

Cross-Institute Programme for Sustainable Soil Function

SoilCIP

Newsletter for October 2006



Website live!

The SoilCIP website is now live at:

<http://www.sustainablesoilcip.org.uk/index.htm>

Rothamsted Open Days

Rothamsted's Open Days, held over 20th September to 1st October, attracted almost 1000 schoolchildren on the Friday and an estimated 10,000 members of the public over the whole weekend. We ran out of cream teas at the Manor and staff were just about exhausted by the close on Sunday. The weekend concluded with an unscheduled thunderstorm that deposited 16 mm rain in about half an hour, monitored by the display linked to our Automatic Weather Station. The children enjoyed it but we had to tow cars out of the overflow car park. It certainly brought the weekend to a clima(c)tic end.

More seriously, we were very pleased with the attendance and the level of interest shown. The soils exhibits were packed and staff were talking almost constantly.

Cross-Institute visits

Phil Hobbs visited Rothamsted on Tuesday 17th October to help us set up the GC-MS for PLFA analysis. It was very helpful to have such an expert to give us a hand. Thanks to Phil for that.

Institute Fellowships Scheme

It looks as though we will have one candidate the ICPF scheme. It is a great opportunity to bring new blood into the SoilCIP and, although very late in the day to apply, not too late if there is an outstanding candidate. Details are at:

<http://www.rothamsted.bbsrc.ac.uk/careers/vacancies/Vacancies.html>

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/fellowships/>

Review articles for *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*

As a subject editor of SBB, I have received this e-mail from the Editor, John Waid. A review in SBB would be good for you and SoilCIP. Please let me know if you are interested in offering a review.

Dear Colleague

Soil Biology & Biochemistry does not publish many Review Articles, in fact an average of less than one per year. At the request of the publisher Elsevier Science, I am writing to ask if you would assist in a drive to encourage the submission of Review Articles for publication in this journal. No doubt you are probably too busy to devote much of your valuable time to such a project. However, you may know of a young scientist or a team of researchers carrying out original research who are keen to establish or enhance their names and reputation in the field of expertise covered by this journal. If so, you might suggest such a project to these individuals.

If you are a supervisor or a member of a research team you yourself might become involved in the production of a Review Article. Needless to say your participation in or oversight of the generation of a review should ensure the article would be processed quickly and bypass some of the delays encountered by authors who are not familiar with the style and format of this journal.

Attached is a statement to outline the type of Review Articles that might be published in Soil Biology & Biochemistry. Briefly, reviews are sought that stimulate new ideas and thinking about possible future directions or applications of a selection of the myriad of topics that this journal embraces.

Please contact me if you have any suggestions or questions about this type of contribution as well as the draft instruction list for authors. Once I have obtained sufficient feedback I will move to have the brief section on Reviews expanded in the Guide for Authors. I would be delighted to learn if you have generated interest among colleagues about this proposal.

With my best wishes,

John

REVIEW ARTICLES FOR SOIL BIOLOGY & BIOCHEMISTRY

Readers of Soil Biology & Biochemistry may submit reviews on any topic that falls within the scope of this journal. Authors of Review Articles should aim to provide facts as well as qualified ideas and opinions derived from reliable and relevant publications. Then from such material develop reasoned arguments and questions for future evaluation and research. Reviewers should provide a list of relevant and appropriate references. They should not attempt to introduce new facts in the form of unpublished data or personal communications. Thus the reader will be able to assess the interpretations and evaluate the methodology employed in the publications that are cited in the review.

The Introduction should outline the scope of the review and set the limits to the field it covers. The overall objective of the review may be posed as a question or a series of questions.

The bulk of the review should aim to present or introduce new ideas to the reader, review the literature relevant to these ideas and be specific. The author of a Review Article might provide alternative and reasoned interpretations or opinions to those advanced in the articles cited in the review.

The review might conclude with a set of hypotheses for future work that could be tested either using available technology or for which current technology could be improved.

DRAFT INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS OF REVIEW ARTICLES

In general, follow The Guide for Authors published annually in Soil Biology & Biochemistry. At present they do not contain detailed instructions to describe a format for Review Articles. However, the following guidelines might be helpful.

Review Articles should consist of the following sections; Cover page, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Review per se, Conclusions, Acknowledgements, References and any essential Tables or Figures.

The Introduction, Review and Conclusions should be numbered 1, 2 and 3, respectively. The Review section may be divided into numbered sub-sections, e.g., 2.1., 2.2., etc and sub-sections, e.g., 2.1.1., 2.1.2., etc.

The Reference section must be accurate and complete. It may include references to the more useful databases consulted.

The authors should provide the names and email addresses of no more than three scientists who are experts in the relevant field and who might be willing to provide open reviews of the submitted Review Article. The editor will also submit the manuscript to experts for blind reviews.

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Keith Goulding, 1st November 2006