



February 2007 Newsletter

President's message

It is a great pleasure to address the Society members once again, at the onset of a new year and only 15 months away from our next international congress in Vancouver, Canada. I am very satisfied with the progress achieved in preparation for the congress, our main activity as a scientific society and the contribution that we make to agricultural and human knowledge through its realization every four years. Looking at all the collaboration we are receiving from scientists around the world in preparation for this event and the interest that the congress generates among weed scientists, I can only think that IWSS is evolving positively and becoming a consolidated organization.



The partnership with the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) to organize the 5th IWSC has been very productive. The same can be said about the support and great disposition to collaborate from Allen Marketing and Management, who are dealing with many of the logistics. Two committees have worked together to develop a sound and attractive scientific program and to ensure that all aspects related to local arrangements are fully considered. In this issue, Karl Hurle and his colleagues from the Scientific Committee provide you with valuable information about congress organization. The second circular is almost ready and will be electronically distributed soon. It will contain all pertaining information as to scientific activities, pre-congress courses and workshops, field trips, and instructions about how to submit abstracts. Deadlines have been already set and please make a note in your calendar.

Abstracts can be submitted beginning 15 October 2007 through 15 January 2008. If you need a letter of abstract acceptance and of invitation to obtain approval from your employer to attend or to request financial support from your institution, make sure you submit early. Also take advantage of reduced fees for early registration. Dr. Al Hamill (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) also has joined the group to assist in raising funds to help us keep the cost of

attending more affordable and to provide as much financial support as we can to those in need, especially graduate students. I am very pleased and grateful to announce that the European Weed Research Society (EWRS) has made a commitment to donate EUR 10,000 towards this goal. We invite other regional societies to follow their example and contribute according to their means.

The EWRS is also helping IWSS by establishing a system to collect IWSS dues along with theirs, as the WSSA and Weed Science Society of Victoria (WSSV) have been doing for several years now. You can also take advantage of our secure website connection to pay your dues using your credit card.

A selection of 35 papers presented at the 2004 congress in Durban has been published in a special issue of Crop Protection (volume 26, issue 3 March 2007). Baruch Rubin, Stephen O. Duke and Carl F. Reinhardt put a lot of editorial effort into making this a reality and we all thank them very much for their contribution.

I also invite you to nominate candidates for the **Outstanding International Achievement Award** (see call for nominations in this Newsletter). I will appoint the Chair of the Awards Committee soon. And please, keep giving us suggestions to better serve you. I can only be optimistic about our future as a scientific society and this is because of your great support.

Bernal E. Valverde
Costa Rica

5th International Weed Science Congress

The 5th IWSC will be held from 23-27 June, 2008, at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver, Canada. You will receive the 2nd circular with detailed information by the end of March 2007.

Here are some Congress highlights:

- **Weed scientists from all over the world** will have the opportunity to present and discuss their newest research results.

- Please note a small change in the congress dates; we now have five full days of activity instead of four. Four of the five days will be allocated to oral and poster presentations and discussions; and Wednesday 25 June is reserved for an all-day excursion.
- The congress will cover all aspects of weed science which will be represented in 22 main topics. The main topics and their organizers and co-organizers, with their corresponding contact information, will be listed in the 2nd circular, so you can contact them when necessary regarding your contribution. Posters will be the main form to communicate results in the congress. The main topic organizers will select some poster topics for oral presentations.
- Invited speakers will start each main topic session and keynote addresses will begin each day of the congress.
- Abstracts will be submitted electronically, and a CD including all abstracts will be prepared and made available at the Congress.
- The 2nd circular will have all the details about the submission of abstracts, deadlines, registration fees, accommodations, etc.

Please stay informed on congress developments and updates by visiting the IWSS (<http://iws.ucdavis.edu>) website. For specific information about the program, please contact Dr. Karl Hurlle (khurle@t-online.de).

We look forward to welcoming you to Vancouver in 2008.

