



International Society of Chemical Ecology

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Secretary/Editor's Message

As I write this newsletter it is a crisp winter day, with the soft sun reflecting from a blanket of snow. The light reminds me of Tom Thomson's paintings of snowy landscapes. He was a mentor of The Group of Seven, a group of Canadian landscape painters who worked in the 1920's (<http://www.mcmichael.com/collection/seven/index.cfm>). Our landscapes, including the vast boreal forests these artists were inspired by and captured in their art, are changing. The colder than usual temperatures we are experiencing in Burnaby today make me hope that some of that arctic air will reach the interior of Western North America and diminish the populations of pine beetles that are afflicting vast areas of forest in our provinces/states. Pine beetles are important players in forest ecology, but for various reasons they have experienced spectacular reproductive success for several years, and large areas of forest have been weakened or are dying as a result of this beetle infestation. In the face of such a daunting problem, it is comforting to know that many members of ISCE have studied or are currently studying this phenomenon.



For more information on the importance of forests to global climate, see <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/focus/2006/1000247/index.html>, and for information about the beetle infestations, see http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/faq.htm#1.

This brings me to the importance of the research ISCE members do. This research yields insights into how animals, plants and even microorganisms interact with each other and their environment through signal chemicals. Increasingly, ISCE members are investigating other modes of perception, such as vision and audition, which appear to synergize with chemical signals. The research projects provide an important training platform for many students and postdoctoral fellows, who later become professionals. The research also results in practical applications and policies that have a direct impact on our daily lives. This expansion of knowledge and the interdisciplinary nature of "chemical ecology" beyond organic chemistry and ecology, into physics, physiology, natural products chemistry, synthetic chemistry, protein chemistry, biosynthesis, genetics, neuroscience and microbiology, should prompt our members to put two items on their New Year's resolutions for 2009: 1) encourage your colleagues to join ISCE and 2) explain your work and its importance to your neighbours, children or grandchildren and government representatives.

Having suggested some New Year's resolutions, I wish you all the best for the year 2009.

Cheers!

[Comments](#) on the web site are welcome.

Erika Plettner

Travel Award Winners in 2008

Graduate students and postdoctoral trainees, who received awards, in order to travel to the ISCE Penn State meeting and present their work were:

Gonzalez-Teuber, M	Germany
Dossey, AT	USA
Dabrowska, PA	Germany
Gomez, S	USA
Eilmus, S	Germany
Schachtschabel, D	Germany
Aboshi, T	Japan
Peñaflor, M.F.G.V.	Brazil
Wang, L	Germany
Verheggen, F	Belgium
Ishikawa, C	Japan
Steiner, S	Germany
Arab, A	Brazil
Cogni, R	USA
Khan, MA	Canada
Webster, B	UK
Brennan, J	USA
Frick, S	Germany
Mallory, H	USA
Miresmailli, S	Canada
Costa, A	USA
Lo Giudice D	Italy
Appiah, EF	Kenya

Congratulations to all student winners! We hope that you enjoyed attending the meeting and presenting your work to other researchers in the field. Please remember to update your membership and invite your lab mates to join! Thank you to the councillors, who selected the winners and to our sponsors and the conference organizers, who provided the funding for these awards.

ISCE Award Winners for 2009

The winners of our society's highest awards for this year are Prof. Ring T. Cardé (Silver Medal) and Prof. Richard L. Lindroth (Silverstein-Simeone Award)

Silver Medal



Prof. Cardé chairs the Department of Entomology at the University of California Riverside. He obtained his Ph. D. in 1971 (Cornell) followed by postdoctoral training with Wendell Roelofs at Geneva, New York. Ring rose through the ranks at Michigan State University and then at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and moved to California in 1996. He is very well known for his many publications and books, and the myriad contributions he has made in our understanding of insect semiochemicals and chemical ecology.

He has also been a driving force in the development of practical applications of insect semiochemicals in pest monitoring and control. His list of awards is long, and includes an elected membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His publications span 35 years of research and my search today reveals 174 publications, the most recent being: Animal Migration: Seasonal Reversals of Migrant Moths. Cardé, Ring T. Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA, USA. Current Biology (2008), 18(21), R1007-R1009. This is a fascinating account of how migratory moths exploit the most optimal winds that will ease them in their direction of travel. The moths seem to "know" where they need to travel and will fly only if they sense a wind direction that will help them along. More information about Dr. Cardé's research interests and publications can be found

under:

http://www.facultydirectory.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/pub/public_individual.pl?faculty=18

Silverstein-Simeone Award



Prof. Lindroth is in the Department of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He obtained his Ph. D. in 1984 (U. of Illinois). During 1985-1987 he pursued postdoctoral training with an NSF fellowship at Wisconsin, where he started on the faculty in 1988. He visited New Zealand with a Fulbright scholarship in 1997. Dr. Lindroth's research interests are centered around trophic interactions, the interplay of genetic traits and environmental features, and how these factors are influenced by environmental changes. He trains undergraduate and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral researchers, and he has won many awards. His publications span several decades,

and a search today reveals 125 publications, a recent one being:

"Independent, Interactive, and Species-Specific Responses of Leaf Litter Decomposition

to Elevated CO₂ and O₃ in a Northern Hardwood Forest," Parsons, William F. J., Bockheim James G., and Lindroth, Richard L. This study documents results from a two-year leaf litter decomposition study at the Aspen-FACE (Free-Air CO₂ Enrichment) site in northern Wisconsin, U.S.A. Results show that enriched atmospheric CO₂ alters the chemical composition of leaf litter such that decomposition rates are slowed, and that tropospheric ozone can either enhance or diminish the effects of CO₂, depending on species. The work suggests that atmospheric conditions of the future are likely to alter nutrient cycling dynamics in northern deciduous forests. More information about training with Dr. Lindroth and his research themes can be found under:

<http://entomology.wisc.edu/~lindroth/>.

Other Awards Won by ISCE Members

We congratulate Prof. Ted Turlings (our next meeting host) on winning the "2008 Award in Chemical Communication" from the Fondation Jean-Marie Delwart, under the patronage of the "Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique."



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[Jeffrey Aldrich](#), President, [Anna-Karin Borg-Karlson](#), Secretary

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