

First all-Poland Conference on Insect Pathology “State of the art and future directions of research on insect pathology in Poland”

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First all-Poland Conference on Insect Pathology was held on 6–7 March 2012 at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Sękocin Stary.

The Conference was organized by FRI in cooperation with the University of Humanities and Sciences in Siedlce, Poland.

Obtaining research funding both from national and foreign financing mechanisms requires establishing research teams including researchers from various scientific institutions, who can together make the best use of knowledge capacity and research infrastructure of these organizations. Moreover, there is a necessity for information and experiences exchange among scientists which facilitates collaboration in projecting and realizing research and elaborating publications. Also, friendliness, honesty and cooperation in research carried out on daily basis are very important in accomplishing scientific projects' goals. All the above justified organization of the conference with **the main objective to join together Poland's scientific centres involved in research on insect pathology.**

The Conference was aimed at all scientific workers active in the field of insect pathology. The meeting gathered 60 persons from 15 universities and research institutes. Conference agenda embraced four thematic sessions:

1. History of insect pathology in Poland.
2. State of the art and directions of research undertaken in national scientific institutions.
3. Cooperation in research and fund raising (Discussion).
4. Poster Session.

The Conference started from presentations prepared by distinguished guest speakers – the scientists involved in research on insect pathology for many years who talked about the history of research in this field (1st Session). The following papers were presented:

Use of entomopathogenic organisms in forest protection

Prof. dr. hab. Barbara Głowacka (Forest Research Institute)

Use of entomopathogenic fungi in plant protection

Prof. dr. hab. Cecylia Bajan (Centre for Ecological Research – Polish Academy of Sciences)

Prof. dr. hab. Stanisław Bałazy (Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment – Polish Academy of Sciences)

Use of entomopathogenic nematodes in plant protection

Prof. dr. hab. Marek Tomalak (Institute of Plant Protection– National Research Institute)

Prof. dr. hab. Magdalena Jaworska (Agricultural University of Cracow)

Dr hab. Marta Kamionek (Warsaw University of Life Sciences)

Use of enopathogenic viruses in plant protection

Prof. dr. hab. Jadwiga Ziemnicka (Institute of Plant Protection – National Research Institute)

During 2nd thematic session there were presented the main directions of research on insect diseases caused by pathogens (viruses, bacteria, fungi and nematodes) which has been carried out by Poland's scientific centers either by themselves or in cooperation with other institutions. The representatives of the following institutions presented their papers:

- Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology UG – MUG,
- National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene,
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Faculty of Animal Sciences, Warsaw University of Life Sciences,
- Witold Stefański Institute of Parasitology of Polish Academy of Sciences,
- Institute of Plant Protection – National Research Institute,
- Faculty of Chemistry, University of Gdańsk,
- Faculty of Biology and Environmental Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University,
- University of Humanities and Sciences in Siedlce,
- University of Agriculture in Krakow,
- University of Warsaw,

- John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin,
- Jagiellonian University in Krakow,
- Forest Research Institute.

Next day, during 3rd thematic session, the participants debated on possibilities of preparing common projects to be financed by the EU's funds. There also was discussed a scope of Conference Proceedings as well as a proposal of elaborating a handbook which would embrace a compendium of knowledge on insect pathology. Presentation of posters (4th thematic session) was held at the end of the Conference and gave the authors an opportunity to not only present their research but also dynamically discuss the results with all the participants.

The organizers trust that the Conference enhanced integrating Poland's scientific community involved in insect pathology as well as it helped promoting the results of common research in this field. Accordingly, it is expected that the meeting will give the go-ahead to strengthening efforts towards new quality of research and development projects, competitive both at national and international level.



Participants of Conference "Insect Pathology"