

Report over participation at the International Mycological Congress (IMC9), 1-6 August 2010

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As my first conference abroad, I attended the 9th International Mycological Congress (IMC9) that was held in Edinburgh, UK, during 1-6 August 2010. I can mention the following achievements from this trip:

1. Presentation of a poster entitled: A contribution to the taxonomy of the genus *Coniooecesia* (*Xylariales*). A copy of the poster is attached.
2. Meeting with mycologists from around the world.
3. Taking part in various lectures, nomenclature sessions and poster presentations

For a student working in the field of mycology and particularly living in a country with less efficient scientific connections, it is instrumental to participate in an international meeting at the scale of the IMC9 which takes place every four years. This one was in Edinburgh, UK, during which I met a large number of mycologists with various expertise. It gave me the opportunity to discuss my thesis subject which is aimed to tackle the systematics of the genus *Aspergillus* in Iran. In this way I met world experts of the genus namely Dr Robert Samson from the CBS (the Netherlands) and Dr Jens Frisvad from Technical University of Denmark. I also had the chance to meet other mycologists who work on other fungal groups, like Drs Pedro Crous and Sybren de Hoog (CBS-KNAW Fungal Biodiversity Centre), Paul Cannon and Paul Kirk (CABI Bioscience), Franz Oberwinkler (University of Tübingen, Germany), Naresh Magan (Cranfield University, UK), Takayuki Aoki (National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Japan), Scott Redhead (Agriculture and Agri-Food, Canada), Kerry O'Donnell (USDA-ARS), David Hawksworth (Natural History Museum, UK), Ronald Peterson (University of Tennessee, USA), Emory Simmons (International Mycological Association, USA), Dominik Begerow (Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany) and many others.

Besides, I took part in various lectures, nomenclature sessions and poster presentations to improve my knowledge of mycology. The oral and poster presentations about fungal taxonomy, biodiversity and Barcoding were the most interesting, useful and informative ones I attended. The third session of

nomenclature, held on 5th of August was also very exciting to me that focused mainly on the naming of one fungus with only one name.

This conference also helped me to absorb some new ideas and techniques in mycological research. I also got to know a few sequencing companies on the side of poster sessions to discuss the future of sequencing with respect to the costs and quality. Apart from this I learned that the new journal 'Mycology: An International Journal of Fungal Biology' is launched and that also the next IMC meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand that I hope to attend.

I am very much grateful to Studienstiftung Mykologie in Köln that enabled me to attend this important congress by covering the costs of accommodation and registration.