Karl Hurlle

Call for nominations to Outstanding International Achievement Award

Based on its constitutional mandate, the Board of Directors is inviting nominations for the **Outstanding International Achievement Award**. All members are invited to nominate individuals for this award by October 15, 2007. The Outstanding International Achievement Award recognizes significant contributions to international weed science. Outstanding contributions must be in at least two of the following areas: research, extension, teaching, publications, administration (including service to regional societies), or involvement in industry or commercial sectors.

Criteria for the award are:

- The nominee must have been active in Weed Science but need not be a member of IWSS.

- Nominations must be made by a member of IWSS or a member of an affiliated society.
- The nominating letter and supporting material (including complete curriculum vitae, publication record, employment history, current position, academic credentials, other awards and honors, and a statement of justification) must explain in general and in specific terms the nominee's outstanding contributions to international weed science.
- The nominee must have contributed to or been active in international weed science for at least 10 years.
- Members of the awards committee are not eligible to receive the award.
- The award will be given only when a suitable candidate has been identified. No award will be given when there is only one nominee.
- An award will be given every two years (in even years) and presented at the International Weed Science Congress or at a conference of an affiliated society from the geographical region of the nominee. The person receiving the award in the year when there is no IWSS will be also recognized in the following congress.

Nominees will be judged by the Immediate Past-President, President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Chair of the awards committee, and any other member designated by the IWSS President. The Chair of the Awards Committee to whom nominations should be sent will be appointed by the end of March 2007.

Regional Representatives' Reports

Oceania Anisur Rahman

15th Australian Weeds Conference

A very successful 15th Australian Weeds conference was held at the magnificent Adelaide Convention Centre 25-28 September 2006. In addition to daily plenary sessions, it included 31 concurrent sessions, 82 posters and four tours on the Wednesday. The 450 delegates came from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, France, Denmark, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The keynote speakers included Dr Hal Mooney from USA, Dr Dave Richardson from South Africa, Dr Bob Blackshaw from Canada and Dr Hans Kraehmer from Germany.



The 904 page proceedings of the Conference are available from richardson@weedinfo.com.au

Indian and South and Southeast Asia

R.K. Malik

Current Status of Herbicide Resistance

When herbicide resistant weeds appeared, scientists swiftly went into action and recommended planting alternate crops as a short term solution. Many groups promoted research and extension to prevent and manage herbicide resistance. Resistance is a natural phenomenon and finding long-term solutions requires scientists to venture in new directions.

Once herbicide resistant weeds appeared in many fields in the north-India state of Haryana, our farmers faced a real threat to wheat production. As they used same herbicide with increasing frequency, more and more crop failures greatly reduced the average wheat yield in resistant weed areas. The economic shocks experienced by wheat farmers allowed scientists to introduce a paradigm shift from frequent tillage to no-tillage. Zero tillage not only reduced the population of *Phalaris minor* but also increased wheat yield, especially when zero tillage was combined with alternate herbicides. Later efforts were made to spread the technology throughout Indo-Gangetic Plains of South Asia where a rice-wheat cropping system is practiced in approximately 13.5 million hectares. The technology has already covered more than 2 million hectares and has become a revolution in the form of no-till farming.

Past and the present

Looking back, 30 years of increased herbicide use for a single weed like *Phalaris* was full of risks. Firms with a single product like isoproturon in their product line lost out to those with a more diversified product line. Now we are noting that herbicides introduced since 1998 to control *Phalaris* are starting to fail. Even if the verification of resistance of *Phalaris* against alternate modes of action is confirmed, herbicides like clodinafop need to be carefully protected by requiring that different modes of action be used in alternate years. In the end, field staff must be educated to know that the roots of resistance and its solution are ecology based. The best way to prevent or delay resistance is to use zero tillage and plant at least 10% of the area to crops like sunflower. The willingness of firms involved in wheat herbicides

to promote resistance avoidance strategies is as important as the product itself. They should best remember the past history of isoproturon and its fate after resistance had occurred.

West and Central Africa

Gilbert Gbèhounou

Hyptis suaveolens: a good weed?

