



# newsletter

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11-15 August 2024

Hosted by the Netherlands Mycological Society and the Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute



WESTERDIJK  
FUNGAL BIO  
DIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE

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# IMC12

12<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
MYCOLOGICAL  
CONGRESS

IMA Fungus  
THE GLOBAL MYCOLOGICAL JOURNAL

MycoBank  
[www.mycobank.org](http://www.mycobank.org)

## WELCOME MESSAGE

In approximately nine months from now, 11–15 August 2024, mycologists from around the globe will be gathering in Maastricht, the Netherlands, to attend The International Mycological Congress (IMC12)!

The IMC12 will include keynote lectures by scientific leaders, bridging sessions and workshops in seven themes: Cell biology, biochemistry and physiology; Environment, ecology and interactions; Evolution, biodiversity and systematics; Fungal pathogenesis and disease control; Genomics, genetics and molecular biology; Applied Mycology and Nomenclature.

In addition to pre- and post-conference workshops, the scientific programme runs from Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup>. The programme includes satellite meetings, workshops, and symposia. Mycologists will have ample opportunity for discussion, with links to all aspects of mycology. Following the call for symposia and workshops, close to 200 symposium topics were received, which culminated in a week-long programme with six concurrent sessions, including 48 symposia and 20 odd evening workshops. Each 2 h symposium will include eight talks [4 invited talks (20 min each) and 4 offered talks (10 min each)].

We are pleased to announce the symposia and workshops included in the [draft programme](#).

We look forward to welcoming you in Maastricht in person!

