

REPORT ON THE CREATION OF AN ASSOCIATE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY BETWEEN SCIENTISTS FROM THE STATION BIOLOGIQUE DE ROSCOFF AND FROM THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY.

INTRODUCTION

In the context of formalizing a long-lasting collaboration between some members of DECOL/CASEB and scientists at the Station Biologique de Roscoff (SBR), a scientific meeting was held in Roscoff, 3-5 March of 2003. Since 1992 interactions between the UMR 2931 at SBR and J.A. Correa's laboratory have concentrated in unravel the biochemical mechanisms of defense in algae. With the recent arrival in the SBR of a team of biologists working on evolution and population genetics of marine organisms, a new area of potential collaboration with other members of the Department of Ecology (also members of CASEB) became apparent. In response to this possibility, a formal invitation to become part of an Associate International Laboratory (LIA) was issued by the French counterpart to Professors Marquet, Navarrete, Fernández, Castilla and Correa. A LIA has a legal status in the structure of the CNRS, receives money to operate and opens the possibilities for applying to other European funds. More importantly perhaps from the CASEB and DECOL perspectives, is that high-level researchers in population genetics and molecular ecology will be available for graduate teaching and co-supervision of PhD thesis of our students. Access to modern molecular tools and infrastructure to tackle population genetic problems is also granted.

ACTIVITIES

The 3-day meeting in Roscoff involved the following scientists

- *UMR 7127, group Evolution and population genetics of marine organisms:* Myriam Valero, Frederique Viard, Christophe Destombe, Claire Daguin and Didier Jollivet.
- *UMR 7127, group Benthic ecology:* Thierry Comtet.
- *UMR 2931 group Biochemical defenses and signaling:* Philippe Potin
- *UMR 2931 group Functional genomics of marine seaweeds:* Jonas Collen
- *DECOL/CASEB:* Miriam Fernández, Sergio Navarrete, Juan Carlos Castilla and Juan A. Correa.

During the first part of the meeting, B. Kloareg, Director of UMR 2931, presented a formal explanation of why a LIA, rather than a UMI (the original structure proposed by the CNRS) should be established. It was clear that administrative aspects had been overlooked at the time the first proposal was issued. In spite of the change, it was agreed that a LIA was still an excellent opportunity to formally expand the current level of collaboration between DECOL/CASEB and SBR. However, in order to keep formalities, I requested the Rector of our university be informed directly by a CNRS representative regarding the changes, a suggestion that was accepted by the French counterpart. After that, Dr. Catherine Boyen, as Director of the proposed NoE in Marine Genomics, provided a short explanation of the initiative and potential areas of future interactions with Chile through the LIA and DECOL/CASEB.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to formal presentations by the participants, who explained their main scientific interests and the biological models being used. With this information and after a fruitful discussion, an outline of the topics included under the umbrella of the proposal for the LIA was defined as follows:

1. Biogeography, population genetics along transition zones and phylogeography studies

- Reproductive modes (algae, direct developers, dispersers)
- Stoppers vs. crossers.
- Philogeography of selected invertebrate and algae species (i.e. *Concholepas*, *Acanthina*, *Lessonia*, *Mazzaella*)

2. Scale of fragmentation and dispersal

- Human effects:
 - A) habitat disruption
 - B) harvested vs. non-harvested
- Host-parasite biology and dynamics
- Reproductive modes (algae, direct developers, dispersers)
- Coastal geomorphology and near-shore oceanography

3. Reproductive ecology

- Spatial variation in reproductive output and contribution to larval pool
- Resource allocation to male/female functions
- Mating system evolution

In addition to the above, several agreements were reached in terms of the steps to be followed to achieve the goal of having the proposal for the LIA ready this year. These are the following:

1. Directly related to the creation of a LIA

- The French team will issue a first draft of the LIA proposal during the second week of May.
- The document will be improved, with a final version expected by the end of June.
- Submission to the CNRS during the first week in July.

2. Initiatives to support the LIA

- A proposal has been already submitted to the ECOS program by some members of the French (FV, MV, CD, DJ, TC) and Chilean (JCC, SN, MF, PM) teams, with JCC and MV acting as PIs.
- The same teams will submit a proposal for INCO (European funding).during the September 2003 convocation

Finally, I would like to mention that the CNRS and CASEB provided funding for this meeting.

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN CASEB AND ROSCOFF MARINE STATION

Dr. Pedro Rosso (President of the Catholic University of Chile), escorted by Dr. Fabian Jaksic (Director of CASEB) and Dr. Juan Correa (Deputy Director of CASEB) signed a double agreement in Paris, on 04 June 2004: (a) To officially establish the LIA Roscoff-CASEB, which engages these two centers through CNRS; (b) To

officially establish issuing of double degree to exchange doctoral students between University of Paris VI (Pierre et Marie Curie) and the Catholic University of Chile.

From the CNRS web site:

Cérémonie de signature pour la création du Laboratoire international associé "Diams"



Création d'un Laboratoire international associé (LIA) en Amérique du Sud

Le 3 juin 2004, Bernard Larroutourou, directeur général du CNRS, Gilbert Béréziat, président de l'Université Pierre et Marie Curie Paris 6 et Pedro Rosso, recteur de l'université pontificale catholique du Chili ont signé un accord de création du Laboratoire international associé "DIAMS" (Dispersal and Adaptation in Marine Species).

Les recherches effectuées dans le cadre du LIA relèvent du domaine de la biologie marine. Ce LIA implique du côté français la station biologique de Roscoff dirigée par Bernard Kloareg et du côté chilien le Center for Advanced Studies in Biology and Biodiversity (Caseb). La signature a eu lieu en visioconférence en présence de et des deux ambassadeurs en poste.





Photos as originally published at the [CNRS web site](#):