Hyptis suaveolens, a member of the Lamiaceae family, is a common weed of roadsides and waste grounds. It is an erect and strongly aromatic annual herb reproducing by seeds. The woody stem is hairy and bears glandular dots. It is widespread in West and Central Africa where it is considered an invasive species in some countries. It has medicinal virtues and insecticidal properties. Literature indicates that leaf extracts cure swellings, abscesses and haemorrhoids. Field experiments conducted in Bénin, in the framework of a project on integrated management of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) pests, have confirmed the effectiveness of the aqueous leaf extracts to control cowpea and several vegetables insect pests. The insecticidal properties of the plant have been further confirmed in 2005 and 2006 in the framework of a durable integrated *Striga* management project, where cowpea was intercropped with maize or sorghum and also grown in rotation to minimize *Striga* incidence. It was then necessary to provide farmers with a locally available technology to control cowpea insect pests. Aqueous leaf extracts of *H. suaveolens* plants, collected from roadsides, were prepared and sprayed for cowpea protection against its insect pests. The technology was effective. Farmers were enthusiastic and very appreciative of a simple technology that overcame a major constraint to cowpea production. The picture below may help you to recognize the plant. Weed it if needed, but keep in mind that it can be very useful!

Recent Weed Meetings

Parthenium Awareness Week in India

The National Research Centre for Weed Science (NRCWS), Jabalpur organized "*Parthenium* Awareness Week" in September 6-12 2006 to create awareness among the people of the ill effects of this weed and ways to manage it. The theme of the program was Public Participatory Approach in *Parthenium* Management. The program was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Balam Jakhar, Governor, Madhya Pradesh. Many other dignitaries,

farmers, representatives from NGOs, officials from different government departments and scientists of ICAR and other research organizations also attended the function.

Speakers dealt extensively on the introduction and spread of *Parthenium* into the country, losses caused, ill effects on human beings and animals, biodiversity and ways to control the weed and its utilization. The Director, NRCWS highlighted the successful control of *Parthenium* by Mexican beetle, *Zygodramma bicolorata*, in and around Jabalpur and in other areas through self-sustainable approach. The public as well as the farmers were encouraged to take immediate steps to control *Parthenium*

Different methods of *Parthenium* control were demonstrated. Thousands of Mexican beetles were released in Bhopal for the control of *Parthenium*. During the inaugural session, a video on *Parthenium* was shown. An interactive technical session was also held during which 300 farmers were exposed to the biology of *Parthenium*, menace caused, its management as well as utilization. During the week, training on *Parthenium* management was also organized at NRCWS, Jabalpur. Personnel from Krishi Vigyan Kendras, NGOs and farmers learned the harmful effects of *Parthenium* on human beings and animals, losses caused in crop production, its biology and ecology, different methods of its management, biological control of *Parthenium* and by using competitive plants like *Cassia* sp., Marigold etc.

President Valverde Honored by Weed Science Society of America

Bernal Valverde received the highest award given to a person outside the WSSA for his meritorious service to the field of weed science at the recent meeting of the WSSSA in San Antonio, Texas. Only one Honorary Member award is given per year. Dr. Bernal was cited for his long career in weed science which began as an instructor of weed science in Costa Rica in 1981. Upon completing his doctorate at Oregon State University, Bernal returned to the National University in Costa Rica. He then joined CATIE, the Tropical Agricultural Center for Research and Higher Education where he taught graduate-level courses and did applied and basic research. Most recently, he has served as an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Agricultural Sciences at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University of Denmark. We know him well as he was IWSS Secretary/Treasurer from 2000-2004 and as president from 2004-2008. Congratulations, Bernal! A well deserved recognition.



**WSSA President Dale Shaner
Congratulates Dr. Bernal on his
Honorary Member Award**

Weeds Across the Borders

Dr Raj Prasad of the Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada presented a paper on "Alien-Invasive Weeds in Forestry and Their Management" at an international conference, "Weeds Across the Borders," in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico in May 2006. This Conference dealt with the migration patterns, ecological and economic damage caused and possible tools for their control. Participants discussed a joint policy on how to restrict weed movement across the borders between Canada, Mexico and USA. A field tour near the Sonora Desert and Gulf of California demonstrated the invasion and ecological losses caused by several migrant weeds. Two species, *Pennisetum ciliare* and *Tamarix chinensis*, were seriously impacting the highways corridors. Raj discussed the invasiveness, ecology, and possible control of *Cytisus scoparius*, *Daphne laureola*, *Hedera helix* and *Ulex europaeus* on federal lands in western forests and noted that several other aggressive and opportunistic plants like *Rubus discolor* are now taking over ecological niches in the endangered Gary oak ecosystems (see figure enclosed, how the exotic *Daphne laureola* colonizing the Gary oak sites) where native plants once flourished.

