CGC Coordinating Committee

Chair: Timothy J Ng
College Park, MD, USA

Cucumber: Jack E. Staub
Madison, WI, USA

Melon: David W. Wolff
Lehigh Acres, FL, USA

Watermelon: Dennis T. Ray
Tucson, AZ, USA

Cucurbita spp.: Linda Wessel-Beaver
Mayagüez, PR, USA

Other genera: Mark G. Hutton
Monmouth, ME, USA

CGC Gene List Committee

Cucumber: Todd C. Wehner
Raleigh, NC, USA

Melon: Michel Pitrat
Montfavet, FRANCE

Watermelon: Bill B. Rhodes
Clemson, SC, USA

Fenny Dane
Auburn, AL, USA

Cucurbita spp.: R.W. Robinson
Geneva, NY, USA

Rebecca Brown
Corvallis, Oregon

Harry S. Paris
Ramat Yishay, ISRAEL

Other genera: R.W. Robinson
Geneva, NY, USA

CGC Gene Curators

Cucumber: Todd C. Wehner
Raleigh, NC, USA

Jack E. Staub
Madison, WI, USA

Melon: Michel Pitrat
Montfavet, FRANCE

James D. McCreight
Salinas, CA, USA

Watermelon: Todd C. Wehner
Raleigh, NC, USA

Xingping Zhang
Woodland, CA, USA

Cucurbita spp.: R.W. Robinson
Geneva, NY, USA

Other genera: R.W. Robinson
Geneva, NY, USA

Deena Decker-Walters
Miami, FL, USA

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http://ars-genome.cornell.edu/cgc/
The Cucurbit Genetics Cooperative (CGC) was organized in 1977 to develop and advance the genetics of economically important cucurbits. Membership to CGC is voluntary and open to individuals who have an interest in cucurbit genetics and breeding. CGC membership is on a biennial basis. For more information on CGC and its membership rates, visit our website (http://ars-genome.cornell.edu/cgc/) or contact Tim Ng at (301) 405-4345 or tn5@umail.umd.edu.

CGC Reports are issued on an annual basis. The Reports include articles submitted by CGC members for the use of CGC members. None of the information in the annual report may be used in publications without the consent of the respective authors for a period of five years.

ISSN 1064-5594
The 24th annual CGC Business Meeting was held on 23 July 2000 at the Coronado Springs Hotel in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the 2000 International Conference of the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS). Seventeen members and other interested individuals attended.

After introductions around the room, Tim Ng provided a brief summary of the history of the CGC Reports, as well as a financial status update. He said he was starting to consider CGC Report No. 23 as “haunted,” in that strange events were combining to delay its publication, but that it would be completed and printed by August 2000. Part of the delay was due to working out the logistics of including the proceedings from the 1st International Oil Pumpkin Conference, which was held in Austria in 1999.

The Call for Papers for CGC 24 (2001) is scheduled for mailing in October 2000, with a deadline date of 28 February 2001. As has been the practice in recent years, manuscripts submitted after the deadline date may still be considered for inclusion in the Report -- subject to the time constraints of the Coordinating Committee members and the Chair.

Tim next indicated that the CGC website was proceeding slowly but surely. A recent addition to the web CGC Reports page was the indication of the availability of back issues and also whether a given report is available on the web.

Jim McCreight provided a brief report on the recently completed Cucurbitaceae 2000 conference in Israel, and also mentioned that the 2nd ISHS International Conference on Cucurbits was scheduled for Japan sometime in 2001. However, information was scarce on the latter conference and no one present at the CGC meeting had attended the 1st ISHS Cucurbit conference, so the Chair agreed to track down more information on the Japanese meeting.

Because of increasing publication and postage costs, it was announced that membership rates would increase to $20 per biennium (surface rate) beginning in 2002. The increase would be phased in for individuals renewing in 2001. However, thanks to an arrangement with the University of Maryland, CGC members would now be allowed to charge their membership to their credit card;
this would be a welcome benefit to many of the international members who previously needed to exchange currency for their membership.

