

Fourth IUFRO –International Rusts of Forest Trees Working Party Conference
(IUFRO 7.02.05)
May 3-7, 2010 Florence, Italy

This is an international meeting of forest disease specialists from around the world that occurs every 4 years. This meeting was attended by about 40 rust specialists from about 20-25 different countries and provided a great opportunity for workshop-style discussion among colleagues working with rust fungi of forest trees in different regions of the world. Only two Americans participated, so Josh and I were honored to be asked to make presentations on our current work. (And sincere thanks to the FHP International Activities program for funding!)

The program included about 30 presentations dealing with phylogeny, distribution, biology and epidemiology, population genetics and genomics, resistance, management and control. About half of the presentations dealt with rusts of conifers and about half on hardwoods, including poplars, alder, eucalyptus, teak, etc. Many of the talks dealt with DNA genetic research and one of the more interesting projects found that extracts from a mycorrhizal fungus on *Taxus sp* (yew) had significant impacts on reducing human cancer growth in tissue cultures.

In addition, about 10-12 posters were also exhibited and generated quite a bit of discussion.

I presented both a poster and presentation regarding white pine blister rust impacts in plantations of improved western white pine in northern Idaho. Josh Bronson gave an excellent presentation on fusiform rust screening that he is working on in Ashville plus moderated one of the workshop panels.

All the posters and presentation abstracts will be published in a proceedings for the meeting.

The meeting included a field trip to a forest area in the Val di Merse (Province of Siena) on May 5 to visit some rust foci on local pines. The personnel of the Comunità Montana Val di Merse, an agency that manages the forests in the area, will be of assistance. Unfortunately the majority of the field trip (and meeting) were in heavy rain, but it didn't really dampen the enthusiasm of the group (although I have never used an umbrella in the forest before – see attached photos). The field trip focused on new blister rust infections on a native pine but we also saw good examples hypovirulence to chestnut blight on the local chestnut.

We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to exchange information and network with our colleagues from other countries.

I took over 1,000 photos and have already created and presented a power point summary to the local CFO staff, and provided a synopsis for the local IPNF newsletter.

**Fourth IUFRO International
Rusts of Forest Trees
Working Party Conference
IUFRO 7.02.05**

**Florence, Italy
3-7 May 2010**

IMPORTANT DATES

15th December 2009	Submission of a paper title
31st December 2009	Abstract submission
31st January 2010	Early-registration payment
20th February 2010	Hotel booking deadline
15th March 2010	Registration payment

Trip Summary for John Schwandt and Josh Bronson