Publications of Interest

Profile of a Global IPM Information Resource

IPMnet NEWS, a free electronic newsletter, views weed science as the critically important discipline it is. Maybe that's because the NEWS' editor spent 20 years on the staff of an international weed research project, and came to clearly understand the huge challenge effective weed management poses worldwide.

The NEWS has been published for 13 years (150 issues to date). Its eight issues per year are free to any individual or organization. The subscription list began in 1993 with 291 email addresses for recipients distributed across 18 nations; currently the NEWS appears on well over 4,400 screens in more than 140 nations.

Editorially the NEWS aims to foster development and adoption of operationally and economically feasible IPM by gathering, editing, and presenting information related to crop oriented IPM including relevant invasive species information. Coverage generally does not extend to non-crop (urban, school, or structural) IPM. The NEWS stresses information about actions, events, and developments that might be broadly useful for IPM implementation.

The successful format highlights contemporary, economic, environmentally aware approaches to managing/controlling weed, pathogen, insect, nematode, and vertebrate pests in crops and amenity plantings, as well as preventing or containing invasive crop-related species. There is no hidden agenda—only a clear focus on IPM in the belief that it offers potential benefits worldwide, especially as pressure on food and fiber crop production steadily builds, as the chemical "toolbox" becomes evermore limited, and as pest species increasingly invade and degrade ecoregions.

Each NEWS issue carries feature articles and other items condensed for quick reading as "news-you-can use," in most cases, with a contact name, email address, phone, fax number, and website so that interested readers can contact the named source for more detailed information. Publications are reviewed, and recent scientific articles pertaining to IPM topics are cited, again leaving it up to readers to decide whether to pursue further specifics. Dedicated sections note open positions, and materials and equipment linked to IPM activities.

Scanning the NEWS keeps readers up-to-date on the latest evolving IPM information. Each issue regularly includes original information, plus material that is difficult or very time consuming to locate elsewhere. Additionally, every issue updates the IPMnet CALENDAR, the single most extensive and current listing available for international, regional, national, and sectional IPM-related symposia, meetings, congresses, and training/short courses.

While other useful periodic publications, both electronic and hard copy, cover elements of IPM, IPMnet NEWS has established a unique niche as the only ongoing, free, long-running electronic resource exclusively devoted to global IPM information.

A standing invitation is extended to any individual or organization desiring to either start a free subscription or request a sample copy to evaluate before making a subscription decision. Just send me an email (see below) indicating your interest.

Meanwhile, best wishes for both ongoing implementation of effective weed management and for a very successful IWSS congress in Vancouver, BC in 2008.

A.E. Deutsch; Editor/Coordinator, IPMnet NEWS
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Electronic Catalog of Weeds from Costa Rica and Mesoamerica

This review of the main plant species, many of them considered as weeds, associated with important crops in Costa Rica and Mesoamerica, is now available for download from our website (<http://iws.ucdavis.edu>). It includes more than 70 families and 190 species, each with a photograph of a key character that helps identify it and another showing of how it looks in the field. In a few cases, a video clip is also included. The authors, A. Soto, E. Vallejos, F. Herrera and C. E. Rojas developed a simple identification key for the non-specialist and provided a catalog of the flowers of most of the species to help field advisors and farmers identify the plants of interest. The material is presented as freeware and can be copied and distributed with proper acknowledgment of the source. It can also be obtained as a CD for a nominal cost of USD 10 to defray production and shipping costs.