Watermelons were the next topic of conversation, as a Gene Curator was needed for the watermelon monogenic stocks, and also a new CGC Coordinating Committee member was needed to replace Dennis Ray. The Gene Curator decision was deferred, but a nomination committee consisting of Jim McCreight, Jack Staub and Tom Williams nominated Todd Wehner for the Coordinating Committee position, and he subsequently accepted.

Under “new business,” Tim Ng indicated that he was planning to step down as CGC Chair in 2002, following publication of CGC Report No. 25. This would mark his 15th year chairing CGC, and although he would like to continue, his job responsibilities at the University of Maryland had changed so much in recent years that he is able to spend very little time on horticultural matters. Over the next two years he will work with the CGC membership to identify a successor, and also to determine whether the Chair position should more logically be divided up among three individuals to spread the workload.

2001 CGC Business Meeting
Timothy J Ng, CGC Chair
University of Maryland, USA

The 25th annual CGC Business Meeting was held on 22 July 2001 in the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California, in conjunction with the 2001 International Conference of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Twenty members and other interested individuals attended.

After introductions around the room, Tim Ng introduced Yasutaka “Taka” Kubo, one of the organizers of the 2nd International Symposium on Cucurbits. Taka passed out announcements of the conference and reported that it was scheduled for 28 September through 1 October 2001. Taka mentioned that registration was now open at the conference website, and encouraged everyone to consider attending.

Tim next reported that CGC 24 was slightly delayed because of some late arriving manuscripts, but was scheduled to go to the printers within the next week. He estimated that it would be over 160 pages, and about equivalent in size to the previous year's report. The Call for Papers for CGC 25 is scheduled to go out in October 2001, with a deadline in February or March.

CGC 25 (2002) will mark the “Silver Anniversary” issue of the CGC Report, and Tim indicated he would try to have a special cover prepared for the report. Options include a silver cover, or the possibility of a "scratch'n'sniff" cover with cucurbit-related odors. He also mentioned that CGC does not have an “official” logo, and is considering a CGC logo design contest, with the logo to be displayed on the cover of CGC 25. This contest may be announced in conjunction with the “Call for Papers” solicitation in October.

CGC Coordinating Committee member Linda Wessel-Beaver raised the issue that research reports tended to be longer than in the early years of CGC, often 5-6 pages in length, and was concerned whether she should edit her section more severely to reduce the manuscript size or request that the authors send them to a refereed journal. Also, the types of acceptable papers were discussed. (e.g., should only research reports be allowed, or are literature reviews on relevant topics also acceptable?) In addition, a discussion ensued as to whether CGC page limits, currently 2-3 pages, should be strictly enforced. Tim indicated that the CGC budget is able to (barely) cover the current size of the CGC report, and it was ultimately decided to allow flexibility in the size and acceptability for the research reports.

A page detailing upcoming meetings of interest to cucurbit researchers was passed out, and Tim mentioned that the proceedings from recent cucurbit conferences were now available through either ASHS or ISHS presses. (Editor’s note: see later item “News and Comment.”)

Next, the CGC website was discussed. Tim indicated that he felt a need to change the “look and feel” of the main CGC page, which is nearly 5 years old at this point, and also to make the site easier to navigate. Todd Wehner suggested that perhaps the main page could look similar to the inside cover of the CGC Report. Tim also cited the need to consolidate the main Cucurbita spp. on-line gene list from 1992 with the two subsequent updates (1996 and 2000). Rebecca Brown volunteered to consolidate these lists, and Tim indicated he would email the electronic files to her to facilitate this. It was also
unclear whether Dick Robinson would be continuing as the Gene List Committee member for Cucurbita upon his retirement, and Tim indicated he would check into this.

