concluding that 'as a group of organisms, the criteria assessed by the Panel for consideration as a potential quarantine pest are met, while, for regulated non-quarantine pests, the criterion on the pest presence in the EU is not met.' (clear?).]
- Bromhead, L.J., Norman, A.R., Snowden, K.C., Janssen, B. and McErlean, C. 2018. Enantioselective total synthesis and biological evaluation of (–)-solanacol. Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry 16(30): 5500-5507. [Describing the third, shortest and efficient synthesis of optically pure natural solanacol in only 6-steps. Solanacol was confirmed to be far more active than GR24 in germination stimulation of *O. minor* seeds. Although solanacol was reported to be inactive in bud outgrowth inhibition of pea, differential scanning fluorimetry (DSF) demonstrated that it could interact with the strigolactone receptor DAD2.]
- Brun, G., Braem, L., Thoirion, S., Gevaert, K., Goormachtig, S. and Delavault, P. 2018. Seed germination in parasitic plants: what insights can we expect from strigolactone research? **Journal of Experimental Botany 69(9): 2265-2280.** [Discussing strigolactone biosynthesis, perception, and signal pathways and the many questions remaining to be answered regarding the

- germination process of parasitic plants, including how parasitic plants evolved to germinate in response to a wide variety of molecules, while autotrophic plants do not and what particular features are associated with their lack of spontaneous germination. Reviewing to what extent conclusions from research into strigolactones could be applied to better understand the biology of parasitic plants.]
- Bush, D., Harwood, C. and Pinkard, E. 2018. Species for changing climates - Australian dryland forestry opportunities. *Australian Forestry* 81(2):102-115. [Including consideration of the future for 'emerging products such as sandalwood oil'.]
- \*Butt, H. Muhammad Jamil, Jian YouWang, Al-Babili, S. and Mahfouz, M. 2018. Engineering plant architecture via CRISPR/Cas9-mediated alteration of strigolactone biosynthesis. *BMC Plant Biology* 18(1): 174. (<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12870-018-1387-1>) [ccd7 mutants of rice showed increased tillering and greatly reduced exudation of strigolactone, and consequent reduction in germination of *Striga*.]
- Caires, C.S. 2018. (Flora of the canga of Serra dos Carajás, Pará, Brazil: Lorantheae.) (in Portuguese) *Rodriguésia* 69(1): 133-146. [Nine species recorded - *Oryctanthus alveolatus*, *O. florulentus*, *Passovia disjectifolia*, *P. pedunculata*, *P. pyrifolia*, *Peristethium reticulatum*, *Psittacanthus eucalyptifolius*, *Struthanthus marginatus* and *S. polyrhizus*.]
- Calvo, M.V., Delgado, S., Scatoni, I. and Mello Garcia, F.R. 2017. First report of *Neosilba pradoi* and *Dasiops friesei* (Diptera: Lonchaeidae) in cultivated and wild hosts in Uruguay. *Florida Entomologist* 100(4): 831-832. [Recording an undetermined lonchaeid fly on *Acanthosyrus spinescens* (Santalaceae).]
- Celedon, J.M. and Bohlmann, J. 2018. An extended model of heartwood secondary metabolism informed by functional genomics. *Tree Physiology* 38(3): 311-319. [Studying the development and decay of heartwood in *Santalum album* and discussing a variation of existing models of heartwood formation, based on the recent discovery of specific transcriptome signatures of terpenoid biosynthesis.]
- Chen, J., Wei, J., Gao, J.M., Ye, X.X., Mcerlean, C.S.P. and Ma, Y.Q. 2017. Allelopathic inhibitory effects of *Penicillium griseofulvum* produced patulin on the seed germination of *Orobancha cumana* Wallr. and *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* Pers. *Allelopathy Journal* 41(1): 65-80. [Results confirmed complete inhibition of germination of *O. cumana* and *P. aegyptiaca* by dried *P. griseofulvum* and showed this was due to the active component, patulin, at 1 mg/l.]
- Chen XianBing, Yang QingYu, Qin XiaoLi, Zhao FangYu, Tang XianE, Wang ZiLi, Chen ZongHai and Xiang JiaPeng. 2018. (Effect of *Balanophora* polysaccharide on expression of PPAR $\gamma$ , irisin and glucolipid metabolism in experimental diabetic rats.) (in Chinese) *Chinese Journal of Pharmacology and Toxicology* 32(5): 400-406. [Confirming that *Balanophora* saccharide 'can significantly reduce the blood glucose level in diabetic rats induced by STZ, enhance the antioxidant capacity, improve the abnormal blood lipid metabolism, can improve the irisin level and enhance the PPAR expression in the liver.']
- Chen ZhuLin and Wang XueFeng. 2018. (Image diagnostic method of *Zeuzera coffeae* in *Santalum album* by texture models.) (in Chinese) *Journal of Southwest Forestry University* 38(1): 117-125. [Involving *Z. coffeae*, coffee carpenter moth in *S. album* but abstract not clear.]
- \*Chen ZhuLin, Wang XueFeng and Wang HuaiJing. 2018. Preliminary research on total nitrogen content prediction of sandalwood using the error-in-variable models based on digital image processing. *PLoS ONE* 13(8): e0202649. (<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0202649>) [Describing the use of ground-based digital imaging to assess the nitrogen status of *Santalum album*, a relatively new introduced crop in China.]
- Cheng Dan, Zheng JunChao, Ma SuYa, Murtaza, G., Wahab, A., Yu ChangYing, Liu JingWei and Lu Yi. 2107. Chemical constituents, and pharmacological and toxicological effects of *Cynomorium songaricum*: an overview. *Tropical Journal of Pharmaceutical Research* 16(11): 2689-2696. [Extracts of *C. songaricum* have promising pharmacological activities, due to the presence of various flavonoids, triterpenes and polysaccharides as well as promising effects against inflammation, aging, fatigue, viruses and cancer. No serious side effects have been seen but more testing is needed.]
