

## **The International Botanical Congress was held in Melbourne, Australia from 23- 30 July, 2011.**

Approximately 2000 delegates from 73 countries attended the congress and almost 1000 speakers crowded the very dense scientific program. 171 general symposia have been organized and two of them have dealt with nectar; the symposium “Diversity, ecology and evolution of extrafloral nectary”, chaired by Brigitte Marazzi (University of Arizona, USA) and the symposium “Nectar: function, ecology and evolution” chaired by Massimo Nepi (University of Siena, Italy). The latter dealt mainly with floral nectar and was held with the auspices of ICPBR. Six selected speakers presented their research in each of the two symposia:



### ***Diversity, ecology and evolution of extrafloral nectaries***

- ◆ “Distribution of plants with extrafloral nectaries”. Kathleen Keeler, University of Nebraska–Lincoln (USA)
- ◆ “Nectaries in Ferns: their distribution and ecological role in pteridophytes”. Suzanne Koptur, Florida International University (USA)
- ◆ “Diversity and evolution of extrafloral nectaries in Leguminosae”. Brigitte Marazzi, University of Arizona (USA)
- ◆ “*Passiflora* as a model system for studying nectary diversification: insights and implications”. Shawn Krosnik, Southern Arkansas University (USA)
- ◆ “Glands and geography: geographic variation in extrafloral nectaries in the genus *Adriana* (Euphorbiaceae)”. Duncan Mackay, University of Flinders (Australia)
- ◆ “Extrafloral nectaries the basis for ant-plant mutualistic networks”. Victor Rico-Gray, Instituto de Ecología, Xalapa (Mexico)

### ***Nectar: function, ecology and evolution***

- ◆ “Biochemical evolution of pollination drops in seed plants”. Patrick von Aderkas, University of Victoria (Canada)
- ◆ “The role of scent compounds in attraction of rodent pollinators to flowers of the South African Pineapple Lily, *Eucomis regia* (Hyacinthaceae)”. Petra Wester, University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)
- ◆ “Toxic nectar: the responses of pollinators to nicotine in artificial nectar”. Sue Nicolson, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
- ◆ “Phloem at the epidermis – Development of the vascular supply within floral nectaries of Asteraceae”. Arthur Davis, University of Saskatchewan (Canada)
- ◆ “A role for auxin and PIN6 in the regulation of quantitative nectar secretion in the Brassicaceae”. Clay Carter, University of Minnesota (USA)
- ◆ “Protein profiles in floral nectar: beyond a simple reward”. Massimo Nepi, University of Siena (Italy)

Abstracts of the above mentioned presentations, as well as 5 e-posters about nectar presented in the poster session are available at <http://www.abc2011.com/>.

Check it out!