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History of the Gall Symposium

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The concept of an international gall-inducing arthropod symposium was developed by William Mattson (USDA Forest Service and Michigan State University, USA) and Yuri Baranchikov (Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia) in 1992. The meeting was organized under the guidelines of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO). **The first symposium**, entitled as “International Symposium on Gall-Forming Insects: Ecology, Physiology and Evolution of their Relationships with Host Plants”, was held at the Sukachev Institute of Forest and Wood, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, with support from

IUFRO at Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, with Yuri Baranchikov and Peter Price as organizers, between the 9th and 13th of August of 1993. The proceedings of the symposium were published as *The Ecology and Evolution of Gall-Forming Insects* edited by Peter Price, William Mattson, and Yuri Baranchikov (1994) by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station General Technical Report NC-174. This publication includes 22 papers written by 45 contributors. Treated themes include ecology and population dynamics, effects of the physical environment on gall-inducing arthropods, biodiversity and distribution, genetic variation

in host-plant resistance, and evolutionary perspectives. These themes have prevailed in subsequent meetings and a field excursion in exploring galls was included during the meeting. Price and a few other participants at this symposium took the Trans-Siberian train before and after the symposium. Their travel turned out to be an adventure which has left unforgettable experiences and indelible stories.

The success of the first symposium prompted future symposia in different nations. **The second symposium**, entitled as “Biology of Gall Inducing Arthropods”, was held in Mátrafüred, Hungary, organized by György Csóka of the Hungarian Forest Research Institute, from the 14th to the 19th of August of 1997. The meeting included 32 oral presentations and 12 posters. Participants were from around the world representing 20 countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan and the USA. The proceedings of the symposium were published as *The Biology of Gall-Inducing Arthropods*, edited by György Csóka, William Mattson, Graham Stone, and Peter Price (1998), as North Central Research Station General Technical Report NC-199 from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The book “Plant galls” written by György Csóka, which was published right before the symposium, was given as a gift to the participants. Like the first one, an excursion trip to the field for collecting was organized during the symposium which becomes a distinguishing feature of all the following symposia.

The third symposium, entitled as “Biology of Gall-Inducing Arthropods”, was held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from the 15th to the 18th of January of 2002. The meeting was organized by Schalk Louw, Jeanne Stoltz and Jan Giliomee, which attracted 49 participants. A field trip to a conservation area of Fynbos vegetation near Hermanus on the south coast, east of Cape Town occurred. No publication resulted from this meeting.

The fourth symposium, entitled as “Biodiversity of Galling Arthropods and Their Associates”, was held in Kyoto, Japan from the 5th to the 9th of September of 2005. The

organizers were Junichi Yukawa, Takayuki Ohgushi, and Kenichi Ozaki. The meeting included 30 oral presentations and 27 posters. Following the tradition, a day of collecting excursion was organized during the meeting period. The proceedings were published as a book, *the Galling Arthropods and their Associates: Ecology and Evolution* edited by Kenichi Ozaki, Junichi Yukawa, Takayuki Ohgushi, and Peter Price (2006) and published by Springer-Verlag, Tokyo. This publication includes 26 papers written by 75 authors.

The 5th symposium, entitled as “Biology of Gall-Inducing Arthropods”, was held in Serra do Cipó in Brazil from the 9th to the 14th of August of 2009. The organizers were Wilson Fernandes, Peter Price, and Heikki Roininen. There were 66 presentations (31 oral presentations and 35 posters) by 52 participants in the event. The studies focused on various themes and were distributed among the sections of (1) Natural History and Biology, (2) Host Relationships, (3) Tri-Trophic interactions, (4) Spatial Ecology and Biodiversity, (5) Genetics and Molecular Biology, (6) Phylogeny and Evolution, and (7) Current and Novel Issues. The country participants were from Brazil, Finland, United States, Australia, Taiwan, Japan, Costa Rica, Mexico, England, Israel, Peru, and Canada. An award was created for the first time in the symposia series and the award was given to Peter Price in recognition of his outstanding work on galling studies and in insect ecology in general. A field trip into the cerrado vegetation of Serro do Cipó provided a great opportunity to this area with exceptionally high diversity of gall-inducing arthropods. No proceedings were published from this symposium but all abstracts were distributed in a CD to all participants.

The next symposium, entitled as “**the 6th International Symposium** on the Biology and Ecology of Gall Inducing Arthropods and Related Endophytes”, was held in O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Queensland, Australia, from the 4th to the 8th of August 2013. The organizers were Robin Adair, Gary Taylor, Anneke Veenstra, and Peter Kolesik. There were 10 sessions with about 50 oral presentations plus 22 posters. The award for significance in gall study was given to Wilson Fernandes. Following the tradition, an excursion

trip was included and the first time for the symposia series, a workshop on the gall midges of mango tree was held during this symposium. A proceedings was published in Plant Protection Quarterly.

The current symposium, entitled as “**the 7th International Symposium** on Cecidology: Ecology and Evolution of Gall-Inducing Arthropods” with a slogan “Let's Gall Taiwan!”, was held from the 3rd to 8th of March 2018 in the Huisun Experimental Forest Station, Nantou County, Taiwan. The organizers were Man-Miao Yang and Gene-Sheng Tung. There were 101 participants from 15 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Korea, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, and USA). The total number of presentations were 55, including 35 oral and 20 posters. The research significance award was given to Junichi Yukawa in recognition of his

outstanding research in gall midges and life history strategies of gall-inducing insects. A workshop on the invasive gall-inducing insects and several special events, such as self-designed dye of silk scarf using aphid gall nuts and experience of making edible Aiyu jelly from fig galls, were held within the framework of the event. The book “Let's Gall Taiwan: A Guide Book on Insect Galls” edited by Gene-Sheng Tung and Man-Miao Yang, which was published right before the symposium, was given as a gift to the participants. The proceedings of the symposium is here published as a special issue of the “Formosan Entomologist”, journal of the Taiwan Entomological Society.

The **8th symposium** will be held in the United States organized by Donald Miller and Matthew Buffington in 2022. Let's Gall, then!

Man-Miao Yang
Gene-Sheng Tung



Group photo of participants taken on the first day of the 7th International Symposium on Cecidology: Ecology and Evolution of Gall-Inducing Arthropods at the Huisun Experimental Forest Station.