



2022 Manitoba CPS Regional Meeting

Dec. 7th, Dept. Plant Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB

Minutes

The 2022 Manitoba Regional Meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society was held on December 7th at the University of Manitoba (Department of Plant Science, Faculty of Agricultural & Food Sciences). This meeting was attended by 39 people. This was a good turnout after two meetings were skipped due to Covid-19. Registration with coffee and muffins started at 9:00am.

After welcoming the participants, Dr. Fouad Daayf (Manitoba regional chair for CPS) invited Dr. Tom Fetch, CPS secretary, who conveyed greetings from the CPS Board. After a few members presented disease updates (details to be published in the journal "Canadian Plant Disease Survey"), there were three technical sessions:

1. Student Presentations (chaired by Dr. M. El-Shetehy):
 - a. ***Fusarium hydrophobins as predictors of the gushing activity in malt***, by A. Jayathissa, M. Bakker, W.G.D. Fernando, J.R. Tucker, A. Badea.
 - b. ***Meta-sequencing of bacterial endophytes in clean and FHB-infected barley seeds***, by V. Weerasinghe, J.R. Tucker, A. Badea, W.G.D. Fernando, C. Wijekoon.
 - c. ***Development of Deep Learning model-based Application for rating of Blackleg disease in Brassica species***, by K. Shah.
2. Other Presentations (chaired by Dr. M. Sayari):
 - a. ***Resistance to corn Goss's wilt is primed using less aggressive *Clavibacter nebraskensis* strains***, by M. El-Shetehy, M. Sayari, R. Celoy, J.T. Tambong, F. Daayf
 - b. ***A status update on Fusarium head blight and ergot in Canada***, by S. Walkowiak
 - c. ***Crop rotation affects the abundance and diversity of soil pathogenic and non-pathogenic microbiomes***, by M.N. Islam, O. Molina, H.R. Kutcher, X. Wang.
 - d. ***Applying artificial intelligence to canola blackleg disease management***, by L. Zhao, M.W. Harding, G. Peng, R. Lange, S. Walkowiak, W.G.D. Fernando
3. *Verticillium* sp. (chaired by Dr. F. Daayf):
 - a. ***Are Canadian canola germplasm ready to fight *Verticillium longisporum*?*** By S. Huang, A. Dolatabadian, F. Liu, W.G.D. Fernando
 - b. ***Genome comparison revealed the repertoire of polyketide biosynthesis gene clusters in the members of *Verticillium* sp.*** by M. Sayari, M. El-Shetehy, A. Dolatabadian, P.K. Rehal, F. Daayf

All students received awards for their presentations, as follows: **A. Jayathissa** (1st place, \$100), **V. Weerasinghe** (2nd place, \$75), and **K. Shah** (3rd place, \$50). The business meeting followed at 2:30pm.

Business meeting

Dr. Daayf thanked the members who stayed for the business meeting and approved the minutes of the 2019 meeting (Fetch/Fernando). The members discussed ways to help students integrate the society and contribute to its activities. A motion (Bisht/Fernando) was carried to pay for up to four students to attend the Crop Diagnostic School, held every summer at the Carman research station. Another idea was suggested to organize a workshop that would benefit graduate students and post-docs, and that we invite seed companies to such an event. Dr. Fernando offered to provide names/contacts at a later date. Dr. Fernando also informed the members that Plant Canada 2024 will be held in Winnipeg at the Convention Centre on July 24th. Dr. Fetch (CPS secretary) provided an update on the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology and the CPS contract with the publisher Taylor & Francis. Before closing, Dr. Daayf presented a financial update of the CPS-MB regional section and thanked Ms. Puneet Rehal and Drs. Celoy, Sayari, and El-Shetehy for helping with this year's local arrangements.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Fouad Daayf, CPS-MB Regional Representative