- Cheung WingLan and 9 others. 2018. Gelsemium poisoning mediated by the non-toxic plant *Cassytha filiformis* parasitizing *Gelsemium elegans*. *Toxicon* 154: 42-49. [Confirming that *C. filiformis* can absorb the toxic alkaloids from *G. elegans* and cause acute poisoning in patients taking *C. filiformis* as a traditional medicine.]
- Chiocchio, I., Mandrone, M., Sanna, C., Maxia, A., Tacchini, M. and Poli, F. 2018. Screening of a hundred plant extracts as tyrosinase and elastase inhibitors, two enzymatic targets of cosmetic

- interest. *Industrial Crops and Products* 122: 498-505. [*Cytinus hypocistis* was among the most potent inhibitor of elastase while being low in inhibition of tyrosinase.]
- \*Cui JinLong, Vinod Vijayakumar and Zhang Gang. 2018. Partitioning of fungal endophyte assemblages in root-parasitic plant *Cynomorium songaricum* and its host *Nitraria tangutorum*. *Frontiers in Microbiology* 9(April): pp.666. (<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmicb.2018.00666/full>) [Presenting evidence for the movement of endophytic fungi from *C. songaricum* to its host.]
- Cui JinLong, Zhang YanYan, Vinod Vijayakumar, Zhang Gang, Wang MengLiang and Wang JunHong. 2018. Secondary metabolite accumulation associates with ecological succession of endophytic fungi in *Cynomorium songaricum* Rupr. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* 66(22): 5499-5509. [Detecting and describing variations in the accumulation of secondary metabolites associated with particular endophytic fungi communities.]
- Cui QingLing, Pan YingNi, Zhang Wei, Zhang YaNan, Ren ShuMeng, Wang DongMei, Wang ZhenZhong, Liu XiaoQiu and Xiao Wei. 2018. Metabolites of dietary acteoside: profiles, isolation, identification, and hepatoprotective capacities. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* 66(11): 2660-2668. [Supporting the use of a tea made from unspecified *Cistanche* sp. for hepatoprotection. And indicating that metabolites of acteoside are responsible for the effect.]
- da Fonseca-Pereira, P., Silva, W.B., Araújo, W.L. and Nunes-Nesi, A. 2018. How does European mistletoe survive without Complex I? Trends in Plant Science 23(10): 847-850. [Commenting on the recent confirmation of the complete absence of mitochondrial Complex I in a multicellular eukaryote, *Viscum album*, and demonstrating that its mitochondrial electron transport chain displays dramatic rearrangements of its components apparently reflecting its parasitic lifestyle.]
- da Pantoja, P. and 11 others. 2018. The polysaccharide-rich tea of *Ximenia americana* barks prevents indomethacin-induced gastrointestinal damage via neutrophil inhibition. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 224: 195-201.
- da Silva, B.A.F., da Costa, R.H.S., Fernandes, C.N., Leite, L.H.I., Ribeiro Filho, J., Garcia, T.R., Coutinho, H.D.M., Wanderley, A.G. and da Menezes, I.R.A. 2018. HPLC profile and antiedematogenic activity of *Ximenia americana* L. (Olacaceae) in mice models of skin inflammation. *Food and Chemical Toxicology* 119:199-205.
- da Silva, J.A.T., Kher, M.M., Deepak Sonar, Nataraj, M., Dobránszki, J. and Millar, M.A. 2018. *Santalum* molecular biology: molecular markers for genetic diversity, phylogenetics and taxonomy, and genetic transformation. *Agroforestry Systems* 92(5): 1301-1315.
- Dai, M., Fadhillah, A., Rahmawati, J., Forentin, A., Usia, T., Maryati, M. and Saifudin, A. 2018. T47D cell-inhibiting Indonesian medicinal plants and active constituents of *Alpinia galanga* rhizome. *Pharmacognosy Magazine* 14(56): 359-363. [30 medicinal plants tested for possible treatment of human breast cancer. The 5 most active on a T47D cell line included *Santalum album*.]
- De Moraes, P.L.R. 2018. (Flora of the canga of the Serra dos Carajás, Pará, Brazil: Lauraceae.) (in Portuguese) *Rodriguésia* 69(1): 81-117. [*Cassytha filiformis* among species recorded on iron-ore outcrops.]
- De Souza, M.C., Scaloni, M.C., Poschenrieder, C., Tolrà, R., Venâncio, T., Teixeira, S.P. and da Costa, F.B. 2018. Aluminium detoxification in facultative (*Passovia ovata* (Pohl ex DC.) Kuijt and *Struthanthus polyanthus* Mart. - Loranaceae) and dependent (*Psittacanthus robustus* (Mart.) Marloth - Loranaceae) Al-accumulating mistletoe species from the Brazilian savanna. *Phytochemistry* 153: 58-63. [Describing how *P. robustus* parasitizes only Al-accumulating species (such as *Miconia albicans*) and protects itself from Al poisoning by chelation with oxalate, while *P. ovata* and *S. polyanthus* had higher citrate and phenolic concentrations.]
- Dieni, Z., Tignegre, J-B. de la Salle, Tongoon, P., Dzidzienyo, D., Asante, I.K. and Ofori, K. 2018. Identification of sources of resistance to *Alectra vogelii* in cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.] germplasm from Burkina Faso. *Euphytica* 214: 234. [*A. vogelii* is serious problem on cowpea in Burkina Faso. Seven varieties shown to be resistant (immune?) three of which - Komcalle, IT99K-573-2-1 and IT98K-205-8 are improved varieties which can be recommended to farmers.]
