

## **Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> European Association for Potato Research Virology Section Meeting 13 – 19 June 2004, Le Tronchet – Rennes , France**

The 12<sup>th</sup> triennial meeting of the Virology Section was held at Hostellerie Abbatiale, Le Tronchet, about 40 km north of Rennes. About 100 delegates from 26 countries attended the meeting. Most were from Europe, but delegates from Canada, Iran, Kazakhstan, Peru, New Zealand and Tunisia also attended.

Camille Kerlan, a former chairman of the EAPR Virology Section and the local organiser opened the meeting. The scientific programme comprised 34 oral presentations and 24 posters. Sessions, which included keynote papers covered: the emergence and spread of diseases; vectors and transmission of viruses; evolution of viruses; detection of viruses; *Potato spindle tuber viroid*; PVY variants (PVY<sup>NTN</sup> and PVY<sup>NW</sup>); and resistance and control. Special lectures were presented on “PVY in tobacco crops around the world” and “Advances in electron microscopy for studying ultrastructure of virions”.

During the meeting the EAPR PVY<sup>NTN</sup> Working Group, co-ordinated by Isla Browning, SASA met for the second time. She presented work done by the group to determine the reaction of a range of PVY isolates in several potato cultivars. This group will continue its work although at a reduced level.

A new working group under Neil Boonham, CSL, UK was established to consider the status of PVY<sup>NTN</sup> as a separate ‘strain’ of PVY.

Touristic visits were to: Rennes old city; the largest tidal power station in the world across the Rance estuary; Saint Malo and Mont Saint Michel. There was also a visit to Arromanches on the Normandy coast, location of the historic British D-day “Gold Beach”. There were two scientific excursions. The first was to the experimental station of Comite Nord Plants de Pomme de Terre, at Bretteville du Grand Caux, Normandy. The second visit was to the INRA Research Unit for the Biology of Organisms and Populations for Plant, Le Rheu. The nearby National Potato Quarantine Unit was also visited.

This was another excellent virology section meeting, which was due to meticulous planning by Camille and his team, the location, the quality of the presentations and the active and friendly participation of delegates in discussions during the day and in the evenings.

Dr Colin Jeffries  
Chairman Section Virology

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