

Conference Report: ESIL 2012, Roscoff

I would like to express my gratitude for the £ 470 Small Grant from MASTS for supporting my attendance of the conference *ESIL 2012: Algal Post-Genomics* in Roscoff (April 23-25, 2012).

Ectocarpus is the first fully-sequenced multicellular alga (a manuscript summarizing the outcomes of the genome annotation effort was published in NATURE in 2010ⁱ – including contributions from my group at SAMS). My research group studies (1) the interaction of this alga with eukaryotic pathogens, chiefly with the most basal member of the oomycete lineage, *Eurychasma dicksonii*, (2) the bioinorganic chemistry of *Ectocarpus*, and (3) it contributes to biodiversity / taxonomy studies of *Ectocarpus* and its relatives from around the world.

At this meeting, I presented a talk entitled “**New insight into the bioinorganic chemistry of *Ectocarpus***” covering our latest results (using complementary biochemical, physical and genomics approaches) including a very uncommon (non-ferritin) mode of iron storage in *Ectocarpus*. It was very fitting with the subject of the conference, providing ample occasion for discussion. My attendance has enabled me to keep in touch with the cutting edge of my field and presenting our latest results to an expert audience. Overall, attendance of this meeting was quite important not only to my own research, but also to the University of Aberdeen and the MASTS consortium, since I have been chair of a previous, 5-day international *Ectocarpus* symposium at UHI / SAMS in Oban in June 2008 (these meetings are held every 2 years).

Also, it should be highlighted that Scotland is home to the largest resource of *Ectocarpus* strains worldwide – with over 300 fully-characterized *Ectocarpus* strains already deposited in CCAP at SAMS (where they are fully available to the user community), and the currently-ongoing establishment of a repository of cryopreserved *Ectocarpus* strains. Despite my recent move to Aberdeen, I will remain involved in the further development of these resources. Besides the academic aspects mentioned above, this meeting was also a superb opportunity to raise the profile of this resource.

Image: Participants of ESIL 2012, Station Biologique de Roscoff.



ⁱ Cock J. M., Sterck L., Rouzé P., Scornet D., Allen A. E., Amoutzias G., Anthouard V., Artiguenave F., Aury J.-M., Badger J. H., Beszteri B., Billiau K., Bonnet E., Bothwell J. H. F., Bowler C., Boyen C., Brownlee C., Carrano C. J., Charrier B., Cho G. Y., Coelho S. M., Collén J., Corre E., Da Silva C., Delage L., Delaroque N., Dittami S. M., Doubeau S., Elias M., Farnham G., Gachon C. M. M., Gschloessl B., Heesch S., Jabbari K., Jubin C., Kawai H., Kimura K., Kloareg B., Küpper F. C., Lang D., Le Bail A., Leblanc C., Lerouge P., Lohr M., Lopez P. J., Martens C., Maumus F., Michel G., Miranda-Saavedra D., Morales J., Moreau H., Motomura T., Nagasato C., Napoli C. A., Nelson D. R., Nyvall-Collén P., Peters A. F., Pommier C., Potin P., Poulain P., Quesneville H., Read B., Rensing S. A., Ritter A., Rousvoal S., Samanta M., Samson G., Schroeder D. C., Ségurens B., Strittmatter M., Tonon T., Tregear J., Valentin K., von Dassow P., Yamagishi T., Van de Peer Y. & Wincker P. 2010 The *Ectocarpus* genome and the independent evolution of multicellularity in the brown algae. *Nature* 465: 617-621