- \*Disciglio, G. and 9 others. 2018. Effect of olive-mill wastewater application, organo-mineral fertilization, and transplanting date on the control of *Phelipanche ramosa* in open-field processing tomato crops. *Agronomy* 8(6): 92. (<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4395/8/6/92>) [*P. ramosa* emergence was reduced and tomato yields significantly increased by delaying transplanting from April to May in southern Italy. Also by application of olive-mill waste water at 80m<sup>3</sup>/ha]



- 40 days before planting, and by several organic fertilizer preparations.]
- Domina, G. 2018. Host-driven morphological variability in *Orobanche crenata* (Orobanchaceae) Turkish Journal of Botany 42(4): 502-509. [Recording that *O. crenata* was larger in various parameters on more vigorous hosts such as faba bean. The shape of the calyx and colour of corolla and stigma also showed significant variations according to the host – faba bean, pea, chickpea and vetch.]
- Dong YanHong, Guo Qi, Liu JingJing and Ma XueQin. 2018. Simultaneous determination of seven phenylethanoid glycosides in *Cistanches Herba* by a single marker using a new calculation of relative correction factor. Journal of Separation Science 41(9): 1913-1922.
- Dostert, N., Caceres, F., Brokamp, G. and Weigend, M. 2018. (In situ propagation of rhatany - *Krameria lappacea* (Krameriaceae): factors limiting natural regeneration and effects of reseeding measures.) (in Spanish) Revista Peruana de Biología 25(1): 29-34. [Exploring measures to improve the propagation of the medicinal and dye plant, *K. lappacea*, by the burial of the seeds, and by regrowth from secondary roots.]
- Eizenberg, H. and Goldwasser, Y. 2018. Control of Egyptian broomrape in processing tomato: a summary of 20 years of research and successful implementation. Plant Disease 102(8): 1477-1488. [Describing the development of the PICKIT decision support system for application of sulfosulfuron and imazapic to control *P. aegyptiaca* in tomato and its successful use in Israel to increase tomato yields by 40 t/ha.]
- Emiru Birhane, Kidu Gebremeskel, Tewodros Tadesse, Mengsteab Hailemariam, Kiros Meles Hadgu, Norgrove, L. and Negussie, A. 2018. Integrating *Faidherbia albida* trees into a sorghum field reduces striga infestation and improves mycorrhiza spore density and colonization. Agroforestry Systems 92(3): 643-653. [Planting of the agroforestry tree *F. albida* in sorghum resulted in improved sorghum yield under the canopy, associated with increased fertility and increased AM fungi.]
- Etame-Loe, G., Ebongue, C.O., Ngaba, G.P., Mpai, M., Pouka, C.K., Ngene, J.P., Ngoule, C.C., Yinyang, J., Tankeu, E.S. and Dibong, S.D. 2018. (Evaluation of the antioxidant and antiinflammatory activities of the aqueous extract of *Phragmanthera capitata* haustorium harvested on *Psidium guajava* on adult female Wistar rats.) (in French) Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences (JAPS) 36(3): 5933-5941. [The aqueous extract of the *P. capitata* haustorium had antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties as well as having low toxicity, and its use in traditional medicine appears justified.]
- \*Fang Lei, He TianTian, Wang Xiao and Zhou Jie. 2018. Isolation and purification of galloyl, caffeoyl, and hexahydroxydiphenoyl esters of glucoses from *Balanophora simaoensis* by high-speed countercurrent chromatography and their antioxidant activities in vitro. Molecules 23(8): 2027 (<https://www.mdpi.com/1420-3049/23/8/2027/htm>)
- Franke, A.C., van den Brand, G.J., Vanlauwe, B. and Giller, K.E. 2018. Sustainable intensification through rotations with grain legumes in Sub-Saharan Africa: A review. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment 261(1): 172-185. [As part of the N2Africa programme, funded by Gates Foundation, reviewing the influence of legumes on a range of factors, concluding that the only effect on weeds is on *Striga* spp., via suicidal germination or as a result of increased soil fertility.]
- Freire, S.M.de F and 11 others. 2018. Protective effect of *Struthanthus marginatus* on ethanol-induced gastric damage in mice. Pharmacognosy Research 10(2): 143-150. [The results show that *S. marginatus* is rich in flavonoids and that these compounds contribute directly to the gastroprotective and ulcer healing effects of this herb.]
- Fu ZhiFei, Fan Xiang, Wang XiaoYing and Gao XiuMei. 2018. *Cistanches Herba*: an overview of its chemistry, pharmacology, and pharmacokinetics property. Journal of Ethnopharmacology 219: 233-247. [A wide-ranging review on the components, and activity of 'Cistanche Herba' (presumably based on *Cistanche deserticola* and/or *C. tubulosa*), concluding that the phenylethanoid glycosides, echinacoside and acteoside, have demonstrated wide pharmacological actions and have great clinical value if challenges such as poor bioavailability, fast and extensive metabolism are addressed. Other constituents, their pharmacological activities and underlying mechanisms, also deserve further study.]
- Garba, Y., Abubakar, H.N. and Aliyu, I. 2017. Influence of inorganic fertilizer and spacing on growth and yield of two maize cultivars under *Striga hermonthica* infestation. Agro-Science 16(2): 38-45. [Nitrogen at 60, 120 and 180 kg/ha caused increasing reduction in *S. hermonthica* with resultant significant increases in yield. Spacing caused no significant differences.]