With the impending resignation of Tim Ng as Chair of CGC, the issue of a new Chair was discussed. Tim indicated that the job is much larger than it was 14 years ago, particularly with in-house preparation of the CGC Report, email communications, international currency exchange(s), and website development. He thought that perhaps the duties might be spread over three positions, such as Chair (i.e., Secretary/Treasurer), Editor (CGC Report) and Webmaster. Tim indicated he would be happy to help with the transition, and even possibly assume one of these positions. Should this reorganization occur, it will require a change to the CGC By-Laws, necessitating a mail/email ballot among the membership. Todd Wehner suggested that, with restructuring and changing the By-Laws, perhaps we ought to change the Coordinating Committee terms to five years instead of ten, and involve more of the younger CGC members in CGC activities. Although it was anticipated the overall restructuring would take some time, it was felt that a final structure could be agreed upon by either the 2002 ASHS/ISHS meeting or the Cucurbitaceae 2002 meeting in Florida.

Under “New Business,” Jim Myers raised the issue of whether CGC would be interested in coordinating an effort to seek funding for a cucurbit genome project. Tim indicated that an early attempt was started this year with the USDA IFAFS solicitation, but that many of the researchers were concerned over the low success rates for proposals to the IFAFS genome section (only 8% in 2000). Ted Carey mentioned that he had received an IFAFS grant recently in a non-genome area, but that the success rate among proposals in that area was also very low. Jim McCreight indicated that USDA National Plant Germplasm System funds were extremely limited and nowhere near what would be needed for a genome effort. Tim said that there appeared to be only two potential sponsors for a project the size and scope of a proposed cucurbit genome effort, NSF and USDA (e.g., NRI and IFAFS), and that NSF had provided plant genome funding in the past as long as the projects didn’t appear to emphasize “crop” plants. As NSF is in the Washington D.C. area, Tim indicated he would try to either phone or meet with an appropriate NSF program director to discuss the prospects of a project like this.

2001 Meeting of the Watermelon Research and Development Working Group

Benny D. Bruton, WRDWG Chair
USDA ARS, Lane, Oklahoma 74555

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Watermelon Research and Development Working Group (WRDWG) was held on Sunday, 28 January 2001, in Fort Worth, Texas. The meeting was held at the Worthington Hotel in conjunction with The Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (S.A.A.S.) and the Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences (SR: ASHS). There was an excellent program this year with an attendance of approximately 75 people.


Todd Wehner also presented an update on the status of watermelon Fusarium wilt differentials, and Diana Musto (Research Associate, Orlando, Florida) provided an update from the National Watermelon Promotion Board.

Benny Bruton next spoke on the status of watermelon Plant Introductions. He mentioned that Robert Jarret (Curator, USDA-ARS, Plant Genetic Resources Unit, Griffin, GA) has tried to get help in establishing a core collection for a long time, and that they are now in the process of selecting the core collection and hopefully will have something finalized this year. The Cucurbit Crop Germplasm Committee and the Cucurbit Genetics Cooperative Coordinating Committee will be consulted for final approval of the core collection. Robert Jarret then presented the “Curator's Report on Watermelon Germplasm.”

A motion was made and carried that WRDWG meet for two half-day sessions in 2002. Provided that Benny Bruton can get the slots for Saturday and Sunday afternoon, WRDWG will have two half-day sessions. The meeting for 2002 will be held 2-3 February 2002 in Orlando, Florida.

Glenn Price of Sugar Creek Seed Inc. in Hinton, Oklahoma, generously provided refreshments for the group this year.

Cucurbit Crop Germplasm Committee (CCGC)
Call for Germplasm Evaluation Proposals - FY2002
James D. McCreight Chair, CCGC

Now is the time to write (or prompt your colleagues to write) and submit germplasm evaluation proposals for FY2002. Please note that the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) will not be able to fund all of the proposals submitted, so please be very realistic in your request for funds.

All proposals will be evaluated on the national need for evaluation data, the likelihood of success, and the likelihood that the data will be entered into the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) and shared with the user community. Proposals should be succinct. They must be for germplasm evaluation per se, not for selection or improvement.