FAO Report Ricardo Labrada

Final Meeting of the *Striga* Management Project in West Africa

A 2-year project on *Striga* management recently concluded with a final meeting in Bamako, from 16 to 18 January 2007. Participants included national experts and coordinators of countries from Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Each

country implemented an initial training for agricultural extension workers on methods of integrated management of *Striga*, followed by four farmer's field schools, each having the participation of an average of 25 farmers in each country for two consecutive cropping seasons. Most countries dealt with *Striga hermonthica* in sorghum, maize, millet and *Striga gesnerioides* in cowpea. Farmers actively participated in the schools and understood the need to avoid seed setting of the parasite and had the opportunity to see the effectiveness of intercropping maize or sorghum with cowpea, and pre-planting use of manure.

These activities will continue in large scale in a new 4-year project that was formulated within the framework of this TCP (Technical Cooperation Programme) project. The future project foresees the implementation of 24 farmers' field schools in each country and to extend this collaboration to other countries affected by *Striga* in Africa.

Procedures on Post-Border Weed Risk Management

Weeds cause significant economic, environmental and social impacts across a wide range of agricultural, natural and urban land use systems. The most cost-effective means to manage weeds is to prevent their arrival, and procedures for predictive weed risk assessment to screen plant imports at a country's border have been developed (FAO 2004, available from <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/IPM/Weeds/>) and implemented (e.g., Pheloung et al. 1999. J. Environ. Managmt. 57:239-251). Post-border however, there are often a wide range of weed species at various stages of invasion. For example, Australia has approximately 3,000 exotic weed species. Weed species differ in their impacts and there are limited government and community resources to target individual species in a coordinated manner. Hence weed species need to be prioritized for coordinated control programs by identifying those that pose the greatest future threats and which are most feasible to control.

FAO with the collaboration of Dr. John Virtue of the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management have prepared and published a procedure document on Post Border Weed Risk Management, which is mainly based on the Australian/New Zealand protocol. Weed risk management (WRM) involves establishing the processes and structures to strategically determine and take action against high priority weed species. Post-border WRM refers to weed species that are

already present in a country or region, or that are likely future incursions.

Post-border weed risk management (WRM) consists of six distinct stages. Stage 1 is establishing the WRM context in which goals, scope, stakeholders, resources and analysis methods are determined. Stage 2 is identifying weed risk candidates, drawing together an initial, wide list of plant species for consideration and applying simple criteria to screen these to a shorter list of species for formal analysis. Stage 3 is analyzing and evaluating weed risks. Stage 4 is analyzing and evaluating feasibility of coordinated control. Stage 5 is comparing weed risk and feasibility of coordinated control for various species to identify priorities for management actions (e.g., preventing entry, eradication, containment, research). Stage 6 is implementing weed management actions, based on the priorities determined above. Overarching these stages is the need for effective communication and consultation throughout the process.

This document is already available in English and Spanish. Those interested in this material can write directly to the FAO weed officer, Ricardo.Labrada@FAO.org.

Training on Post-Border Weed Risk Management

Sub-regional 3-day training for Central America and the Caribbean on Post-Border Weed Risk Management was organized in Panama in Sept. 2006. This workshop was the result of a collaboration of the Government of Mexico with FAO and was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Panama. Participants were specialists from Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic. Training was based on the new FAO procedure on post-entry management of weed risk, prepared by Dr John Virtue from Australia, who was also the main facilitator. The lectures were well received by the participants, who had the opportunity to practise the procedure with some weed examples. Participants also saw the problem posed by introducing *Saccharum spontaneum* at the Panama Canal and some aquatic weeds in that area.

It was clear that many weeds that present risks for the region, e.g. *Echinochloa crus-galli*, which is only present in Cuba and Dominican Republic, in the latter the weed was introduced with crop seeds contaminated with weed seeds from USA. Another plant, which is spreading silently, is the African tulip tree, *Spathodea campanulata*, which is already a problem in several Pacific islands.