- García, M.A., Nickrent, D.L. and Mucina, L. 2018. *Thesium nautimontanum*, a new species of Thesiaceae (Santalales) from South Africa. *Phytokeys* 109: 41-51. [A new species from the Matroosberg Mountains of Western Cape Province of South Africa shows several morphological features unusual for the genus. Molecular (ITS rDNA) analyses place it as sister to all African, Madagascan, and South American *Thesium* species]
- Gebauer, R., Volařík, D. and Urban, J. 2018. Seasonal variations of sulphur, phosphorus and magnesium in the leaves and current-year twigs of hemiparasitic mistletoe *Loranthus europaeus* Jacq. and its host *Quercus pubescens* Willd. *Journal of Forest Science* 64(2):66-73. [Levels of S, P and Mg in host and parasite varied greatly through the year but were generally higher in the *L. europaeus* than in the host].
- Gonzálvez, J. and 10 others. 2017. The enriched proanthocyanidin extract of *Ligaria cuneifolia* shows a marked hypocholesterolemic effect in rats fed with cholesterol-enriched diet. *Recent Patents on Endocrine, Metabolic & Immune Drug Discovery* 11(1): 47-53. [Results with *L. cuneifolia* in Argentina.]
- Goswami, N.B. and Jagatpati Tah. 2018. White sandal (*Santalum album* L.), a precious medicinal and timber yielding plant: a short review. *Plant Archives* 18(1): 1048-1056. [Reviewing the medicinal, religious, domestic and industrial uses of *S. album*.]
- Gulwaiz Akhter and Khan, T.A. 2018. First report of disease complex caused by *Orobanchae aegyptiaca* and *Meloidogyne incognita* in *Nicotiana tobacum* in India. *Plant Disease Research* 33(1): 107-108. [Reporting simultaneous infection of tobacco by *O. aegyptiaca* and *M. incognita* in Bihar, India, resulting in more severe damage than either alone.]
- Gutsch, J., Werthmann, P.G., Rosenwald, A. and Kienle, G.S. 2018. Complete remission and long-term survival of a patient with a diffuse large B-cell lymphoma under *Viscum album* extracts after resistance to R-CHOP: a case report. *Anticancer Research* 38(9): 5363-5369. [Reporting complete remission of a lymphoproliferative disorder after treatment with a *V. album* extract confirming that further investigations seem highly worthwhile.]
- \*Haghighian, F. and Jahanbazi, H. 2107. (Introduction of wild almond pests species in Karebas region in Chaharmahal va Bakhtiary province.) (in Persian) *Iranian Journal of Forest and Range Protection Research* 15(2): Pe147-Pe154.
- ([http://ijfrpr.areeo.ac.ir/article\\_115706\\_a73b3d0b9987efec07d62e45d2194958.pdf](http://ijfrpr.areeo.ac.ir/article_115706_a73b3d0b9987efec07d62e45d2194958.pdf)) [Noting that *Loranthus grewinskii* and unspecified *Orobanchae* spp. commonly damage several species of wild almonds in this district.]
- Halbritter, D.A., Willett, D.S., Gordon, J.M., Stelinski, L.L. and Daniels, J.C. 2018. Behavioral evidence for host transitions in plant, plant parasite, and insect interactions. *Environmental Entomology* 47(3): 646-653. [*Neophasia* butterflies were more frequent on ponderosa pines infected by *Archeuthobium americanum* probably due to the volatiles released by the mistletoe. Commenting that mistletoe is considered the butterflies' ancestral host, and the evolutionary transition to pine may have occurred recently in Arizona. ]
- \*Hameed, U.S., Haider, I., Jamil, M., Kountche, B.A., Guo, X., Zarban, R.A., Kim, D., Al-Babili, S. and Arold, S.T. 2018. Structural basis for specific inhibition of the highly sensitive ShHTL7 receptor. *EMBO Reports* - advance online publication, 18 July 2018. (<http://embor.embopress.org/content/early/2018/07/18/embr.201745619>) [[For germination, *Striga* seeds require host-released strigolactones that are perceived by the family of HYPOSENSITIVE to LIGHT (ShHTL) receptors. Broad specificity and high sensitivity of ShHTL7 was suggested. Strigolactones trigger structural changes in ShHTL7 and several lead compounds were suggested for the rational design of efficient *Striga*-specific herbicides targeting ShHTL And see project report above.]
- Haque, M. and Coury, D.L. 2018. Topical sandalwood oil for common warts. *Clinical Pediatrics* 57(1): 93-95. [Sandalwood oil was applied topically twice daily for 12 weeks cured cutaneous warts in 8 subjects out of 10.]
- \*Hasegawa, S. and 16 others. 2018. Low Infection of *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* in Micro-Tom Mutants Deficient in *CAROTENOID CLEAVAGE DIOXYGENASE 8*. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* 19(9): 2645. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6163878/>) [Showing that strigolactones were very low in exudates from ccd8-defective mutants of Micro-Tom tomato and caused very little germination of *P. aegyptiaca*.]
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- Iseki, M., Shida, K., Kuwabara, K., Wakabayashi, T., Mizutani, M., Takikawa, H. and Sugimoto, Y. 2018. Evidence for species-dependent biosynthetic pathways for converting carlactone to strigolactones in plants. **Journal of Experimental Botany** 69(9): 2305-2318. [Hinanit?]
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- Jain, A.K., Ruchi Chourasia, Ashish Kumar and Joshi, R.P. 2018. Identification of resistant genotypes against *Striga asiatica* (L.) Kuntze in kodo millet. *Electronic Journal of Plant Breeding* 9(2): 603-610. [Comparing 38 varieties of *Paspalum scrobiculatum* for the susceptibility to *S. asiatica* and finding a wide range of susceptibility but no immunity.]