Contact the CCGC Chair for details including proposal guidelines and timeline for submission and review. The deadline for original submission is 31 August 2001.

2nd International Symposium on Cucurbits
28 September – 1 October 2001
Epochal, Tsukuba, Japan

The Cucurbit Working Group of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) is hosting the 2nd International Symposium on Cucurbits. The Symposium is intended for researchers, scientists, students and professionals who are interested in any aspects of cucurbits. The aim of the symposium is to provide the opportunity for researchers and scientists from various countries and regions of the world to discuss their work and to exchange ideas on all aspects of cucurbit science, technology and industry.

The scientific program will include country reports by invited speakers from major growing areas, presentation of papers on selected topics by invited speakers, and research papers by oral presentations or posters. Selected topics include: development and physiology; production technology; genetics and breeding; biotechnology; pests and diseases; postharvest technology; and processions and marketing.

Further information is available at the conference website:

http://www.icube-t.co.jp/isc2001/

The early registration deadline was 31 July 2001, and registration after
that date is regarded and regular registration. No on-site registration will be accepted at the conference.

A Call for Papers and Posters will be issued to solicit papers for individual presentations. All presentations, both oral and poster, will be selected from submitted papers. Plenary sessions will consist of invited speakers along individual oral presentations. Each topical session will be followed by time to view poster displays pertaining to the same topic. Topics will focus on plant breeding and genetics, growth and development, production, pathobiology, entomology, physiology, and production utilization and processing, along with new technologies being used in the field.

The conference will provide numerous opportunities for participants to share up-to-date information and research, and to discuss common concerns with colleagues from around the world. This exchange of information is vital to the continued improvement and international advancement of cucurbits. So mark your calendar today and make plans to attend.

For more information, see the website at: http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/cucurbits or contact the Conference Organizer: Don Maynard, University of Florida/IFAS, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, 60th Street East, Bradenton, FL 34203. Ph: (941) 751-7636 ext 239; FAX: (941) 751-7639; Email: dnma@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.

**New Watermelon Book**


Watermelon experts throughout the USA have contributed to the book, and everything from little-known facts to current pest management, production, handling and marketing practices are included.

Contents include: introduction to the watermelon; origin, distribution and uses; breeding and improvement; biotechnology; cultural management; nematode-induced maladies; diseases; insect and mite pests; weed management; harvesting and postharvest handling; marketing; and promotion and merchandising. The appendices include: watermelon organizations; watermelon seed sources; cucurbit publications; costs of production; and common names in 15 languages.

The book is $50.95 US + shipping for ASHS members, and $59.95 + shipping for non-members. You can contact ASHS press at Ph: (703) 836-4606; Fax: (703) 836-2024; or view their webpage at: http://www.ashspress.org.
The book is reader-friendly, well-indexed, lavishly illustrated, and a welcome addition to anyone’s library.

Conference Proceedings

Not all of us are fortunate enough to attend all of the cucurbit conferences that have occurred in the past decade. Fortunately, many of proceedings from these conferences are still available for ordering:


http://www.ishs.org/pub/510.htm

These are the proceedings from Cucurbitacea 2000, the VII Eucarpia meeting on cucurbit genetics and breeding. The 2000 meeting was convened to present the latest developments in cucurbit genetics, breeding, germplasm enhancement, pathology and related fields. The Meeting was held at the Ma'ale Hachamisha Kibbutz Hotel and Convention Center, situated in the foot hills of the Judean Mountains in Israel.


http://www.ashs.org/ashspress/cucurb.html

These are the proceedings of the 1998 conference held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California. The conference was convened by ASHS, USDA, CGC and the Cucurbit Network.

