



International Ragweed Society

## IRS committee meeting

Held online via Teams on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

Present : László Makra, Marilou Mottet, Heinz Muller, Arnaud Monty, Uwe Starfinger, Gilles Oliver, Victoria Rodinkova, Olivier Pechamat, Michel Thibaudon

### 1) Financial reporting

László Makra and Michel Thibaudon present the financial reporting for 2022

### IRS Budapest meeting

- Total incomes: 15826 €
- Total costs: 15817 €
- Benefits: 9 € (different from zero because of currency changes)

Details:

FINAL REPORT IRS			
		EUR	HUF
Incomes (EUR)	EUR registration	9920	3968000
	ALK	2500	1000000
Incomes (HUF)	Registration/donation	3406	1362250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>INCOMES</b>	<b>15826</b>	<b>6330250</b>
COST (EUR)	management/catering	9985	3994000
	booklet	42	16800
	STOP Media	2600	1040000
COST (HUF)	Gifts	913	365201
	Posters	14	5680
	accomodation fees etc.	1050	420000
	Banki költségek/Bank charges	283	173400
	Utazási költség/Travel costs	55	22 000
	Könyvelési költség/Accounting costs	125	50 000
	Béreköltség/Staff costs	750	300 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>15817</b>	<b>6015081</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>315169</b>

Before the end of December, Michel will transfer the amount on the IRS French personal bank account to the official bank account of Post Finance in Switzerland. The treasurer must have the possibility to sign and to use the Post Finance bank account: it is ready for Olivier PECHAMAT but not yet for Roberto ALBERTINI.

The president must ask to the bank with a copy of the General Assembly with the information of the new president and the treasurers. This must be done in January.

## List of IRS members and subscriptions for next year

It is not possible for the moment to subscribe but Gilles has prepared a project of registration form, which will be available soon on the website (after validation by the treasurer and president). The payment will be directly by bank transfer to Post Finance. The possibility to use Alphavisa for the membership registration and payment has been stopped. Alphavisa sent the latest version of the members list.

### 2) Increasing the attractiveness of IRS

#### a. Research funding

It has been decided to try to identify research questions that could bring together researchers from different disciplines and serve as a basis for the application to research funding. The idea is that a significant international research project is key to attracting new members. Heinz, Uwe, Arnaud and László have proposed questions in a prepared google document. Here are the discussed possible topics:

- *Ophraella* post-introduction monitoring, impacts and natural enemies
- Ragweed evolution and hybridization
- Reproductive allocation in common ragweed
- Combination of management techniques (including biocontrol)
- Ragweed distribution and citizen science (including plant-insect occurrences\*)
- Knowledge gaps and prioritization in management
- Decision making in relation to invasion situation, health problems and costs
- Communication on the topic
- Ragweed response to increased CO<sub>2</sub> and impact on pollen, possibly using of a space-for-time approach (e.g. along urbanity gradient) and novel 'local' pollen traps.
- One-health approach

\*Note: Recording interactions in iNaturalist: plant animal interactions are possible to record in citizen science portals, such as iNaturalist. This is however not straightforward, as those platforms are primarily made for single species occurrence reporting. The general idea is 1) to add a description field (such as "animal-plant interaction" in addition to "species", "location", etc.) with the other species as a descriptor; or 2) to make separate observations (one for species 1 and another for species 2) and link them with a keyword. In both case it is most probably useful for trained people rather than lambda citizens.

Example:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/plant-pollinator-interactions>

Relevant funding sources may include INTERREG or Horizon EU projects. Other ideas for funding can be added on the same google doc:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HSPhbBDHTsIVnalShn7dK8bwnAyzb-uG8SjWX5841x4/edit>

Maybe we should write a document to be published as a White paper about all the issues involved with ragweed with One Health approach.

In addition, a call to people involved in Cost SMARTER could also help. Providing Gilles with "news" on our ragweed activity can also be useful to attract interest.

#### b. Ambrosia meetings (or "Ambrosia readings")

A proposition to increase the attractiveness of IRS is to organize some "Ambrosia meetings" online to share ideas, project, informations.

Propositions made :

- *Ophraella communa* project in France: Inrae and CSIRO testing panel of vegetal hosts (Nicolas Desneux and Vincent Lesieur)
- The most important allergens of *Ambrosia* and reasons why they cause allergy (Victoria)
- How citizen science can help to control ragweed and why it is important for people to carry on the control of *Ambrosia* habitats. (Arnaud Monty ? maybe someone else)  
NB : Mapping ambrosia with citizen sciences ; [https://ambrosie-risque.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ragweed\\_observatory\\_letter\\_65\\_december2019.pdf](https://ambrosie-risque.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ragweed_observatory_letter_65_december2019.pdf) )
- Pollen-food syndrome caused by *Ambrosia* (Victoria)

See the shared doc

online: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Uj0qk8O1jEWJnxPhtG9nh7TWGF6Yq0HGCtznwoUYi2g/edit>

### c. Other propositions

The question of becoming a member of the IRS with contributions raises three questions:

- who are these members (doctor, researcher, farmers, citizens, other?)
- what is the benefit of being member?
- is it attractive to them?

For instance :

- a moral satisfaction to participate in an action.
- specific information or news (access to webinar or other exchanges, news online, etc).
- participation in research work.

To show that the group is active and to improve the exchanges of information, it is proposed that every IRS member proposed short articles about *Ambrosia* for the IRS website. It could be for example: a new published paper, a country that adopt a new regulation, a big event about ambrosia, etc.

You can send your ideas to Gilles or Marilou so they will publish them online.