- Jamil, M. and 16 others. 2018. Methyl phenlactonoates are efficient strigolactone analogs with simple structure. Journal of Experimental Botany 69(9): 2319-2331. [Describing the synthesis of methyl phenolactones based on the structure of the non-canonical SL methyl carlactonoate, some of which stimulate germination of *Striga hermonthica* and outperform GR24 in some other types of activity. Small variations in structure cause changes in the spectrum of activity. MP1 compared favourably with GR24 in a test for suicidal germination of *S. hermonthica* in soil.]**
- Kabiri, S., Rodenburg, J., van Ast, A. and Bastiaans, L. 2017. Slavery in plants: how the facultative hemi-parasitic plant *Rhamphicarpa fistulosa* can completely dominate its host. *Annals of Applied Biology* 171(3): 353-363. [Pot experiments demonstrated that *R. fistulosa* initially causes increased root:shoot ratio decreased host plant height, leaf area and tiller number. This may be followed by interference with light interception, leading to almost complete cessation of host growth, 22-71% reduction in biomass and up to 100% reduction in seed yield.]
- \*Kaitera, J., Kalleinen, L., Mikkilä, J. and Hantula, J. 2017. *Cronartium flaccidum* sporulates on new *Euphrasia* species in natural habitats in Finland. *Forest Pathology* 47(5): e12349. (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/efp.12349>) [Natural sporulation of the pine rust, *C. flaccidum*, was confirmed on 6 species of *Melampyrum*, *Euphrasia* and *Pedicularis* but not on *Rhinanthus minor*.]
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- Kanampui, F., Makumbi, D., Mageto, E., Omany, G. Waruingi, S., Musyoka, P. and Ransom, J. 2018. Assessment of management options on *Striga* infestation and maize grain yield in Kenya. *Weed Science* 66(4): 516-524. [Three varieties of maize were grown as sole crop, inter-cropped with *Desmodium uncinatum* or groundnut or rotated with soya bean. Highest yields and least *Striga hermonthica* were recorded with *Striga*-resistant and herbicide-resistant varieties (with herbicide) intercropped with *Desmodium*.]
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- \*Kiseleva, O. and Trofimova, L. 2018. Anatomical structure of leaves, stems and roots of hemiparasitic plants *Thesium ebracteatum* Hayne (Santalaceae R. Br.) from the Urals. Conference paper : BIO Web of Conferences 11: 00022. ([https://www.bio-conferences.org/articles/bioconf/full\\_html/2018/02/bioconf\\_pdcmb2018\\_00022/bioconf\\_pdcmb2018\\_00022.html](https://www.bio-conferences.org/articles/bioconf/full_html/2018/02/bioconf_pdcmb2018_00022/bioconf_pdcmb2018_00022.html)) [A detailed description.]
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- Kountché, B.A., Novero, M., Jamil, M., Asami, T., Bonfante, P. And Al-Babili, S. 2018. Effect of the strigolactone analogs methyl phenlactonoates on spore germination and root colonization of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. Heliyon 4(11): e00936. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844018326616>) [Confirming that, although the strigolactone analogues MP1 and MP3 inhibit AMF spore germination, they promote the intra-radical root colonization, both more efficiently than GR24. These results indicate that field application of MP1 and MP3 does not have negative impact on mycorrhizal fungi, reinforcing their potential for controlling parasitic weeds. See also Jamil *et al.* above]
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- competence. *Plant Cell Tissue and Organ Culture* 135(2): 321-329. [The study describes a highly efficient genetic transformation and regeneration protocol for the root holoparasitic *P. ramosa* using a new transformation system with *A. rhizogenes* MSU440 carrying a non-destructive selection marker gene coding for a red fluorescent protein (DsRed1).]
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- Linyi Zhang, Comerford, M. and Hood, G.R. 2018. Botanical parasitism of an insect by a parasitic plant. *Current Biology Correspondence* 28(16): PR863-864. [Recording parasitism by *Cassytha filiformis* on wasp galls on oak trees in Florida. Suggesting that the *Cassytha* is killing the wasp larvae directly, but surely they are simply being starved because the gall is being robbed by the parasite?]
- Liu Xiao, Yan YaRu, Liu YuYu, Mo Ting, Wang XiaoHui, Song YueLin, Chen QingLiang, Zhao YunFang, Shi ShePo and Tu PengFei. 2018. Cell culture establishment and regulation of two phenylethanoid glycosides accumulation in cell suspension culture of desert plant *Cistanche tubulosa*. *Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture* 134(1): 107-118. [Describing the growth of callus of *C. tubulosa* in tissue culture, and the doubling of levels of acteoside and echinacoside by feeding tyrosine and methyl jasmonate.]
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- Liu ZiJun, Wang YaLan, Li QiLing and Yang Liu. 2018. Improved antimelanogenesis and antioxidant effects of polysaccharide from *Cuscuta chinensis* Lam seeds after enzymatic hydrolysis. *Brazilian Journal of Medical and Biological Research* 51(7): e7256. (<http://www.bjournal.com.br/2018/07/improved-antimelanogenesis-and-antioxidant-effects-of-polysaccharide-from-cuscuta-chinensis-lam-seeds-after-enzymatic-hydrolysis/>) [Polysaccharide isolated from *C. chinensis* had antimelanogenic activity but the enzymatically hydrolysed form was even more active, confirming that it has potential for skin-whitening.]
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- \*Mahadi Hasan, Ali, M.T., Rifat Khan, Parag Palit, Aminul Islam, Veronique Seidel, Rabeya Akter and Laizuman Nahar. 2018. Hepatoprotective, antihyperglycemic and antidiabetic effects of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* leaf extract in rats. *Clinical Phytoscience* 4: 16 pp. (<https://clinphytoscience.springeropen.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s40816-018-0076-9>) [Concluding that extracts of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* have potential hepatoprotective, antihyperglycemic and antidiabetic activity. Anti-diabetic activity was equivalent to the standard Metformin.]
