

Entomological Society of America

Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

MAY 2013 Newsletter



<http://www.entsoc.org/pie>

P-IE Calendar

- May 1-June 3 – Submitted Posters and Papers to National Meeting Open
- May 15 – Deadline for Branches to submit their nominations for national office
- June 1 – Deadline for member Nominations for ESA National Positions and P-IE Section Positions (see below)
- June 16-19 – North Central Branch Meeting
- August 9 – Deadline for Nominations for MS Students for Legend of Entomology Award

Nominations for ESA National Office & P-IE Committees

By or before June 1, the P-IE Nominating Committee needs candidates to represent P-IE for the following: 1) Student Affairs (active student), 2) P-IE Secretary, 3) P-IE Treasurer, 4) Student Awards Committee Member from Government, 5) P-IE Nominating Committee members one each from SEB and International Branch, 4) JEE Editorial Board, 6) JIPM Editorial Board, 7) J Med Ent Editorial Board, 8) Fellows Judging Panel (must be a Fellow), 9) Insect Physiology, Biochem. & Tox. Award, and the 10) Kenneth & Barbara Starks Plant Resistance Award. Successful nominees would begin service after the national meeting. You can also make the nominations directly via the ESA website but the nominating committee is there to make it easier for you.

The 2013 P-IE Nominating Committee members are:

David Held, chair	Southeastern	dwh0004@auburn.edu
Rachid Hanna, vice-chair	International	r.hanna@cgiar.org
Mary Purcell-Miramontes	Eastern	mpurcel@nifa.usda.gov
Doug Walsh	Pacific Branch	dwalsh@wsu.edu
Tom Royer	Southwestern	tom.royer@okstate.edu
Rob Venette	North Central	rvenette@fs.fed.us
Bonnie Pendleton, <i>ex officio</i>	P-IE GC, P-IE Past Pres.	bpendleton@wtamu.edu

Student Award Nominations

Thanks to those that turned in nominations for undergraduate students. We had a very competitive competition and 3 winners have been notified to ensure that had time to submit their presentations for the national meeting. We will share additional information in future Newsletters and at the P-IE Networking/Business meeting.

It is now time to nominate well-deserving Masters Students for the Legends of Entomology Award. The P-IE Section annually awards one Masters Student with a \$1,500 cash award, as well as a plaque and recognition at the P-IE Section meeting at the Annual Meeting of ESA. A “Legend of Entomology” is also recognized along with the student’s advisor. Complete guidelines are available on the Section portion of the ESA website <http://www.entsoc.org/pie> or by contacting the student award committee chair Dr. Miriam Cooperband, mcooperb@aphis.usda.gov. The deadlines this year for the P-IE Section Master student awards is August 9.

P-IE Survey – PLEASE PARTICIPATE

The Governing Council has developed a short (less than 5 mins) survey to solicit your input on some important topics and to give us direction on how to use YOUR resources. Please participate by June 15 and we will share the results with you in a future newsletter.

[Start survey now](#) or go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/SURVEYPIE52013

2013 ESA-SME: Second Quarter Report on USEPA Liaison Activities

Mark Whalon, April 26, 2013

Reporting: USEPA and other Interaction and activities of ESA’s Subject Matter Expert. The Insecticide Resistance Action Committee (IRAC) (<http://www.irac-online.org/>) and USEPA moved toward a broader understanding USEPA’s Pesticide Resistance Management Terminology at a joint meeting in Washington DC on April 16, 2013. The meeting was convened at Syngenta Headquarters in Wash. DC by Caydee Savinelli (Syngenta: Technical Product Lead, Insecticides) attended in person or phone by more than 20 additional industry representatives, three USEPA personnel (‘Skee’ (Arnet) Jones, Bill Chism (both from the Bio. & Ecological Analysis Division (BEAD)) and Clayton Myers (Registration Div., Insecticides), and two Subject Matter Experts representing the Weed Science Society of America (Jill Schroeder) and the Entomology Society of America (Mark Whalon).

USEPA is seeking a ‘common framework’ and suggestions for ‘best practice’ in resistance management terminology as these definitions must be a clear and consistent communication function on pesticide labels. Essentially, the Agency would like clarification on what resistance terms like ‘cross-resistance’ or ‘field-resistance’ actually

mean scientifically and how these definitions related to actual resistance management in the field. Practically, the Agency is moving to secure an expert 'vetted' resistance terminology for use on pesticide labels. They would like a relatively uniform set of definitions where possible, even across disciplines. Therefore, resistance terminology is currently being addressed in the pesticide industries, academia, among grower groups and within the Agency itself. Obviously, clarification and some degree of harmonization of these terms would provide more consistent and effective label communication and may actually improve resistance management in the field.

