

## International Union of Forest Research Organizations

### IUFRO Meeting Report Form

Organizers of IUFRO meetings and IUFRO focal persons at IUFRO co-sponsored meetings, respectively, are kindly requested to fill in and return this form within two weeks after the meeting or by a given deadline by email (wolfrum@iufro.org). This information will be posted on the relevant IUFRO web pages and may be used for IUFRO News and the IUFRO Annual Report.

*(Note: Save this file under a new name and write directly into the form.)*

#### 1) IUFRO focal person/meeting organizer:

*Name:* Luiza Teixeira-Costa

*Function in IUFRO:* Working group Coordinator - Parasitic Flowering Plants in Forests (7.02.11)

*Email:* luiza.teixeirac@gmail.com

#### 2) Meeting data:

*Full title of the meeting:* 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Parasitic Plants

*Date and venue:* 3 – 7 June 2024, Nara Kasugano International Forum IRAKA, Japan

*Meeting website:* The meeting website has expired, but details about the conference can be found on the website of the International Parasitic Plant Society (<https://www.parasiticplants.org/wcpp-meeting/17th-world-congress-on-parasitic-plants-nara-japan/>)

*Number of participants:* 140 in-person participants, plus 20 online attendees

*Countries represented:* 36 countries (Africa = 6; Americas = 5; Asia = 7; Europe = 14; Middle East = 3; Oceania = 1)

#### 3) Organization of the meeting:

*All IUFRO Units involved:* Parasitic Flowering Plants in Forests (7.02.11)

*Host organization(s) and sponsor(s):* International Parasitic Plant Society

*Study tour(s) to:*

#### 4) Meeting report (max. 100 words per paragraph)

*a) Background information (meeting context)*

*b) Key issues discussed/latest findings in the field (bullet points or text)*

*c) Conclusions (if possible, summarize key conclusions across presentations):*

*d) Outlook on future activities (proceedings, future meetings, other):*

The International Parasitic Plant Society (IPPS), of which many of our IUFRO Working Party associates are also members, organizes international meetings every 2 years. For the 2024 edition, we decided to join forces to co-organize two special sessions.

The first session, “Parasitic Plant-Microbe-Host Interaction” was moderated by Airong Li (Kunming Institute of Botany and IPPS Vice President) and Luiza Teixeira-Costa (Vrije Universiteit Brussel and IUFRO Coordinator - 7.02.11). The session began with a keynote presentation by Jianqiang Wu (Kunming Institute of Botany) on systemic signalling between *Cuscuta*, its host plants and rhizosphere

microbes. Other topics of this session included: control of parasitic plants such as *Striga*, which threaten food sovereignty in Ethiopia; ways in which root parasites affect nutrient distribution using common mycorrhizal networks; and evidence of how parasitic plants boost insectivore prey availability in Australian deserts.

The second session, “Ecology, Evolution and Climate Change” included was chaired by Susan Wicke (Humboldt University of Berlin) and Francisco Fonturbel (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and IUFRO Deputy Coordinator - 7.02.11). The first keynote talk was presented online by Charles Davis (Harvard University), who discussed recent advances on the cryptic biology of *Rafflesia*. The second keynote talk was presented by Luiza Teixeira-Costa, who discussed effects of global change on the ecology, physiology, and distribution of parasitic plants. Other topics of this session included: the role of plastids in parasitic plants biology; how parasitic plant interactions structure the ecology of high-mountain forests; parasitic plant communication mediated by volatile organic compounds; mistletoe host-specificity; and environmental influences on host-parasite relationships.

#### 4) Photos



*Caption:* Official photo of the 17<sup>th</sup> WCPP during the closing ceremony

*Credit (not protected by copyright):* International Parasitic Plant Society (IPPS)

**Thank you very much for your kind cooperation!**



*Caption:* Noh theater in the Nara Kasugano International Forum venue

*Credit (not protected by copyright):* International Parasitic Plant Society (IPPS)



*Caption:* Luiza Teixeira-Costa (at the microphone) and Airong Li introducing the co-organized session on “Parasitic Plant-Microbe-Host Interaction”

*Credit (not protected by copyright):* International Parasitic Plant Society (IPPS)

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*Caption:* Branches of a host tree bearing a species of mistletoe of the genus *Korthalsella*, a common sight around Nara, Japan – a city known for its wide, free-roaming population of wild deer.

*Credit (not protected by copyright):* Luiza Teixeira-Costa



*Caption:* Talk presented by Francisco Fonturbel (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and UFRU Deputy Coordinator - 7.02.11) during the session “Ecology, Evolution and Climate Change”

*Credit (not protected by copyright):* Luiza Teixeira-Costa

**Thank you very much for your kind cooperation!**

**5) Other information:**

*a) Communication activities (dissemination of information about the meeting; promotion of IUFRO)*

*b) Related publications /websites*

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