



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT - PRELIMINARY CALL

2020 International Union of Forest Research Organizations

7th IUFRO International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions in Forestry

Understanding forest tree-antagonistic interactions in a
changing world

September 21st- 25th, 2020, Pontevedra, Galicia, SPAIN



SAVE THE DATE! - Mark it in your agenda and make plans to attend the 7th International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions in Forestry in September, 21st - 25th, 2020 at Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain.

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Following the tradition of highly successful Tree Resistance Workshops in Mount Sterling 2018 (Ohio, US), Orleans 2013 (France) and Eugene 2011 (Oregon, US), we are pleased to announce that the 7th International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions will take place in Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain in September, 21st - 25th, 2020.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES - Managed and natural forests provide essential ecosystem services worldwide. Due to the free of movement of people and goods across biogeographical zones, tree species are increasingly challenged by emergent invasive biotic threats. We can see large range expansions of pests and diseases, as well as sudden shifts to naïve host species. Moreover, climate change is also increasing abiotic tree stresses, which synergistically interact with tree resistance leading to negative effects on tree survival and forest resilience.

Although forest tree species are known to harbour high levels of genetic variation, most remain fairly unstudied, particularly in traits related to host tolerance and resistance to biotic and abiotic stressors. To understand such variations, within the framework of the genetics of tree-antagonist interactions, is necessary to forecast the survival and prevalence of forest populations in a changing environment. This knowledge can also be exploited in breeding programs aiming to improve forest health.

The scientific community is pushing for an urgent multidisciplinary and coordinated effort to solve these challenges, making use of current and new knowledge, strategies and technologies. Geneticists, evolutionary biologists, ecologists, phytopathologists, entomologists, plant physiologists, breeders and managers are all involved in this challenge.

This workshop will provide the ideal forum for updating knowledge, evidences, solutions and failures between scientific, academic and practical approaches. It is also an opportunity to enhance the dialogue of long experienced expertise with the new generations of scientists, which will provide creative and new solutions in the near future.

Submissions are welcome in all areas of tree defence and resistance, including, but not limited to, the following **topics**:

- Conventional and innovative tree breeding initiatives for resistance.
- Updates on exotic pests and pathogens challenging our forests worldwide.
- Ecology and genetics of resistance in natural and managed populations.
- Evidence -or not- of durable resistance or multiple resistance to diverse challenges.
- Biology and ecology of tree-antagonistic relationships in forests trees.
- Mechanisms of perception, identification, signalling of biotic damage and plant defensive strategies and how they could be useful to improve resistance.
- Comparative genomics, GWAS, genomic selection and other genomic initiatives looking for resistance.
- Molecular biology and population genetics studies in populations and species under risk.
- Mechanisms and ecological consequences of putative mutualistic tree biotic interactions potentially involved in providing resistance against antagonistic organisms (microbiota, plant-plant interactions, etc.).
- Consequences of pests and diseases on forest and landscape ecology and management.
- Evolutionary biology of resistance traits and trade-offs with other tree functional traits.
- Interactive effects of abiotic stressors with biotic resistance.
- Innovative tools and methodologies for screening for resistance or improving resistance, such as phenomics or non-invasive image techniques.
- Ecological principles and applications useful for managing resistance.
- Genetic variation and structure at multiple hierarchical levels in tree functional traits related with any of the above topics.

Please, help us

In order to improve the conference organization, it would be VERY HELPFUL if you could answer to the following brief survey and email it to: lsampedro@mbg.csic.es

- I am planning to attend the workshop
- I may attend the workshop
- I cannot attend but keep me in the mailing list
- I would like to submit an abstract for an oral presentation
- I would like to submit an abstract for a poster presentation
- Please, take me off the mailing list

Conference venue and location

The 7th workshop of GTPI will be hosted by the research group [“Genetics and Ecology of Resistance in Conifers”](#) within the [Misión Biológica de Galicia](#) (MBG), an agricultural research station in Pontevedra, Spain, that is run by the [Spanish National Research Council](#) (CSIC).

The city of [Pontevedra](#) is a very old city in South Galicia. It is a small and pedestrian friendly town (80.000 people), surrounded by a river that forms an estuary and the well-known “Ria de Pontevedra”. It is located in the ‘Rias Baixas’ area, made famous for its high-quality seafood, excellent wines, superb sandy beaches and sea landscapes. Pontevedra is one of the biggest cities in the Province of Galicia, a green and forested region with a mild [climate](#) of northwest Spain. Pontevedra intersects with the famous “Camino de Santiago” (Saint James Way), a network of traditional medieval pilgrimage routes leading to Santiago de Compostela, declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Pontevedra is well connected by road and train. It is 20 minutes driving distance from the Vigo Airport, with direct airplane connections to Madrid (50 min) and Barcelona (90 min). Pontevedra also has fast train connections to the international airports of Santiago de Compostela (30 min), A Coruña (70 min) and Oporto (4 h).