- Mahesh, H.B. and 10 others. 2018. Multi-omics driven assembly and annotation of the sandalwood (*Santalum album*) genome. *Plant Physiology* 176(4): 2772-2788.
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- \*Mandumbu, R. Mutengwa, C., Mabasa, S., Mwenje, E., Gotosa, J and Munyati, V. 2018. The parasitic weeds scourge in northern Zimbabwe: effects of soil degradation, hosts and food security implications to rural farmers. *Scientia Agriculturae* 20(3): 86-91. (<http://pscipub.com/Journals/Data/JList/Scientia%20Agriculturae/2017/Volume%2020/Issue%203/4.pdf>) [Reviewing the occurrence of *Striga asiatica*, *S. gesnerioides* and *Alectra vogelii* in Zimbabwe and finding that all are common and affecting the food security of many small-holder farmers. No effective control methods are reported.]
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- Mekuanent Tebkew, Yohannis Gebremariam, Tadesse Mucheye, Asmamaw Alemu, Amsalu Abich and Dagim Fikir. 2018. Uses of wild edible plants in Quara district, northwest Ethiopia: implication for forest management. *Agriculture and Food Security* 7(12): 12 pp. [Listing *Ximenia americana* among 'highly valued' wild species.]
- Menke, K., Schwermer, M., Felenda, J., Beckmann, C., Stintzing, F., Schramm, A. and Zuzak, T.J. 2018. *Taraxacum officinale* extract shows antitumor effects on pediatric cancer cells and enhance mistletoe therapy. *Complementary Therapies in Medicine* 40: 158-164. [Showing that *T. officinale* extracts can have synergistic effects on cancer cells in combination with *Viscum album* preparations (Iscucin Tiliae and Iscucin pini).]
- \*Missé, P.T.E. 2017. Comparative analysis on the management of the parasitic weed *Striga* in the USA, Australia and Kenya. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3231805> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3231805> [Prompted by the discovery of *S. asiatica* in 62 ha of sugar cane in Queensland in 2013, reviewing the biology of *S. asiatica* and *S. hermonthica* and control methods in USA and Kenya. The £AUS 6 million programme implemented in Australia mainly follows the US pattern i.e stopping the spread, preventing reproduction and completely destroying every propagule.]
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- \*Molina Martín, C., Montamarta Prieto, G. and Eugenio Gozalbo, M. 2017. Additions to the Floristic Catalogue of the Province of Soria (Spain), V: new citations of the family Orobanchaceae. (in Spanish) *Flora Montiberica* 68: 18-26. [Species not previously recorded in Soria Province included *Orobanche cernua*, *O. hederaceae*, *O. santolinae*, *Phelipanche nana* and *P. lavandulaceoides*.]
- Moolayil, O. and Sreenivas, V.K. 2018. *Striga musselmanii* (Orobanchaceae): a new species of *Striga* from Western Ghats. *Phytotaxa* 375 (1): 099-103. [*S. musselmanii* is a newly described species, parasitic on *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*, *Digitaria ciliaris* and *Perotis indica*, based on a small number of specimens, distinct from *S. angustifolia* in having yellow flowers and different seed sculpturing. Distinction from *S. asiatica* (s.l.) not so clear other than in having 15 calyx lobes.]
- Moreno-Ramírez, Y.D.R., Torres-Castillo, J.A., Mora-Olivo, A. and Torres-Acosta, R.I. 2018. First report of the mistletoe *Phoradendron quadrangulare* (Viscaceae) on *Moringa oleifera* (Moringaceae) in Mexico. *Plant Disease* 102(10): 2045-2046. [Reporting a localised occurrence of *P. quadrangulare* on *M. oleifera*, associated with nearby infestations on an *Acacia* sp. and *Prosopis laevigata*.]
- Moura, M., Dias, E.F. and Maciel, M.G.B. 2018. Conservation genetics of the highly endangered Azorean endemics *Euphrasia azorica* and *Euphrasia grandiflora* using new SSR data. *Conservation Genetics* 19(5): 1211-1222.

- [Detailed genetic studies confirm that *E. azorica* is diploid while *E. grandiflora* is tetraploid. Eradication of invasive species and control of grazing will be fundamental to promote in situ restoration.]
- Mousavi, E.A., Nasibi, F., Kalantari, K.M. and Oloumi, H. 2017. Stimulation effect of carrageenan on enzymatic defense system of sweet basil against *Cuscuta campestris* infection. *Journal of Plant Interactions* 12(1): 286-294. [Spraying basil plants with carrageenan 3 times before exposure to *C. campestris* reduced infestation by 26% and improved basil growth and identifying a range of metabolic changes which might be responsible.]
- Mrema, E., Shimelis, H., Laing, M. and Mwadzingeni, L. 2018. Genetic analysis of the maximum germination distance of *Striga* under *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *strigae* biocontrol in sorghum. *Journal of Integrative Agriculture* 17(7): 1585-1593. [Maximum germination distance (MGD) is an important component of *Striga* resistance in sorghum. The objective of this study was to determine gene action influencing MGD of *S. hermonthica* and *S. asiatica* among selected sorghum lines treated with a biocontrol agent, *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *strigae* (FOS). Breeding methods exploiting these genetic effects may provide enhanced response to selection for *Striga* resistance and FOS compatibility in integrated *Striga* management (ISM) programmes.]