Pedro W. Crous  
Chair, IMC12



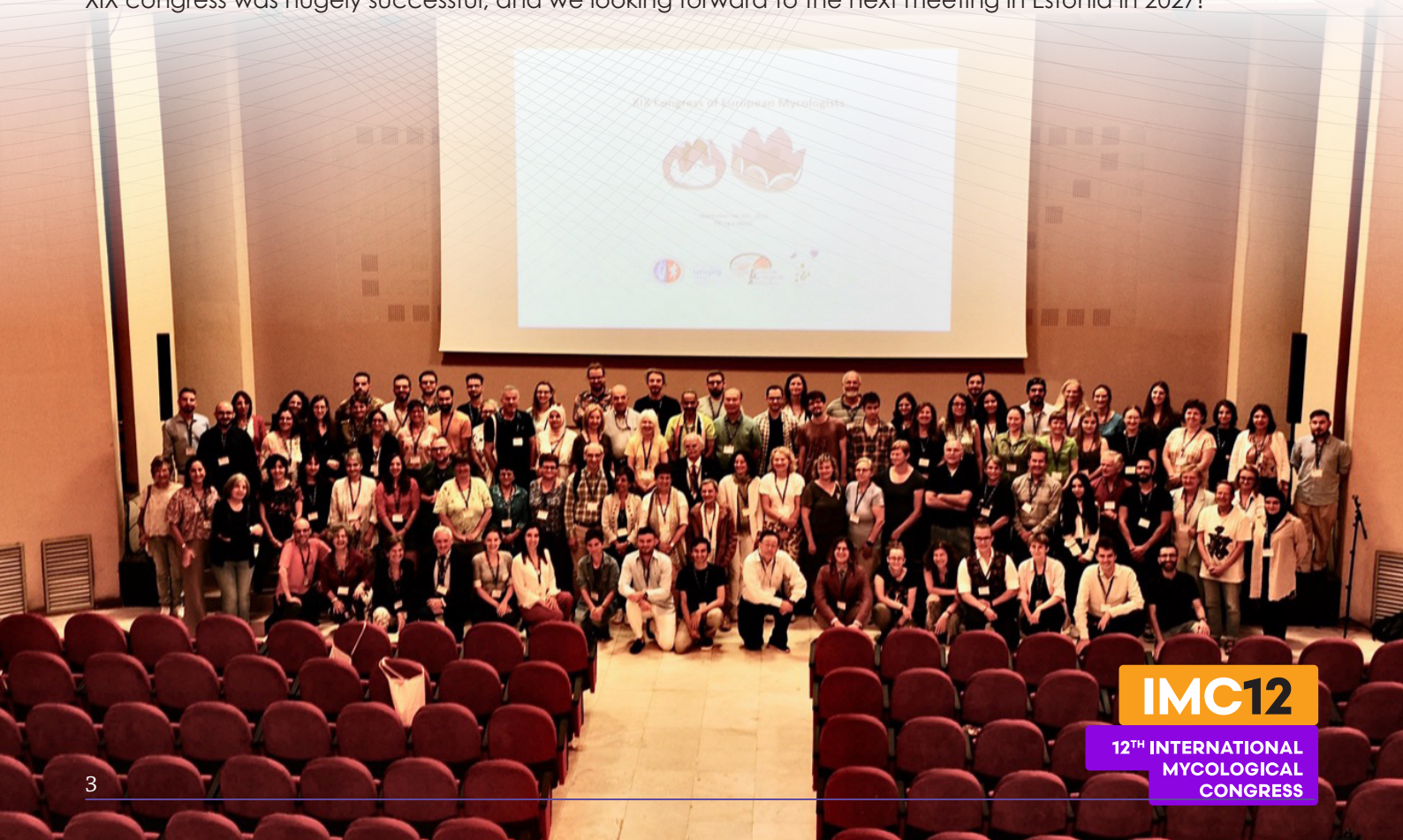
## MYCOLOGICAL NEWS

### EUROPEAN MYCOLOGICAL CONGRESS

*XIX Congress of European Mycologists*

*4–8 September 2023, Perugia, Italy*

The XIX Congress of European mycologists took place in the historic city of Perugia in Italy. The meeting was attended by a few hundred mycologists, many of which were students. The Sunday saw a special workshop on red listing of Mediterranean fungi coordinated by Greg Mueller, followed by an excursion to the historic city centre. Monday had the official opening of the meeting, followed by the first keynote by Pedro Crous on the evolution of phytopathogenic fungi. This was followed by symposia on fungal diversity and interactions, fungal omics, and fungal data management and open science. Tuesday kicked off with a keynote by Lynne Boddy on fungal communities in trees: development in space and time, followed by symposia on fungi in changing ecosystems, fungal conservation, and emerging pathogenic fungi. The day was rounded off with a marvelous dinner, which was the very best of Italian cuisine! Wednesday consisted of two separate excursions, one to Spoleto and the Sacred wood of Monteluco, and a visit to the Umbrian truffle ground in the Tiber Valley. Thursday kicked off with a keynote lecture by Giuseppe Venturella, and sessions focussing on medicinal mushrooms, mycology by young scientists (an amazingly exciting symposium!), rounded off by the EMA general assembly. Friday kicked off with a keynote by Han Wösten on fungal materials, and sessions on fungi in the bioeconomy and circular economy, and advances in fungal conservation. Saturday still had a final post-congress meeting about mycological groups and societies in Europe (see report below). In all, the XIX congress was hugely successful, and we looking forward to the next meeting in Estonia in 2027!



## REPORT FROM A MEETING OF EUROPEAN MYCOLOGICAL GROUPS AND SOCIETIES

*XIX Congress of European Mycologists Perugia*

*9 August 2023, Perugia, Italy*

The meeting aimed first to draw the current landscape of academic and citizen science-oriented mycological activities in Europe and to discuss possibilities for collaboration.

In total more than 55 organizations were represented; the list being shared via the EMA and IMA webpages.

During the meeting, 12 talks were presented, covering activities of various mycological groups including the Ukrainian mycological group, Latvian Mycological Society, Polish Mycological Society, Unione Micologica Italiana, British Mycological Society, Estonian Mycological Society, Swedish Mycological Society, Macedonian Mycological Society, Arab Society for Fungal Conservation, mycological group in Turkey, European Mycological Association and the International Mycological Association.

