

CRDC 208C

Visit to Narrabri by the three US pathologists and nematologists

Dr Craig Rothrock, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
Dr Terry Kirkpatrick, University of Arkansas, SWREC
Dr John Mueller, Clemson University, South Carolina

These three scientists funded the airfares and many of their expenses as part of their intended participation in conferences in Christchurch and South Africa in February and March.

CSD, the CRC and the CRDC assisted their visit to Narrabri by sharing the cost of accommodation at the CRC flats and some sustenance to a total of approx. \$1,180.

A very hectic schedule during their visit enabled collection of 46 soil samples from the Macquarie, Namoi, Gwydir and McIntyre valleys as well as from the Darling Downs. Dr David Nehl was able to supply two samples from the Murrumbidgee. Nematodes were extracted from both soil and root samples and preserved and prepared for identification and counting. The nematologists worked well into the night performing extractions on many occasions and also at weekends.

During their visit the US Scientists interacted and shared experiences and techniques with Dr David Nehl and Dr Om Jhorar of NSW Agriculture, Dr Stephen Allen from CSD and Dr Joe Kochman and Dr Nikki Seymour of the QDPI. They were also able to participate in, and make presentations to, the FUSCOM workshop at Toowoomba.

Participants in the exercise learnt nematode extraction techniques including wet sieving, sucrose centrifugation and preservation of samples. The samples were despatched to the USA for preliminary identification by Dr Terry Kirkpatrick.

A preliminary report has been received and the samples are now with a taxonomist for identification to species. It would appear that nematodes were not causing problems in any of the fields that were sampled during the survey.



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