



International Ragweed Society

## IRS committee meeting

Held online via Teams on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

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

### Increasing attractiveness

The meeting is a continuation of previous meetings about strategies to increase the attractiveness of IRS. Some new ideas are proposed.

- **Reaction to new publications**

The idea is to setup an alert (e.g. Google Scholar) to be informed about any new publication on *Ambrosia* species, and send an invitation by e-mail to the corresponding author(s).

Arnaud and Marilou have written a standard e-mail:

“Dear researcher,

We are contacting you on behalf of the International Ragweed Society (IRS). The IRS is a working group of scientists dealing with *Ambrosia* species, their ecology, their pollen, and their impacts on human health and the environment. Our purpose is to bring together researchers to share knowledge and new developments. We organize online conferences and symposia around the world (the last in Budapest 2022) and we distribute information to our community through various media.

Please have a look at <https://internationalragweedsociety.org/> for more informations.

We saw that you published some great work related to ragweed issues. So as a researcher interested in that subject, you are invited to become a member of the IRS. Membership fee for 2023-2024 is only 50 € (other options available). Here is the link toward membership form: <https://internationalragweedsociety.org/2023-2024-irs-membership>

Best regards  
The IRS committee”

If this text is approved, Arnaud can start sending e-mails.

- Spread the word about IRS membership in international meetings

There will be in the coming months several conferences – it would be good to promote IRS membership among participants, when relevant. The IRS website could also refer to these events (include the link). Some of the targeted events are: Meetings of the forthcoming Biocontrol group at EWRS; National “*Ambrosia* meeting” in Germany; EMAPI 2023 in Chile; Neobiota 2024 in Portugal; Etc.

- Free membership for Ukrainian citizens

The committee has decided to waive membership fees for Ukrainian citizens. This will be announced on the website.

- “Let’s talk about *Ambrosia*” – short conference online organized by the IRS

Marilou will send a proposal for a first edition of these online events intended to increase attractiveness.

### Next IRS symposium

The next IRS symposium will be organized in 2024. During the 2022 edition in Budapest, there has been a proposition to organize it in Vilnius, Lithuania, in the frame of the European Symposium on Aerobiology (ESA 2024). There is an agreement, but there is a need to clarify the organization and the way the IRS symposium will be integrated in the whole event. Victoria and László will contact the organizing committee and see what is possible. Three half day would be nice, potentially as parallel session, but it is also possible to organize the IRS meeting before ESA 2024.