In the second part of the meeting, possibilities for collaboration and joint activities were discussed. Topics that were regarded of high priority include:

### ■ International Fungus Day

- EMA plans to organize a synchronized International Fungus Day in 2024, as a summary of national fungus weeks and days. The event will also be related to an intensive 24 h long global fungal bioblitz. It should also include a common communication strategy.
- If you want to join the International Fungus Day working group, apply [here](#).
- We also encourage you to share information on your national fungus weeks and days with the broader community this year, e.g. on the EMA Facebook page!

### ■ Coordinated citizen science campaign on monitoring of one common and widespread European fungal species

- This is planned as a rather large action, so more detailed discussion is needed.
- If you would like to join the working group on the synchronized citizen science campaign apply [here](#).

### ■ A list of already existing national fungi recording apps and databases

- Please complete the [table](#) as soon as possible
- When completed we will share this data together with the list of societies

### ■ Joint project on networking for mycological movements and societies

- We can think about the preparation of a joint COST action application (<https://www.cost.eu/>) but this year's deadline is too soon, so we hope to discuss it further within next year.
- If you would like to join the working group on joint networking proposal preparation apply [here](#).

- We also agreed that we would like to continue with meetings for coordinated European cooperation of mycological movements and societies
  - We plan to organize regular online meetings. If you would like to coordinate this action don't hesitate to contact Julia: [julia.z.pawlowska@uw.edu.pl](mailto:julia.z.pawlowska@uw.edu.pl).
  - We plan to organize the next in-person meeting on the cooperation of Mycological Groups & Societies during IMC12 in Maastricht.

Thank you once again for this fruitful meeting. We hope this was good starting point for further collaboration.

See you soon,

Julia Pawłowska, Igor Siedlecki & Izabela Katucka



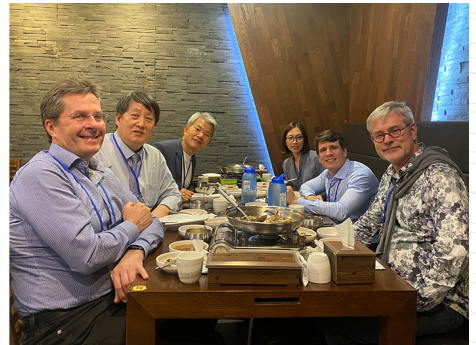
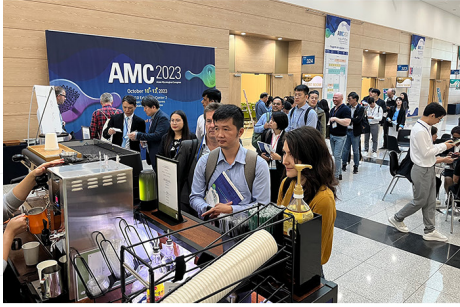
## ASIAN MYCOLOGICAL CONGRESS

AMC2023

10–13 October 2023, Busan, Korea

The Asian Mycological Congress saw close to 500 mycologists convene in Busan, Korea. The meeting included three keynote speakers (Wieland Meyer, Irina Druzhinina and Joseph Heitman), and nine plenary speakers (Dhanunshka Wanasinghe, Daohong Jiang, Yongsun Bahn, Mark Calabon, Geoffrey Gadd, Aaron Mitchell, Akiyoshi Yamada, Jens Frisvad and John Taylor). The meeting consisted of three concurrent sessions, with one round in the morning, followed by another after lunch (115 oral presentations in total). As per usual at these meetings, more than 250 posters were presented, and two workshops organised, one a special interest group Mycobionics, and a second workshop on freshwater and marine fungi. The meeting was very well organised by Hyang Burm Lee and his team, with Prof Lee also providing light musical entertainment during the dinner! For those who missed the meeting, Korea is definitely a place to visit! The next AMA meeting will be in Guangzhou, China in 2025!