Topics of the conference included the collection, preservation, characterization, evaluation, and enhancement of cucurbit germplasm. The six major topic areas were: germplasm resources; genetics; breeding; pathology; entomology, and production. More than 60 papers were presented at the meeting, making this volume one of the most significant sources of cucurbit germplasm currently available.


http://www.ishs.org/pub/492.htm

These are the proceedings from the ISHS symposium held in Adan, Turkey, in 20-23 May 1997. The symposium covered all scientific disciplines of relevance to cucurbits. The primary emphasis was on genetics, breeding, biotechnology, physiology, post-harvest technology, growing techniques, marketing and economics.

Other Proceedings:

CGC has a very limited supply of the proceedings from Cucurbitaceae '94 (Padre Island, TX, USA) and Cucurbitaceae '96 (Malaga, Spain). Please check with the CGC Chair about their availability, if interested.

The Proceedings from the 1st International Oil Pumpkin Conference were published in CGC Report No. 24 (2000).
## Upcoming Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization/Meeting</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cucurbit Genetics Cooperative</td>
<td>2:00-3:00 p.m., 22 July 2001</td>
<td>Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, CA</td>
<td>Tim Ng 301-405-4345 <a href="mailto:tn5@umail.umd.edu">tn5@umail.umd.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 2002</td>
<td>Toronto, Canada</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 2003</td>
<td>Providence, Rhode Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd ISHS International Symposium on Cucurbitaceae</td>
<td>28 Sept – 1 Oct 2001</td>
<td>Tsukuba City, Ibaraki, Japan</td>
<td>Hiroshi Ezura <a href="mailto:ezura@gene.tsukuba.ac.jp">ezura@gene.tsukuba.ac.jp</a> <a href="http://ns.icube-t.co.jp/isc2001/">http://ns.icube-t.co.jp/isc2001/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Crops and New Uses: Strength in Diversity</td>
<td>10-13 November 2001</td>
<td>Omni Hotel at CNN Center, Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>David Dierig <a href="mailto:ddierig@uswcl.ars.ag.gov">ddierig@uswcl.ars.ag.gov</a> <a href="http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/announce/ncnu.html">http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/announce/ncnu.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cucurbitaceae 2002</td>
<td>8-12 December 2002</td>
<td>Naples Beach Hotel &amp; Golf Club, Naples, Florida, USA</td>
<td>Don Maynard <a href="mailto:bra@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu">bra@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu</a> <a href="http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/cucurbits/">http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/cucurbits/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucarpia Cucurbitaceae 2004</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Aleš Lebeda 420/68/5223325 <a href="mailto:lebeda@risc.upol.cz">lebeda@risc.upol.cz</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermelon Research &amp; Development Working Group</td>
<td>2-3 February, 2002</td>
<td>Orlando, Florida</td>
<td>Benny Bruton 580-889-7395 <a href="mailto:bbruton-usda@lane-ag.org">bbruton-usda@lane-ag.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Mobile, Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pickling Cucumber Improvement Cooperative</td>
<td>24-25 October 2001</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri</td>
<td>John O'Sullivan <a href="mailto:josulliv@uoguelph.ca">josulliv@uoguelph.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickle Packers International Fall Meeting</td>
<td>24-25 October 2001</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri</td>
<td>Richard Hentschel 630-584-8950 <a href="mailto:staff@ppi.i.org">staff@ppi.i.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Meeting</td>
<td>2002</td>
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Cucurbit Genetics Cooperative
Financial Statement
31 December 2000

Balance (31 December 1999) $3,398.35

Receipts
  Dues & CGC Back Issue Orders $2,959.00
  Interest on Savings $53.52

  Total Receipts $3,012.52

Expenditures
  CGC Report No. 23 (2000)
    Printing $2,348.91
    Mailing $790.97
  Call for Papers (Report No. 24) $142.69
  Member/Subscriber Renewal Notices $80.10
  Bank Fees & Adjustment Charges $0.00
  Miscellaneous (envelopes, postage, etc.) $37.33

  Total Expenditures $3,400.00

Balance (31 December 2000) $3,010.87