

Minutes of Virology Section Meeting, 16th EAPR Triennial Conference, Bilbao, Spain 17:30, 19 July 2005

Present:

Isla Browning (United Kingdom)
Kirsten Bundgaard (Norway)
Petr Dedic (Czech Republic)
Peter Dolnicar (Slovenia)
Sandra Goodfellow (United Kingdom)
Udo Heimbach (Germany)
Colin Jeffries (United Kingdom)
Camille Kerlan (France)
Carolyn Nisbet (United Kingdom)
Arie Rosner (Israel)
Luis Salazar (Peru)
Carl Spetz (Norway)

1. Opening

On behalf of the EAPR C Jeffries (Chairman) offered apologies for the management problems that have beset the EAPR and also the publication of Potato Research and assured members that steps are being taken to resolve difficulties through

- a) appointment of Europoint to handle administrative activities (members lists, invoicing, website).
- b) Appointment of new publishers for Potato Research (Springer). First edition expected February 2006.
The aim is to create a new Journal with a high impact factor. Since the contract with Springer requires a journal of 100 pages per volume the members support is vital.
- c) The appointment of an emergency team to clear all outstanding papers submitted for publication.
- d) Establishing closer links with members, section Chairmen and country representatives by appointing a councillor responsible for liaison. For the Virology Section this is Jari Valkonen. The council will also promote section Newsletters.

These actions were supported by the members present although some thought that an EAPR Newsletter should be promoted instead and this was likely to be more sustainable than Section Newsletters. C Jeffries recalled that the Section had already tried this under a previous Chairman, Enrique Ritter and only one issue had been published. He indicated that he had promoted the idea of an EAPR Newsletter at a meeting of Council and Chairmen in early 2005 but unfortunately had not been able to attend the recent meeting with Section chairmen 17 July 2005 because of illness and so had not been able to press this case.

2. Report of the Section

C Jeffries presented the report of the Section, including:

- the 1st meeting of the EAPR NTN working Group held at the VIIIth International Virus Epidemiology Symposium which Isla Browning (chairman of Working Group) attended.
- the Section Business Meeting held at the 15th Triennial Conference, Hamburg (2002)
- the Section Business Meeting held at the 12th meeting of the Virology Section, Le Tronchet, France (2004)
- Meeting of Council with Section Chairmen (2005)

3. Scope of the Section

C Jeffries stated the scope of the section that had been presented to Council.

“To promote the exchange of scientific and general information relating to potato virology between countries, both in and outside Europe. To promote interdisciplinary discussion and networking between researchers, diagnosticians, epidemiologists, plant health regulators and potato breeders.

To encourage and assist international cooperation in potato virology. Primarily it does this by holding a virology section meeting (conference) every 3 years where papers and posters are presented and fields visits organised. Proceedings are produced and the abstracts are published in Potato Research.

The Virology section also provides a forum for setting up work groups. Currently two PVYNTN working groups operate 1) a working group, co-ordinated by Isla Browning, SASA, UK which is determining the reaction of a range of PVY isolates in several potato cultivars and 2) a new working group, coordinated by Neil Boonham (CSL, United Kingdom) and Rudra Singh (AAFC, Canada) which is considering the status of PVYNTN as a separate 'strain' of PVY and the nomenclature of PVYN and its various isolates.” This scope was supported by members

4. The NTN Working Groups

Isla Browning indicated that there was little support for the group continuing, but said that she would continue working on NTN and invite other willing participants. It was agreed that the results of the working party be written up as a full paper for submission to Potato Research. Isla Browning agreed to do this and Camille Kerlan has offered to help. L Salazar from CIP informed the members that he was testing what he considered to be a non tuber necrotising isolate of PVY^N using Nadine and results would be available around September this year. He considered that a range of cultivars might be useful for identification of PVY^{NTN}.

C Jeffries indicated that no progress had been made by the working group considering the strain status of PVY^{NTN}. He would contact the chairmen (Neil Boonham and Rudra Singh) and ask that progress be made so that the conclusions can be presented to the 13th EAPR Virology Section Meeting in Scotland.

5. New Working Groups

Two new Working Groups had been proposed

- a) to establish an International Genebank of test plants for detection and diagnosis of potato viruses – proposed by Pal Salmon (Hungary)

There was no support amongst the group for this proposal

- b) To collect information on current virus distribution in fields around the world and release it to EAPR Members once a year – proposed by Arie Rosner, Israel

There was no support amongst the group for this proposal

6. Next meeting of the EAPR Virology Section

C Jeffries outlined preparations for the 13th EAPR Virology Section Meeting, Scotland. The organising Committee were investigating hotel conference centres with accommodation for 70-100 delegates and with a target per day of £100 per delegate (accommodation + conference costs). The preferred timing of the conference was in the last 2 weeks of June to coincide with visiting the SASA potato inspector training plots.

While delegates supported the proposals it was noted that costs were considerably more expensive than they had been in the Czech Republic and France. C Jeffries agreed but added that these were very reasonable costs for the UK and Petr Dedic added that costs in the Czech Republic had increased substantially since this meeting. The alternative would be to hold the conference at SASA and bus in delegates from a conference hotel. This did not find favour with members since the tried at tested combined conference and hotel was a successful formula. L Salazar requested that the Section considers having an EAPR Section meeting in Peru, it may be cheaper than in Scotland. This was noted but the Chairman who said he would have to check on the whether there was an EAPR policy of having to hold meetings in Europe.

7. Any Other Business

C Jeffries raised the idea of establishing a Scientific Committee for the Section to help spread workload so that the increased demands expected from Council could be achieved. While being sympathetic members felt that they could not support this given their own time constraints and instead emphasised that in their opinion tasks should be prioritised. And the main priority was the EAPR Virology Section Meeting every 3 years and its associated task (editing abstracts for Potato Research).

C Jeffries

9 June 2007