## IUBMB FOCUSED MEETING ON EXTREMOPHILIC FUNGI

19–22 September 2023, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The meeting was organised in Ljubljana, Slovenia (19–22 September, 2023), under the IUBMB umbrella as the IUBMB Focused Meeting on Extremophilic fungi. In four days the participants discussed the science from many fields of extreme mycology, from diverse extreme environments, to molecular biology, genomics and biotechnological uses of extremophilic fungi. The meeting attracted 111 researchers from 26 countries and five continents.

For more information see: <https://www.fun-ex.si/>

The meeting looks set to become a regular event: The next (second) Fun-Ex Meeting on Extremophilic Fungi will be organised by Ramón Alberto Batista-García from Mexico and Elisabet Aranda from Spain. The third meeting will be organised by Laura Selbmann from Italy.

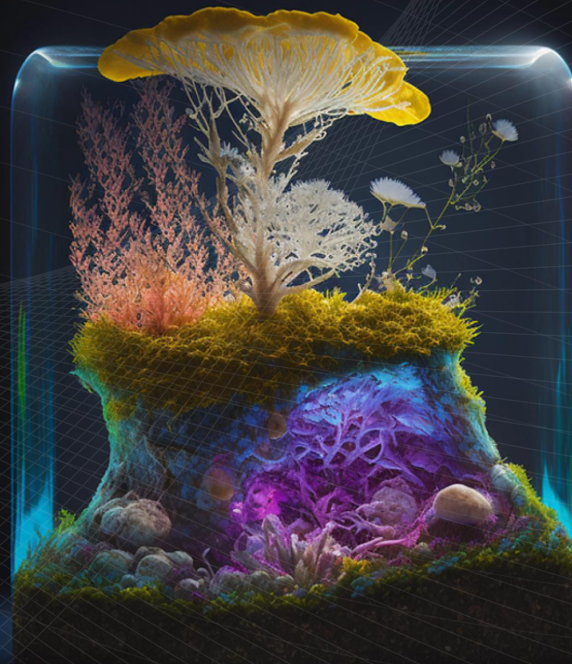


## The Future Is Fungi Award 2023

*Unlocking the magic of Fungi for environmental innovations*

Join The Future is Fungi Award Ceremony on November 23rd, where we will celebrate cutting-edge fungal research and innovation, and announce our winners: one researcher and one start-up! We have invited exceptional keynote speakers, and the ceremony will be opened by the world-renowned artist Tarun Nayar, creating music from fungi. Get ready to be amazed!

The ceremony will be held digitally for everyone to attend (18:00 CET / 12:00 p.m. EST / 18:00 CAT). You can follow the ceremony at this link: <https://www.futureisfungi.org/award-ceremony> A warm welcome to all!



## Are you ready to lead the way of the fungi revolution?

Fungi hold the solution to many of our environmental challenges. With this award, we honour the cutting-edge research and innovations in the fungi field for the environmental solutions that the world needs.

Follow the award on LinkedIn  
Together, we accelerate the fungi revolution!

## AWARDS

### De Bary Medal

Awarded to an individual who has established an outstanding mycological career. Nominees for the award will be evaluated based on the quality, originality, and quantity of their published research.

#### General Requirements:

- An individual may receive the same IMA Award only once.
- Self-nomination is not allowed.
- Nominators must be members of the IMA.
- Nominees who are not chosen for the prize, may be re-nominated for up to two additional terms (within the year limit linked to the specific award).

#### Documents required (nomination folder should contain):

- A nominating letter, including a detailed evaluation of the nominee's contributions to Mycology.
- A current curriculum vitae.

Next Nomination deadline: 15 February 2024.