There are two hotels with special fares for the conference (Galicia Palace and Parador de Pontevedra), with rooms rating from 85 € and 100 € (for single and double room per night respectively, including breakfast). Cheaper lodging solutions will be available for students. More information will be provided in the second call.

Scientific and social program

The scientific program for the workshop will consist of contributed talks and posters, with a maximum of 140 attendees, so concurrent sessions aren’t necessary. Additional invited and keynote speakers will provide new visions from the frontiers of science on the topics covered by the meeting. Short discussions after every few talks and longer discussions at the end of the sessions will try to move forward our knowledge. The scientific program will be intense, but the conference room will be comfortable with individual desks and seats.

Social activities will be scheduled every day to enhance networking among conference participants. We will enjoy the nice environment in the city of Pontevedra, with amazing *plazas* and *bares*, and nice beaches, forests and cultural heritage places nearby. There is a nice running area along the river, the possibility of water sports and other outdoor activities.

Preliminary schedule

Sunday, September 20th: (PM) arrival, registration and social evening reception

Monday, Sept. 21th: registration, presentations and poster sessions

Tuesday, Sep. 22nd: presentations and poster sessions.

Wednesday, Sep. 23rd: field trip and social activities.

Thursday, Sep. 24th: presentations, poster sessions and social dinner

Friday, Sep. 25th: morning session, meeting adjourned.

Tentative registration fees and conference services

Tentative registration fees are 550€ for early birds, 650€ late regular and 350€ for students. More information about lodging and registration is coming soon in the second call.

Registration will include conference fees; cocktail at the evening reception; lunch and coffee breaks on Mon-Fri; dinner on Mon-Thu; field trip (including lunch) and social dinner on Thu. Thus, participants will have few additional expenses other than registration, travelling and lodging.

Depending on the funding obtained by external sponsors, a program of prizes and travel grants for students will be established based on the quality of the papers upon acceptance and that of the posters and presentations during the conference.

One main objectives of this meeting is to encourage the leadership of scientists at their early career stages. A complete program with social activities and mini-sessions within the workshop with topics of interest for them will be established. Besides, a brand new “Young Scientist Advisory Committee” will help in making decisions, organizing and dynamizing the meeting.

Tentative Calendar & relevant dates (will be updated on the second call)

May 28th, 2019. First announcement and preliminary call.

December 15th, 2019. Second announcement. Website launch, committees composition, hotels and preliminary program.

March 15th, 2020. Registration open and call for abstracts.

May 15th, 2020. Deadline for abstract submission.

May 30th, 2020. Decision on abstracts.

June 15th, 2020. Final programme, deadline for early bird registration.

June 30th, 2020. Deadline for hotel booking with special fare.

Call for sponsorship and donations

Support from other institutions and organizations is welcome. This support would help to offset the costs and let people know that they are contributing to the battle of protecting our forest resources. Funds will be also used to offset keynote speakers travel costs, student travel grants, the field trip and other conference expenses. If you are interested in becoming and sponsor or donate funds, please contact us.

Past Conferences in this Series

[6th International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions, Ohio, US, 2018.](#)

[5th International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions, Orleans, France, 2015](#)

[4th International Workshop on Disease and Insect Resistance in Forest Trees. Eugene, Oregon, 2011.](#)

Mechanisms and Deployment of Resistance in Trees to Insects, Iguassu Falls, Brasil, 2000

Breeding Insect and Disease Resistant Forest Trees Eugene, Oregon, 1982

3rd International Workshop on Resistance to Diseases and Pests in Forest Trees, Wageningen, 1980.

Pre-series Workshop on Biology of Rust Resistance in Forest Trees, Moscow, Idaho, 1969

Pre-series Workshop on Breeding Pest-Resistant Trees, University Park, Pennsylvania, 1964 (considered the 1st International Workshop in this series)

IUFRO Related Working Groups

7.03.11 Tree Resistance to insects

2.02.15 Breeding and Genetic Resources of five-needles pines

2.02.20 Breeding and Genetic resources of southern pines*

7.02.05 Rust of forest trees

7.02.09 Phytophthora diseases on forest trees

IUFRO Task Force on Forests and Biological Invasions