

NEWS REPORT



令和5(2023)年度学術変革領域(A)
植物気候フィードバック
BVOC 気候調節

第25回

若手国際派遣

2026
7/12-7/17

13th International Conference on Mycorrhiza (Australia)



ICOM at the entrance.

About ICOM

International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM) is biannually held by International Mycorrhizal Society (IMS) covering topics in mycorrhizal research at all levels; from molecular to ecological systems. This year, Australia hosts ICOM13 in Cairns (Queensland). From early career (including students) to senior researchers, both oral and poster presentations were held in Cairns Convention Centre. In this conference, I was presenting my current study at two different times. The first one was during Early Career Researcher (ECR) Day on July 12. During this time, I did a short presentation (ca. 4 minutes). The second was during one of the parallel sessions, Future Innovations, in which I presented a full, 12-minute presentation covering the whole study. A brief content of my presentation is 'how different mycorrhizal types in trees



Title of my presentation

(arbuscular- and ectomycorrhiza) affect plant volatile emission when induced by insect herbivory'. In this study, I conducted a meta-analysis on herbivore-induced plant volatile organic compound released by trees.

Sessions

Aside from keynote speakers that started at the beginning of each day, ICOM13 has 32 parallel sessions. Some of them are of long-standing conundrums within mycorrhizal studies, while others are relatively novel or prospective of climate change. From these sessions, ones that may or already relates to Plant Climate Feedback project are 1) Seasons change, 2) Mycorrhiza and

drought, 3) Opportunities for mycorrhizas in climate adaptation, and 4) Linking belowground traits to global biogeochemistry. My presentation was included into 'Future Innovation' session. I am grateful for this opportunity because studies on mycorrhiza usually focus on direct impact from the association on the plant itself, while my study moves one step further in which the impact of mycorrhiza is less direct, yet it has interesting outcomes. Other presentations also revealed breakthroughs in mycorrhizal studies integrated with other disciplines. Overall, all presentation sessions envisaged future collaborations in mycorrhizal studies.

Excursions, recreations, and impressions

Even from the first day, the committees provide a lot of chance for networking. The number of breaks – morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea – between sessions allow the participants to get new engagements and discussions. During the evening of ECR day, the participants were having dinner at Hemingway's Brewery. Here, we were able to take a headstart in networking with other researchers. On the second day of the main conference, we also had a conference dinner held for all participants at Rainforestation Nature Park in Kuranda. The park offered night tour into the rainforest of Queensland. The last event was Wine of The Worlds, which is the culture of ICOM, participants were offered to taste wines from all over the world brought by participants. Again, this event allowed us to expand our research network in a relaxed atmosphere. By participating in this conference, the possibility of collaborations among mycorrhiza researchers across different field is expanding into even a larger scale. Mycorrhiza is essential to plants, as it helps the regulation of plant physiology and ecological processes at multilevel, including those involving plant-climate feedbacks.b



Photo session with fellow early-career researchers. From left to right: Alexandra Paish (Lincoln University, New Zealand), Lewis Martin (Charles Sturt University), Remi Moerenhout (Aarhus University, Denmark), and Ondřej Vrobel (Aarhus University, Denmark).



In one of the sessions, roles of mycorrhiza in climate were also highlighted.



During our tours, we were greeted by Aboriginal artists at Rainforestation Nature Park in Kuranda.

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