#### Contact:

Dr. Chiharu Nakashima, Japan

Vice-president IMA Awards (IMA Executive Member seconded to the IMA Council)

Email: [chiharu@bio.mie-u.ac.jp](mailto:chiharu@bio.mie-u.ac.jp)

**Notes:** The award consists of a certificate. The Committee may choose to make no award in a given year if appropriate. Presentation of the awards will take place at the awards ceremony at the IMC meeting. The next award will be given at the IMC12, 11-15 August 2024 in Maastricht, The Netherlands.

## Ainsworth Medal

Awarded to an individual for recognition of extraordinary service to world mycology. Nominees for the award will be evaluated on the basis of service to world mycology or to the field of mycology in general.

### General Requirements:

- An individual may receive the same IMA Award only once.
- Self-nomination is not allowed.
- Nominators must be members of the IMA.
- Nominees who are not chosen for the prize, may be re-nominated for up to two additional terms (within the year limit linked to the specific award).

Next Nomination deadline: 15 February 2024.

### Contact:

Dr. Chiharu Nakashima, Japan

Vice-president IMA Awards (IMA Executive Member seconded to the IMA Council)

Email: [chiharu@bio.mie-u.ac.jp](mailto:chiharu@bio.mie-u.ac.jp)

**Notes:** The award consists of a certificate. The Committee may choose to make no award in a given year if appropriate. Presentation of the awards will take place at the awards ceremony at the IMC meeting. The next award will be given at the IMC12, 11-15 August 2024 in Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Deadlines for the application process for De Bary and GC Ainsworth Medals:

#### ■ 15 November 2023 (9 months in advance of IMC12)

RMMOs are requested to submit applications for the De Bary and GC Ainsworth Medals through a prominent notice on the IMA website and emails to the Executive Council members of each of the RMMOs.

The IMA Vice-President (Awards) forms the De Bary and GC Ainsworth Medals Committee from members of the IMA Executive Committee.

#### ■ 15 February 2024 (6 months in advance of IMC12)

Nominations for the De Bary and GC Ainsworth Medals are due at the Vice-President (Awards) of the IMA. The Vice President forwards the nominations to the De Bary and GC Ainsworth Medals Committee.

### ■ 15 March 2024 (5 months in advance of IMC12).

Winners for the De Bary and GC Ainsworth Medals are determined by the De Bary and GC Ainsworth Awards Committee and the names are forwarded to the IMA Vice-President and President.

Winners for the De Bary and GC Ainsworth medals are notified by the President of the IMA and encouraged to attend IMC12.

## Young Mycologist Award

Awarded to an outstanding mycologist early in their career. The nominees will be evaluated primarily based on the quality, originality, and quantity of their published work.

### General and specific Requirements:

- An individual may receive the same IMA Award only once.
- Only RMMO can send the recommendation letter to IMA. Self-nomination is not allowed.
- Nominators must be members of the IMA.
- Nominees who are not chosen for the prize, may be renominated for up to two additional terms (within the year limit linked to the Young Mycologist Award).
- Nominees must have received their PhD within the ten (10) year\* period immediately preceding January 1st of the year in which the award is given.

\* The present call for nominations is an exception due to the postponement of IMC12 to 2024. One candidate is selected from mycologists, conferred a degree from 2012 to 2021. A second candidate is selected from mycologists, conferred a degree from 2014 to 2023.

Next Nomination deadline: 15 February 2024

### Protocols for nomination and election

[For 2024, Two young mycologists are awarded for each medal. RMMOs have to recommend two young mycologists.]

For each Regional Mycological Member Organization (RMMO), a separate award is provided. Committees representing the various regions evaluate proposals from their members for the Young Mycologist Medal and recommend a single candidate to the IMA.

