International Steering Committee on Duckweed Research and Application (2013 - 15)

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Wolffiella gladiata

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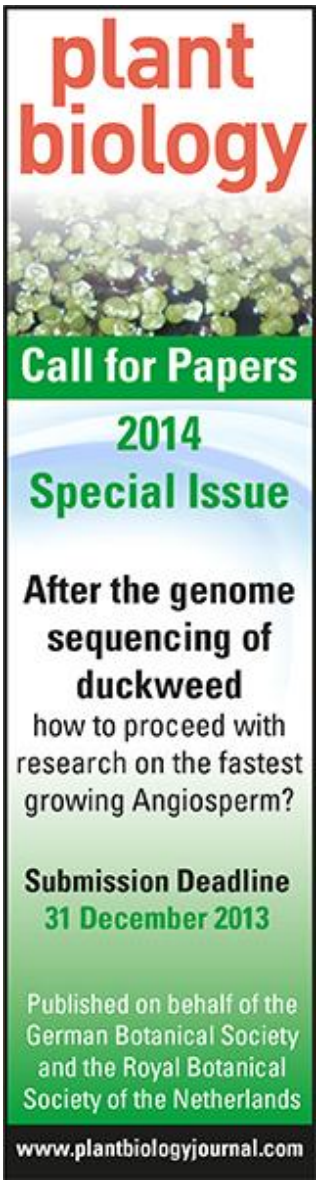
In the final session of the "2nd International Conference on Duckweed Research and Application" organised at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA a "Steering committee" was founded. The present constituted committee as mentioned on the cover page will function until the next duckweed meeting in 2015.

Information about the duckweed conference is available at: http://duckweed2013.rutgers.edu/

A personal opinion about this meeting can be heard on: www.InternationalLemnaAssociation.com managed by Tamra Fakhoorian.

The duckweed conference was dedicated to late Prof. Elias Landolt from the ETH Zurich, Switzerland. In the honour of late Prof. Elias Landolt, the journal "Plant Biology" will publish a special issue with the title **"After the genome sequencing of duckweed - how to proceed with research on the fastest growing Angiosperm?"** This issue invites contributions under this topic: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291438-8677



The committee has decided to regulate the registration of duckweed clones in the future as mentioned below.

Recommendations for registration of duckweed clones by the International Steering Committee on Duckweed Research and Applications.

1. All clones of duckweed used in scientific literature should be registered and made available for the scientific community. This will provide an opportunity to repeat the published experiments in accordance with the general rules for good practice in science. Exceptions may be e.g. outdoor experiments in an ecological context or when plant samples were not isolated as clones but used as a mixture.

2. The present list of existing clones was produced by the late Prof. Elias Landolt and includes numbers between 6500 and 9999. The list of the still existing clones in Zurich should be made available on the home page of Rutgers University (Rutgers Duckweed Stock Cooperative, RDSC, http://www.ruduckweed.org/) if the current manager of this collection, Mr. Walter Laemmler, would cooperate with this effort.

3. As a larger number of clones have been already collected by the Chengdu Institute of Biology, CAS (Zhao Hai) and the late Prof. Elias Landolt already gave them numbers, this Institute should further register its new clones using numbers between 0001 and 0999. The very few numbers above 1000 (only 13 clones) should be changed into numbers below 0999. This list of duckweed clones from Chengdu should be made available on an accessible webpage in the Chengdu Institute of Biology and also on that of RDSC.

4. Clone numbers between 1000 and 6499 are available for the whole duckweed community. The list will be administrated by the RDSC (currently under the directorship of Eric Lam [Lam@aesop.rutgers.edu]). Before a manuscript is submitted, authors should give the name of the species (under the responsibility of the authors) to this centre and receive a clone number as registration. Making the species available is also the responsibility of the authors as this cannot be done by RDSC. We ask all authors to receive registration numbers before submitting manuscripts and reviewers to enable citation of such clone numbers in the manuscript.

5. While asking for a registration number from RDSC, it should be made clear how the species identity was obtained. If this was done only on the basis of morphology, the name and address of the scientist should be given. If a molecular method for identification and/ or barcoding was used, this should be also indicated together with the method used and the data obtained. Not yet defined clones of species could be also registered (e.g. *Wolffia* sp.) but the plants should be available at least as axenic ("sterile") clones. This would be critical to allow independent verification of the clone in the future and also to justify the conclusion.

6. RDSC should be informed about the loss of registered clones within a month of its confirmed loss, if not sooner, and the number should be cancelled. If the number needs to be "reused" in the future, a letter qualifier will be appended to distinguish future clones (e.g. XXXX**a**, XXXX**b**, etc.).

7. All Institutions with more than 30 clones of duckweed should inform RDSC and make their lists available, at least on the RDSC website.

From time to time we intend to send information to the duckweed community. Please feel free to disseminate this letter to colleagues who might be interested. In case you are not interested to obtain letters from this committee in future, please write to any of the addresses mentioned on the cover page.

- International Steering Committee on Duckweed Research and Application