



International Ragweed Society

IRS committee meeting

Held online via Teams on November 7th 2022

Present : Makra László, Marilou Mottet, Heinz Muller, Arnaud Monty, Uwe Starfinger, Gilles Oliver, Victoria Rodinkova, Boris Fumanal

The new president László introduces the meeting and thanks the participants

Two main subjects are discussed:

1) Increasing the attractiveness of IRS

According to Heinz, attractiveness is related to the obtention of high-level competitive grants. If there are research funding potentially leading to high-level publications, researchers will more easily join.

Ambrosia-related studies are ideal because:

- They combine "blue and green" disciplines (true multidisciplinary research, from medical science to ecology)
- There is an actual problem to solve (it costs money)
- *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* is easy-going plant to have experiment on
- *Ophraella communa* spread induces a lot of questionings (e.g. post-introduction monitoring)
- Etc.

However, we have to find relevant funding sources; relevant questions in our different domains; and someone to lead the project.

Homework: it is asked to all committee members to list potential questions on a google doc within 10 days. The link to the doc will be sent by Gilles soon.

Uwe reminds that it is not so easy to raise awareness of authorities about ragweed impacts. There is a need to keep on communicating about the problem and the role of the authority in addressing the problem. Victoria stresses the role of social media, youtube, etc. PR teams of the different institution can be associated to create the content and/or to help to spread it.

2) Ambrosia meetings (or "Ambrosia readings")

Marilou proposes that every month, online meetings are organized. Two researchers report approx. in 15 minutes each on their current research about Ambrosia. Ideally, it would be researchers from different fields. This could help growing a larger community.

Other aspects are discussed:

Heinz proposes to change the name of IRS to ERS (European Ragweed Society) seeing the actual members. It would of course still be possible to connect with other parts of the world.

Gilles will create a new google account with the mail address irs@gmail.com or irs_info@gmail.com and share it with us. He will then create two shared documents: the first to list our open question and the other one to prepare the short IRS meetings project.

A doodle will be sent to find a date for the next IRS meeting (approx.in three weeks).