- Ethel Mary Doidge Medal - African Regional Mycological Member Organization
- Keisuke Tubaki Medal - Asian Regional Mycological Member Organization
- Daniel McAlpine Medal - Australasian Regional Mycological Member Organization
- Elias Magnus Fries Medal - European Regional Mycological Member Organization
- Carlos Luis Spegazzini Medal - Latin American Regional Mycological Member Organization
- Arthur Henry Reginald Buller Medal - North American Regional Mycological Member Organization

## Eligibility

To be eligible to be nominated for an IMA Young Mycologist Award, a member of the IMA must, at the time of the next International Mycological Congress, be within ten years of his or her PhD degree, e.g. for IMC12 in 2024, a nominee must have received his or her PhD degree no earlier than 2012.

## Establishment of Award Regional Committees

The President of each IMA Regional Mycological Member Organization is asked to establish an IMA Young Mycologist Award Regional Committee consisting of at least two members (although the appointment of more members to represent the diversity of mycology in the region is encouraged) and a chair, who will serve from one International Mycological Congress to the next. To ensure a broad pool of nominees, nine months prior to the next International Mycological Congress, this committee will notify the members of the IMA Regional Mycological Member Organization of the award, solicit nominations and vote to select a candidate. To ensure a breadth of experience on the IMA Young Mycologist Award Regional Committee, the chair and members of this committee should be senior mycologists with distinguished records and should represent the diversity of Mycological Member Organizations and Sustaining Mycological Member Organizations from the region. The chair will vote only in the event of a tie vote by the other members.

## Responsibilities of the Award Regional Committees

- Nine months prior to the next International Mycological Congress and three months prior to the deadline for receiving nominations, members of each IMA Regional Mycological Member Organization shall be notified of the call for nominations for the relevant IMA Young Mycologist Award through the IMA website and the IMA Regional Mycological Member Organization website and through emails sent to delegates from the region who attended the preceding International Mycological Congress.
- Nomination of candidates for each IMA Young Mycologist Award shall consist of a letter of nomination, two letters of support from mycologists familiar with the candidate, and a current curriculum vitae of the candidate. Candidates are expected to have contributed appreciably to mycology and they should have achieved international recognition based on several criteria: (a) The quality, innovation, thoroughness, and impact on science of their published research, with consideration given to the contribution of the nominee to multi-authored publications. (b) Service as editors of journals or as officers of societies. (c) Membership on national or international policy committees. (d) Invitations to present research at national or international meetings.
- The committee will forward the nomination material for each nominee and the committee's choice for the award to the IMA Young Mycologist Awards Committee convened by the IMA Vice-President no more than one month following the deadline for nominations and no less than five months prior to the next IMC. The IMA Young Mycologist Awards Committee is charged with ratifying the choices made by the IMA Young Mycologist Award Regional Committees.

### Next application deadlines:

The timeline for the IMA Young Mycologist Awards for IMC 12 is as follows. The notification to the members of the call for nominations shall be nine months prior to the IMC [15 November 2023], the deadline for receipt of nominations by the IMA Young Mycologist Award Regional Committees shall be six months prior to the IMC [15 February 2024], and the receipt of the IMA Young Mycologist Award Regional Committee's choice by the IMA Young Mycologist Awards Committee shall be five months prior to the IMC [15 March 2024]. In this way, recipients can be notified of their award at least four months prior to the IMC to encourage their attendance at the IMC. Awards shall consist of a certificate and free registration.

### Documents required (nomination folder should contain):

- A nominating letter from the representative of the RMMO, including a detailed evaluation of the nominee's contributions to Mycology.
- A current curriculum vitae.

### Contact:

Dr. Chiharu Nakashima, Japan

Vice-president IMA Awards (IMA Executive Member seconded to the IMA Council)

Email: [chiharu@bio.mie-u.ac.jp](mailto:chiharu@bio.mie-u.ac.jp)

**Notes:** Awards consist of a certificate and free registration to the upcoming IMC. The Committee may choose to make no award in a given year if appropriate. Presentation of the awards will take place at the awards ceremony at the IMC meeting

The next award will be given at the IMC12, 11-15 August 2024 in Maastricht, The Netherlands.

See [www.ima-mycology.org](http://www.ima-mycology.org) for nomination forms and additional details

