

FABIANS AT THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL MYCOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Prepared by Stephen Taerum

The 10th International Mycological Congress (IMC10) was held this year from August 3 to 8 in Bangkok, Thailand. This meeting is the world's largest mycological conference, bringing together mycologists with a wide diversity of specializations such as genetics, taxonomy, ecology, symbiosis, cellular biology, human health, and food science. We (the FABIans) were highly visible, as 14 current FABIans, along with several FABI alumni, attended the congress. In total, we presented 12 talks and 19 posters on a variety of research projects conducted on fungal associations with trees.



The FABI group at the International Mycological Congress

During IMC10, several fascinating talks were given by luminary mycologists such as Dr. Pedro Crous, Dr. Joseph Spatafora, Dr. John Taylor, Dr. Jan Stenlid, Dr. Lynne Boddy, and many, many others. Numerous researchers from around the world presented the newest and most exciting findings in mycology, and discussed future trends in the field. In addition, the meeting facilitated new friendships and collaborations between scientists from a wide variety of backgrounds.

We were able to explore the many attractions in Bangkok, such as markets, temples, canals, and restaurants. Several FABlans also visited other parts of Thailand, taking in the country's diverse natural and cultural beauty. IMC10 also provided the opportunity for FABlans to sample several different Thai foods, which are certainly among the most unique and delicious foods in the world. A few of the adventuresome FABlans even tried foods unusual to South African and Western diets, such as insects.

Overall, the meeting was a tremendous success. We thank the organizers of IMC10 for hosting an incredible meeting, and are looking forward to the IMC11, which will be held in 2018 in Puerto Rico.