
Editorial Vol. 3 Issue 2: ICOM11 and more

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Right before ICOM11, we are happy to release the eighth version of the International Mycorrhiza Society -IMS- Newsletter. We thank all of our readers and contributors for maintaining the functioning of our Newsletter. We sincerely hope this tool contributes to the spread of mycorrhizal research and outreach around the world. Among several recent mycorrhizal news we want to highlight that the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks -SPUN- (<https://spun.earth/>), lead by Toby Kiers just made the cover of Science (DOI: 10.1126/science.add8089), regarding a recent sampling effort in northern Patagonia, Chile.

11th International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM11). Online conference, July 31 to August 5, 2022

The program of ICOM11 is listed on page 18. For more information check also: <https://icom11.casconf.cn>

At ICOM11, two new positions for the IMS Board of Directors will be elected (Vice President and Director of Communications). You can vote until the 2nd of August (Midnight European Time); IMS members will receive an email and can vote. Please vote. The nominees for the Vice President position are: Justine Karst, Sidney Stürmer, Kabir Peay, and Katie Field. The nominees for Director of Communications are Patricia Silva-Flores, Camille Truong, Cameron Egan, and Vasilis Kokoris.

In this issue...

As always, please find in this issue three of our usual sections: Top 10 mycorrhizal articles, short articles/commentaries, and YouTube interviews. Regarding our Top 10 articles vote, we congratulate Johanna Wong-Bajracharya and co-authors for their first position with the *PNAS* article "The ectomycorrhizal fungus *Pisolithus microcarpus* encodes a microRNA involved in cross-kingdom gene silencing during symbiosis", which shows how *Pisolithus microcarpus* encodes a microRNA entering plant cells and stabilizing the symbiosis. The second place went to Feng Zhang and co-authors with their *New Phytologist* article "The ectomycorrhizal basidiomycete *Laccaria bicolor* releases a GH28 polygalacturonase that plays a key role in symbiosis establishment", which suggests that the pectinase LbGH28A (induced by the mycorrhizal symbiosis) is involved in the Hartig net formation and crucial for a successful symbiotic colonization. The third place went to Felipe E. Albornoz and co-authors, with their article, also published in *New Phytologist*, entitled "Agricultural land-use favours Mucoromycotinian, but not Glomeromycotinian, arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi across ten biomes", which describes how Mucoromycotinian and Glomeromycotinian arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) are present in different albeit overlapping niches, with the former being more common in temperate agricultural regions.

Regarding our short articles, on this issue please find an article by Nguyen Thi Cuc and Katsuharu Saito about the role of polyphosphate in AMF, including an hypothetical model for P transfer at the fungus-plant interface. Also find an article by Feng Zhang and Francis M. Martin about our Top 2 voted article. In this issue you can also find links to two exciting YouTube interviews: one by Nicolás Marro about his recent work in *New Phytologist* “The effects of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal species and taxonomic groups on stressed and unstressed plants: a global meta-analysis”, where the authors describe different functional roles of AMF genera across the world, noting that most taxa and functions are understudied. The second interview is of Prof. Dr. Caroline Gutjahr, who will soon lead a new Max Planck department, “Root Biology and Symbiosis”, at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology, in Potsdam-Golm, Germany.

Finally, and as novelty on this issue, please find a written interview of Nancy Collins Johnson, Regents’ Professor at the School of Earth & Sustainability, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University. Nancy talked with us about her impressive career, her beginnings in mycorrhizal research, achievements, her definition of happiness, lessons to students, multilevel selection, and her very influential article from 1997 on the “mutualism–parasitism continuum”.