Coming Events

2007

- Mar. 22-27 **XII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds.** Montpellier, France. Contacts: Andy Sheppard at andy.sheppard@csiro-europe.org and Rene Sforza at rsforza@ars-ebcl.org
- April 16-18 **Resistance 2007.** The fifth of an ongoing series of international conferences will review the latest research on the origins, nature, development and prevention of resistance to pesticides. Themes will include: current status of pesticide resistance, resistance mechanisms, population biology and modeling, genomics applications, risk assessment and management, and transgenic crops. Full details at: <http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/Research/Resistance2007.html>
- June 3-7 **9th World Congress on Parasitic Plants.** Charlottesville, Virginia, USA. For More Information Contact: Jim Westwood; phone (540) 231-7519; Email: westwood@vt.edu Web site: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/wcopp/index.html>
- June 18-21 **XIV European Weed Research Society Symposium** will take place in Hamar, Norway. 15 September 2006 is the date for preliminary registration and the deadline for submitting a title and short summary of contribution (250 words). Check the web site <http://www.EWRS-Symposium2007.com/> to submit a short summary of your intended contribution or to preregister.
- Aug. 6-9 **8th International Symposium on Adjuvants for Agrochemicals.** Columbus, Ohio, USA. Organized by the International Society of Agrochemical Adjuvants. Full details at: www.isaa-online.org/
- Aug. 14-16 **60th New Zealand Plant Protection Conference** will be held in Napier, preceded by a one-day symposium. For details visit: <http://www.nzpps.org>.
- Sept. 17-21 **9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions.** Broad topics to be covered include alien flora; ecological impacts of invasive plants; biology and genetic studies; reduction and detection of invasions; legislation and international cooperation; and management solutions. Hyatt Regency Perth, Western Australia. Further information at: <http://www.congresswest.com.au/emapi9/>
- Oct. 2-7 **21st Asian Pacific Weed Science Conference,** Colombo, Sri Lanka. The conference celebrates the 40th anniversary in 2007. The biennial conference will be hosted by the Plant Protection Association of Sri Lanka (PPSL) in collaboration with the National Plant Protection Committee of the Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP) of the Government of Sri Lanka, and University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Abstract deadline: 15 Dec. 2006. Complete information at: <http://www.apwss21.lk/>
- Oct. 15-18 **XVI International Plant Protection Congress,** in association with the BCPC International Congress - Crop Science & Technology 2007. SECC, Glasgow, UK. Email: md@bcpc.org. Web site: <http://www.plantprotection.org/>

2008

- May 5-8 **XVIII Congress Latin America Weed Science Society (ALAM) and the XXVI Congress of the Brazilian Weed Science Society (join meeting).** Minascentro - Belo Horizonte, MG, Brasil; for information, contact the Society Secretary, Cecília Eulália Rosa, via E-mail: secsbcpcd@cnpms.embrapa.br or phone: (31) 3779-1086; Web site: www.26cbcpd.com.br/
- May 18-22 **16th Australian Weeds Conference.** "Weed Management 2008: Hot Topics in the Tropics" Cairns Convention Centre, Queensland. 16th Australian Weeds Conference Secretariat: PO Box 5718, WEST END QLD 4101, Phone: 07 3846 5858. For all program queries contact 16awc@eventcorp.com.au Web site: www.16awc.com.au/
- June 23-27 **International Weed Science Congress** Vancouver, Canada.

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**The IWSS Newsletter is available on the
Internet at:**

<http://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/iws/>

The **IWSS Newsletter** is published in February and August to foster communication among and give information to our members and others around the globe interested in Weed Science.

Thanks to these contributors to the Feb. 2007 issue: Bernal Valverde, Karl Hurle, M.B.B. Prasad Babu, Gilbert Gbèhounou, Buddhi Marambe, Raj Prasad, Allan Deutsch, J.D. Green, Ricardo Labrada, Danny Joel, Anis Rahman, R.K. Malik, and Jerry Doll.

**Deadline for items for the next
Newsletter is 15 January 2007**

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To join the IWSS

Complete the following information and send your dues to Dr. Albert Fischer, the IWSS treasurer.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____

Checks, bank drafts, or money orders in US\$ should be made payable to: International Weed Science Society.

For ease of payment, dues can now be paid by credit card at our webpage following the link:

<http://www.plantsciences.ucdavis.edu/iws/membership.htm>