



International Horticultural Congress 2014, Brisbane, Australia

Plants as Factories of Essential and Edible Oils

The 29th International Horticultural Congress (IHC2014) was held in Brisbane, from 17-22 August 2014. It attracted 3,400 delegates from more than 100 countries.

The scientific program featured 8 plenary lectures, 159 keynote speakers, more than 1200 oral and 1200 poster presentations in 4 plenary sessions and 43 symposia.

The program also included pre-congress training schools, workshops, business meetings, an associated exhibition and garden display, a photographic competition, a grower breakfast and post-congress tours.

There were also pre-congress training schools attended by 50 delegates from Pacific Island Countries, the Philippines, Pakistan and the Caribbean.

The congress was well organized. In addition to the official organizing team, numerous volunteers (among them also over 100 students) aided delegates, thus contributing to the success of the congress.

IHC2014 built on the success of the previous IHC2010 in Lisbon, which had also attracted more than 3000 delegates from over 100 countries.

The next horticultural congress will be held in Turkey in 2018.

Within the scientific program: Medicinal and Aromatic Plants were represented by a one day symposium Plants as Factories of Natural Substances and Edible Oils co-convoked by Máthé Á. (Hungary) and Sergeeva, V. (Australia). This symposium was meant to complement the Symposium on "Aromatic Plants, Essential Oils & Health- Future Prospects" that was held during the World Congress on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (WOCMAP V.), 17-20 August 2014., concurrently with ICH2014.

Keynote presentations were given by Máthé, Á. on Plants as factories of Natural substances and Edible Oils and Sergeeva, V. on Influence of plant extracts and essential oils in modern plant protection.

The different sessions contained presentations on the following invited topics:

- Plants, as oil and natural substance factories (botany, biochemistry, genetics, physiology and breeding)
- Production and processing of edible and essential oil yielding crops
- Development of new oil products and natural substances from plants
- Traditional and modern uses of essential oils
- Uses of edible oils and evaluation
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in challenging conditions (dry areas, humid areas, mountainous regions)



World Congress on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants V. (WOCMAP V.) From the Edge to the Centre – New Frontiers on Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Research

Concurrently with the International Horticultural Congress 2014, there was another important medicinal plant related scientific meeting organized by the International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ICMAP).

This congress, entitled World Congress on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (WOCMAP V.), has been the fifth successful international congress organized by the society under the title From the Edge to the Centre - New Frontiers in Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Research.

The scientific presentations were arranged around the following three major themes:

- From biodiversity to finished products - Production, phytochemical studies and quality control of medicinal and aromatic plants
- New biological and pharmacological approaches to the study of medicinal and aromatic plants
- Medicinal and aromatic plants - The interface between local knowledge, and environmental and health sciences.

A more detailed report of the two congresses will be given shortly.

The two congresses provided plenty of opportunity for participants to communicate with each other and also to gain an insight into the major trends of horticulture, and medicinal plant related research and development, obviously with a special emphasis on the manifold, dynamic and successful activities taking place in the Austral Asian parts of the world.

Budapest, October 2014.

Prof. Dr. Máthé, Á.