- Muhammad Ali, Tariq Khan, Kaneez Fatima, Quratul-Ain Ali, Muhammad Ovais, Khalil, A.T., Ikram Ullah, Abida Raza, Shinwari, Z.K. and Muhammad Idrees. 2018. Selected hepatoprotective herbal medicines: evidence from ethnomedicinal applications, animal models, and possible mechanism of actions. *Phytotherapy Research* 32(2): 199-215. [Including study of the hepatoprotective effect of extracts of *Cuscuta chinensis*.]
- Mujezinović, O., Treštić, T., Margaletić, J., Dautbašić, M., Zahirović, K., Ivojević, S. and Brkić, H. 2018. (Effect of mis(t)letoe (*Viscum album* L.) on radial growth of fir trees (*Abies alba* Mill.) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.) (in Croatian) *Naše Šume* 16(50/51): 34-40. [Describing the effects of *V. album* on fir trees, in relation to the 'opacity' (density?) of the crown. But is the opacity not influenced by the mistletoe?]
- Mutinda, S.M., Masanga, J., Mutuku, J.M., Runo, S. and Alakonya, A. 2018. KSTP 94, an open-pollinated maize variety has postattachment resistance to purple witchweed (*Striga hermonthica*). *Weed Science* 66(4): 525-529. [Showing that the resistance of KSTP94, also known as Kakamega, is not only due to low production of sorgomol but also to the inability of the parasite to penetrate the endodermis resulting in greatly reduced size and numbers of attachments.]
- Nagaratna Biradar, Nagar, R.P. and Vinod Kumar. 2018. Analysis of selected fodder ventures in southern and western India. *Range Management and Agroforestry* 39(1): 109-114. [Among the constraints identified for growers of fodder crops was the 'slow tedious process of cleaning *Cuscuta*-infested seed'.]
- Ndagurwa, H.G.T., Maponga, T.S., Dube, B., Nzuma, T.M. and Muvengwi, J. 2018. Termitaria vs. mistletoe: effects on soil properties and plant structure in a semi-arid savanna. *Acta Oecologica* 91: 35-42. [Comparing the different benefits to soil properties from termite mound material and the leaf droppings from unidentified mistletoe in Zimbabwe and finding that soil under mistletoe-infested trees were associated with silt, organic matter, Na, P, Mg and nitrate, and encouraged the growth of *Securinega virosa* (Euphorbiaceae).]
- Ndouyang, C and Noubissie Tchiagam, J.B. 2018. Genotypic response of *Sorghum bicolor* (L) Moench landraces to sodium carbonate Application in control of *Striga hermonthica* in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Cameroon. *Haya: The Saudi Journal of Life Sciences* August 3(8): 541-550. [Comparing 24 genotypes of sorghum for their resistance to *S. hermonthica* and reporting LMO-LT18, LMO-LT22, KW-CP09 and LMT-21 to be the least susceptible. Also showing that sodium carbonate at 75 kg/ha reduced *S. hermonthica* by 74% and increased sorghum yield by 91%.]
- Nikulin, S.V., Mnaftki, N.A., Shilin, S.A., Gazizov, I.N. and Maltseva, D.V. 2018. Ribosome inactivation and the integrity of the intestinal epithelial barrier. *Molecular Biology* 52(4): 583-589. [Demonstrating that a lectin viscumin preparation from *Viscum album*, capable of ribosome inactivation, was not damaging to epithelia cells.]
- Nilsson, S.G. 2018. (Mowing and grazing in late summer - effects on herbs, especially orchids.) (in Swedish) *Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift* 112(3/4): 171-175. [Changing the management of grasslands to late summer mowing with aftermath grazing or only late summer grazing (previously grazed from spring to autumn for several decades) greatly increased the proportion of forbs including *Rhinanthus minor*.]
- Ntumba, J.K., Tshiongo, C.M., Mifundu, M.N., Robiette, R. and Taba, K.M. 2018. Effective

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- Onyancha, J.M., Gikonyo, N.K., Wachira, S.W., Mwitari, P.G. and Gicheru, M.M. 2018. Anticancer activities and safety evaluation of selected Kenyan plant extracts against breast cancer cell lines. *Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy* 10(2): 21-26. [*Hydnora abyssinica* found to have good anticancer activity, supporting folklore claims.]
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- \*Osunlana, O.R., Bello, M.O. and Johnson, J.A. 2018. Nutritive values and bioactive compounds content of three commonly used blood pressure regulating plant leaves. *Pharmacology Online* 1 : 128-136. ([http://pharmacologyonline.silae.it/files/archives/2018/vol1/PhOL\\_2018\\_1\\_A014\\_Osunlana.pdf](http://pharmacologyonline.silae.it/files/archives/2018/vol1/PhOL_2018_1_A014_Osunlana.pdf)) [Suggesting caution in the consumption of '*Viscum album*' growing on *Gmelina arborea* because of its oxalate content. N.B. Yet another example of the misuse of the name *Viscum album* for a mistletoe from West Africa.]
- \*Ouedraogo, O., Kaboré, T.D., Noba, D.R. and Traoré, S. 2018. *Polygala rarifolia* DC., plante faux hôte du *Striga hermonthica* (Del.) Benth. *Journal of Applied Biosciences* 123: 12346-12353. (<https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/jab.v123i1.3>) [Confirming that *P. rarifolia* can act as trap crop,



- stimulating the germination of *S. hermonthica*, also that the stimulant involved appears to be identical to that from cowpea.]
