

III. 19 Working Group Integrated Control in Oilseed Crops (1979 - present)

Birger Koopmann, Sam M. Cook, Ingrid H. Williams & Volker H. Paul

Introduction

The history of the working group 'Integrated Control in Oilseed Crops' (ICOC) goes back to the seventies of the last century. In 1979, a study group split away from the working group '*Integrated Control in Brassicas*', led by Tom Coaker, which focussed mainly on the cabbage root fly (*Delia radicum*). Bent Bromand, a Danish entomologist (Danish Research Centre for Plant Protection), tried together with his Swedish colleague, Christer Nilsson (Swedish University of Agriculture), to establish a separate working group on '*Integrated Control in Oilseed Rape*'. This working group was founded in 1982. In the meantime (1979-1982), it had the status of a study group. Both study and working group were led by Bent Bromand. During 1979-1988, Bent Bromand organised four workshops of the group (Table 1). He resigned his convenorship in 1988 and was followed by Volker Paul (University of Paderborn, Germany). The new convenor Volker Paul was in held his position between 1988 and 2003. He was assisted by Ingrid Williams (Rothamsted Research, United Kingdom), who led the entomology subgroup, which was established during this time. Ingrid Williams and Volker Paul organised twelve group/subgroup meetings within this time period (Table 1). In 1990, the group decided to expand its activities from oilseed rape to other oilseed crops and to change its title to the '*Working Group on Integrated Control in Oilseed Crops*'. During 1988-2003 Volker Paul and Ingrid Williams edited seven IOBC/WPRS Bulletins together with assisting colleagues. They resigned their convenorships in 2003 (Volker Paul) and 2004 (Ingrid Williams), respectively. They were followed by Birger Koopmann (University of Göttingen, Germany) and Samantha Cook (Rothamsted Research, United Kingdom), elected in 2003 and 2004, respectively. During this time, two workshops were organised. One IOBC/WPRS Bulletin was published and another summarising the most recent meeting is in preparation.

Working group aims

The working group was established to encourage and coordinate research on integrated disease and pest management systems in oilseed production. Through its regular meetings, it is also intended to serve as a platform to gather and exchange fundamental knowledge and expertise on diseases and pests. Major areas of focus for the group have been:

- Occurrence and distribution of diseases and pests (monitoring work)
- Integrated pest and disease management
- Establishment of damage thresholds
- Development of decision support systems
- Disease resistance
- Use of trap crops for pest control
- Biology of pest and beneficial insects
- Biological control (predators, parasitoids and antagonists)
- Seed pathology in oilseed crops
- Gene technology in oilseed crops – significance, economics and environment

Recently, the group has encouraged participation of Central European scientists at its meetings. This was initiated by organising meetings in Poznan (1997, 2005) and Prague (1999). The success of this integration is documented by the high proportion of Central European colleagues who attended the last WG-ICOC meeting. From a total number of 76 who attended, 55% were from central European countries, including Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia and Poland. Scientists from these countries are now attending our meetings regularly and are actively contributing to our discussions and collaborative projects.

Table 1. Overview of WG meetings

Year	Location	Country	Convenor/s*	Remarks
1982	Paris	France	BB	Status: Study Group
1984	Copenhagen	Denmark	BB	Status: Working Group, WG name: Integrated Control in Oilseed Rape
1986	Braunschweig	Germany	BB	
1988	Malmö	Sweden	BB	
1990	Harpden	United Kingdom		Change of WG name to <i>Integrated Control in Oilseed Crops</i>
1991	Braunschweig	Germany	VP, IW	Pathology (P) & Entomology (E) subgroup meetings
1992	Le Rheu	France	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
1993	Cambridge	United Kingdom	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
1993	Paderborn	Germany	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
1994	Zürich	Switzerland	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
1995	Cambridge	United Kingdom	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings <i>Informal meeting and contact meeting with non-IOBC/WPRS members at the 9th International Rapeseed Congress of the GCIRC</i>
1995	Paderborn	Germany	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
1997	Poznań	Poland	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
1999	Prague	Czech Republic	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
2001	Soest	Germany	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
2003	Copenhagen	Denmark	VP, IW	P & E subgroup meetings <i>Informal meeting and contact meeting with non-IOBC/WPRS members at the 13th International Rapeseed Congress of the GCIRC</i>
2004	Harpden	United Kingdom	BK, IW	P & E subgroup meetings
2005	Poznań	Poland	BK, SC	P & E subgroup meetings <i>Supported by the EU project PAGEN</i>

* Convenor abbreviations: BB-Bent Bromand, BK-Birger Koopmann, IW-Ingrid Williams, SC-Samantha Cook, VP-Volker Paul

Achievements and publications

The emphasis of the working group has always been the networking of scientists working towards improved integrated pest and disease management of oilseeds, particularly the oilseed rape crop. Collaborative field experiments have been conducted on specific questions and joint projects established. Among these are included four large international projects funded

by the European Union. These projects were conceived, are coordinated and executed mainly by members of the working group. These EU-Projects are:

- BORIS
- IMASCOPE
- MASTER (<http://www.rothamsted.bbsrc.ac.uk/pie/master/master.htm>)
- SECURE (<http://www.secure.rothamsted.ac.uk/>)

Further information about the projects can be found on their respective websites.

In 2004, we decided to establish a Working Group webpage, which is intended to announce meetings, meeting contributions, reports of past meetings and news. Information is available under: <http://wwwuser.gwdg.de/~instphyt/app/koopmann/eng-dateien/iobc2004-bulletin.htm>.

Papers presented at Working Group meetings are published in the IOBC/WPRS Bulletin series. Altogether, the group has published 8 Bulletins comprising a total number of 2277 pages. A further Bulletin is in preparation (Table 2). Also, a book was published in 2003 as a result of information gathered as part of the EU-funded BORIS Concerted Action. This was entitled: *Biocontrol of oilseed rape pests* edited by DV Alford, Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing. 355 pp.

Table 2. Overview of IOBC Bulletins published by the WG

Publication	Year	Number of pages
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 13 (04)	1990	308 pp
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 14 (06)	1991	308 pp
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 16 (09)	1993	234 pp
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 18 (04)	1995	133 pp
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 21 (05)	1998	239 pp
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 23 (06)	2000	211 pp
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 25 (02)	2002	151 pp
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 27 (10)	2004	302 pp
IOBC/WPRS Bulletin Vol. 29 (<i>in print</i>)	2006	391 pp.

Future

We have our next meeting in France, which will be organised by CETIOM colleagues in 2007/2008. We also look forward to developing new work programmes and strengthening links between the pathology and entomology sub groups in the future. One step in this direction may result from a potential case study in oilseed rape under the new European Network of Excellence 'ENDURE' (European Network for the DURable Exploitation of crop protection strategies) which involves institute partners of several members of this working group.