Therefore, last month the SME's to USEPA made several appeals through the ESA's Web page and through personal list-serves asking members to 'weigh in' on a list of Resistance Terms. (If you would like to see the Terminology List, just email me at whalon@msu.edu.) To-date, we have received over 30 emails with suggestions, and some of these efforts particularly from B. Tabashnik, Y. Carriere, B. Hollingworth, D. Mota-Sanchez, G. Bird, D. Smitley, C. DiFonzo, B. Siegfried, E. Grafius, T. Miller, K. Stevenson, D. Brassard and J. Schroeder have been particularly helpful. Thanks to all for your timely help!

On the reporting and recording pesticide resistance front, USDA and IRAC have both continued to support the Michigan State University, Arthropod Resistance Database (R-Dbase) (<http://www.pesticideresistance.com/>). USDA and IRAC are the most faithful users of this database, and both have helped finance the R-Dbase's 24 year history. The database itself was written in SQL (Standard English Query Language) and is currently undergoing a significant software update, both in content and products offered. The R-Dbase is free and is used globally with more than 100,000 visits lasting longer than 7 minutes and more than 26,000 inquires lasting longer than 20 minutes. Personally, I can find almost anything I need in the database in less than 5 minutes; therefore, a good number of these visitors are seriously extracting information from this international resistance reference source. Not surprisingly, the two most frequent users on the database are the USEPA and industry itself. If you have not, then you should visit the R-Dbase and scope its improvements and utilities for your research, teaching or extension programming.

While in DC for the IRAC/EPA Resistance Terminology meeting, I also visited with EPA staff on issues surrounding flonicamid 9c (IUPAC: N-cyanomethyl-4-(trifluoromethyl) a nicotinamide with efficacy on aphids, whiteflies, plant bugs, plant hoppers and scale insects.

I also met with Meredith Laws (EPA's Registration Division Branch Chief), to discuss and provide feedback on neonicotinoids bees and birds. Essentially, the pressure created by the press and public concerns over pesticide impacts on pollinators and birds has escalated to a level approaching some of the Food Quality Protection Act days when EPA staff were so harried and absorbed by the communications burdens that it was hard to accomplish anything at times!

With major press coverage continuing and intensifying; public attention from personalities like Dan Rather CBS News, the Pollinator Defense Fund, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, the Weather Channel, and the American Bird Conservancy all seeking in-depth information and targeting USEPA's management people to address bird/bat/bee issues all together. Moreover, with pesticide regulators all of this media attention is not helping staff duck Z-Space Bloggers and individual letters from concerned citizens either. All of this can too often be a wearying distraction and the gradually increasing pressure-cooker can obviously delay and decouple Agency productivity. It is probably an appropriate insight for all of us in the entomological sciences to note just how much media attention the USEPA attracts—like a steel pole in the middle of a lighting storm!

MEET P-IE VICE PRESIDENT ELECT SUJAYA RAO

Sujaya Rao received a doctoral degree in Entomology from the University of Minnesota. Subsequently, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Delaware and at UC Berkeley. She then worked as an Extension Advisor at UC Davis before moving to Oregon State University where she is now a Professor engaged in research, teaching and extension. Over the years, Sujaya's research has focused on the behavioral and chemical ecology of plant-insect interactions in native habitats and in diverse cropping systems; she has led successful research programs on both insect pests and on native bee pollinators. Her 'outside-the-box' educational programs have impacted graduate and undergraduate students, colleagues on campus, K-12 students and teachers, and the public, and earned her the Distinguished Achievement in Teaching Award from ESA and the Hodson Alumnus Award from the University of Minnesota. She has also received local, regional and national team awards for her collaborative research and educational programs. Sujaya has been active in ESA since her graduate student days. She has organized research and education-related symposia, served on numerous committees and as Chair for ESA's Education and Youth Committee. She also served as an Entomological Foundation counselor. In the Pacific Branch -ESA, Sujaya chaired the Linnaean Games, Student Competition and Program Committees, and served as President of the branch in 2012. Sujaya received a Fulbright Scholar Award and just returned after four exciting months of exploring pollinators and pollination issues in Ecuador, and teaching a course on Applied Entomology. She is honored to have been selected to serve as Vice President Elect for P-IE.



P-IE Governing Council (GC)

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