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- \*Quintana-Rodríguez, E., Ramírez-Rodríguez, A.G., Ramírez-Chávez, E., Molina-Torres, J., Camacho-Coronel, X., Esparza-Claudio, J., Heil, M. and Orona-Tamayo, D. 2018. Biochemical traits in the flower lifetime of a Mexican mistletoe parasitizing mesquite biomass. Frontiers in Plant Science 17 July 2018. (<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2018.01031/full>) [Detailed analysis of the changes in nectar chemistry, volatiles, carotenoids and cell wall invertase activity over the 4 day period of flowering in *Psittacanthus calyculatus*, and their influence on floral visitors, the most common being hummingbirds.]
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- \*Park SuBin, Park GwangHun, Kim HaNa, Song HunMin, Son HoJun, Park JiAe, Kim HyunSeok and Jeong JinBoo. 2018. Ethanol extracts from the branch of *Taxillus yadoriki* parasitic to *Neolitsea sericea* induces cyclin D1 proteasomal degradation through cyclin D1 nuclear export. BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine 18:189(20 June 2018) (<https://bmccomplementaryandalternmed.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12906-018-2258-x>) [The results, from Korea, 'suggest that extracts from *T. yadoriki* may suppress cell proliferation by down regulating cyclin D1 protein level through proteasomal degradation via T286 phosphorylation-dependent cyclin D1 nuclear export', confirming potential in treatment of cancer.]
- \*Patykowski, J., Dell, M., Wevill, T. and Gibson, M. 2018. Rarity and nutrient acquisition relationships before and after prescribed burning in an Australian box-ironbark forest. AoB Plants 2018 Vol.10 No.3 pp.ply032 (<https://academic.oup.com/aobpla/article/10/3/ply032/4996542>) [Including discussion of the important role of hemi-parasites *Amyema miquelii* and *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Santalaceae) in the nutrient cycling in box-ironbark forest (mainly *Eucalyptus* spp.)]
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- legumes in Malawi. Among 4 varieties of cowpea tested, Mkanakaufiti, showed least attack and yielded best in infested pots, followed by IT82E-16 which showed tolerance. IT99K-7-21-2-2XIT82E-16 also showed some resistance. In a germination test, only Mkanakaufiti caused low germination; the others high.]
- Pilichowski, S., Filip, R., Kościelska, A., Żaroffe, G., Żyźniewska, A. and Iszkuło, G. 2018. (Influence of *Viscum album* ssp. *austriacum* (Wiesb.) Vollm. on tree radial growth of *Pinus sylvestris* L.) (in Polish) Sylwan 162(6): 452-459. [Noting that *V. album* is an increasing problem in Scots pine in Poland and that infestation not only reduces yield of seed but also reduces radial growth.]
- Pincovici, S., Cochavi, A., Karnieli, A., Ephrath, J. and Rachmilevitch, S. 2018. Source-sink relations of sunflower plants as affected by a parasite modifies carbon allocations and leaf traits. Plant Science 271: 100-107. [Showing that parasitism of sunflower by *Orobancha cumana* changes source-sink relations leading to thinner and larger leaves.]
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- \*Renna, M., Signore, A., Paradiso, V.M. and Santamaria, P. 2018. Faba greens, globe artichoke's offshoots, crenate broomrape and summer squash greens: unconventional vegetables of Puglia (Southern Italy) with good quality traits. Frontiers in Plant Science 9(March): 378. (<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2018.00378/full>) [Noting that the shoots of faba bean are used as a vegetable, also *Orobancha crenata*, parasitizing the faba bean are used like asparagus in local cuisine. The faba bean shoots can be recommended as substitute for more nitrate-rich vegetables, while *O. crenata* is a good source of antioxidants and 'may be considered as a very nutritious agri-food product.']
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- post-fire. *Forest Pathology* 48(3): e12419. (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/efp.12419>) [Study of the effect of three fires, 33 years, later, confirms the value of natural wild fires in the control of *A. americanum*.]
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- Shang ZhanHuan, Hou Yuan, Li Fei, Guo CanCan, Jia TianHua, Degen, A.A., White, A., Ding LuMing and Long RuiJun. 2017. Inhibitory action of allelochemicals from *Artemisia nanschanica* to control *Pedicularis kansuensis*, an annual weed of alpine grasslands. Australian Journal of Botany 65(4): 305-314. [Identifying 3 compounds from *A. nanschanica* - a sesquiterpene and two aromadendrene oxides – with potential to suppress germination and growth of *P. kansuensis*.]
- Sharma, S.K., Anita Patil, Agnihotri, A.K. and Shakti Mehrotra. 2018. In vitro conservation of *Alectra chitrakutensis*; a critically endangered root parasitic plant of high medicinal importance. Acta Physiologiae Plantarum 40(2): 29. [Describing the *in vitro* propagation of *A. chitrakutensis*, highly valued as a medicinal plant in India for treatment of leprosy, leucoderma, tuberculosis and paralysis.]
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- \*Shin HyeWoo and Lee NamSook. 2018. Understanding plastome evolution in hemiparasitic Santalales: complete chloroplast genomes of three species, *Dendrotrophe varians*, *Helixanthera parasitica*, and *Macrosolen cochinchinensis*. PLoS ONE 13(7): e0200293. [This study added three more plastome sequences to those in existence and compared the 11 datasets phylogenetically, size of the inverted repeat, and gene content. NADH dehydrogenases were lost in all sampled Santalales (no Olacaceae s. lat. sampled). No correlation was seen between gene content and type of parasitism.]
- Shubha Chimmalagi, Nirmalnath, P.J., Sagarkar, M.A., Jagadeesh, K.S. and Ramesh Babu. 2018. Isolation, screening and selection of efficient native arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi for suppression of *Striga* in sugarcane. Indian Journal of Weed Science 50(1): 51-55. [Confirming that AM fungi significantly reduced *Striga asiatica* as compared to AM-free conditions.]
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**HAUSTORIUM 73**

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Send material for publication to any of the editors.

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