



**International Ragweed Society**

## Committee Conference call - 2019 February 11<sup>th</sup> - MINUTES

**Date:** February 11<sup>th</sup> 2019 from 10 to 11.30.

**Location:** Skype call

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome of the President
2. Welcome of IRS Secretary
3. Website
4. Membership fees
5. Committee Tasks
6. Next meetings (Committee and General Assembly)
7. International Ragweed Day
8. Organization of the next committee meeting in Parabiago

**Participants:** Michel THIBAUDON, Sandra CITTERIO, Maira BONINI, Gilles OLIVER, Olivier PECHAMAT, Sevcan CELENK, Marilou MOTTET (invited).

**Chairpersons:** Michel THIBAUDON and Sandra CITTERIO

- 1. Welcome of the President**
- 2. Welcome of IRS Secretary**

During the 11th International Congress on Aerobiology (Parma, 3rd to 7th of September 2018), the new Committee of the International Ragweed Society was elected:

President: Michel THIBAUDON (France)

Vice-President : Uwe STARFINGER (Germany)

Secretary: Sandra CITTERIO (Italy)

Treasurer: Roberto ALBERTINI (Italy) / Olivier PECHAMAT (France)

Webmaster: Gilles OLIVER (France)

Maira BONINI (Italy) stays involved in the board as Past President.

Other members of the committee are Sevcan CELENK (Turkey) and Lazlo MAKRA (Hungary).

The President and the Secretary thanks and tell to the Committee that they will put all their effort for a successful collaborative work

### **3. Website**

- Thanks to Gilles for his work on IRS website.
- The website totalized an average of 3000 visits per months and about 5000 visits in September.

In order to update the website:

- Maira Bonini will send the graphs about 2017 and 2018 pollen concentrations in Milan area; in the meantime an email requesting data related to other Countries will be sent to all the IRS members. All the graphs will be uploaded
- Gilles will add some presentations from the last year conference in Parma.
- The flyer about common ragweed characteristics will be updated with the 2019 date for the International Ragweed Day.
- It has been proposed to create a specific section to which IRS members can contribute writing short articles and/or opinions.

### **4. Membership fees**

- An email to remind the fee payment for 2019-2020 will be sent to the current members.
- An email to propose membership to IRS will be sent to scientists/operators involved in ragweed research/management. With this aim a mailing list of potentially interested people will be developed starting from lists of participants to several congresses. Roberto Albertini will send the mailing list generated for ICA 2018 (the list includes the previous lists generated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Ragweed Conference, ESA 2016, Atopica Conference etc.)

### **5. Committee Tasks**

Providing input to the development of the IRS including:

- Making a database with the potential new members (not only in Europe)
- Preparing documents to promote IRS:  
An article will be written about the new committee composition. In addition few sentences about IRS activities will be published on the IAA newsletter, including a short description of those organized in the framework of ICA 2018. Michel T. will make a proposal about.
- Set up Social methods to increase IRS visibility:  
It has been proposed to open a specific project on ResearchGate (an international social network for researcher) to promote IRS activities and invite new researchers to participate. Marilou M. has already set up the project: <https://www.researchgate.net/project/Join-the-International-Ragweed-Society-lets-talk-about-Ambrosia>

### **6. Next meetings (Committee and General Assembly)**

- Next Conference call planned for 2019 May 28th.
- Proposal for Committee meeting 2020: Cordoba, June 15th Monday morning during the 7th European Symposium on Aerobiology.
- Proposal for General Assembly meeting: Cordoba, June 19th Friday afternoon just after the 7th European Symposium on Aerobiology.

Sandra and Maira have proposed to organize the 2020 meetings on dates different from those of Aerobiology Society to obtain the maximum participation, given that many members are not aerobiologists and usually do not participate to the congresses of the Society.

At this regards Michel Thibaudon will send a letter to the President of Neobiota asking the possibility of holding the IRS General Assembly during 2020 Neobiota Congress. If he will receive an affirmative answer, the General Assembly will be held during Neobiota meeting (September 2020), whereas the IRS committee will be held in Cordoba (June 2020) as planned.

In order to improve participation and promote IRS, an abstract will be submitted to the European Group on Biological Invasions (EMAPI 15 @ Prague). This Neobiota congress will be in Czech republic (Prague) in September 2019. About the abstract Michel Thibaudon will make and send a proposal to all IRS members.

### **7. International Ragweed Day**

This year, IRD will be the 22nd of June but the week before and the week after can be considered as „IRD“ too.

All the documents/initiatives will be uploaded to the website.

In Italy the interest of politics for ambrosia is declining because of the presence of *Ophraella communa* in Lombardia Region. However, there will be some training courses to recognize alien species including *Ambrosia* sp. and an event with children in May.

### **8. Organization of the next committee meeting in Parabiago**

The Committee meeting will be held in Parabiago Saturday September 7th from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. Saturday evening Maira Bonini will organize a dinner.

Michel THIBAUDON  
IRS President

Sandra CITTERIO  
IRS Secretary