

**Scientific report:****Small iPLANTA group meeting joint with the 12th IOBC Working Group “Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms” meeting in Zadar, Croatia, 30 September – 4 October 2018.**

Attendees for iPLANTA:

Guy Smagghe (Belgium)

Olivier Christiaens (Belgium)

Jeremy Sweet (UK)

Elisa Viñuela (Spain)

A special session on RNAi and consequences for biosafety and risk assessment, focusing on non-target invertebrates such as beneficial insects, was integrated in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IOBC Working Group “Pesticides and Beneficial organisms”. This conference was held between 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 and 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 in Zadar, Croatia, had 33 participants from 15 countries, Croatia, Belgium, Spain, Brazil, Algeria, Thailand, Pakistan, France, Canada, Sweden, Israel, Czech republic, Switzerland, UK, Estonia, and the scientific program consisted of 18 oral and 17 poster presentations. The special session on RNAi was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2018.

During this special session of iPLANTA, several oral and poster presentations were given by the iPLANTA members to present the current state of the art of RNAi biosafety, the special EFSA report on RNAi biosafety in which the iPLANTA members were involved and also recent results on risk assessment on beneficial insects by the COST members, such as the parasitoid wasp *Nasionia vitripennis*, the bumble bee *Bombus terrestris* and the predator *Chrysoperla carnea*. Furthermore, the iPLANTA members also gave a presentation of the iPLANTA COST action itself, communicating about its goals, progress and future planning. Finally, there was a closed meeting between the iPLANTA members to concretely discuss the future plans regarding a number of publications related to the iPLANTA Working Group 1 (Mechanisms) and also Working Group 3 (Biosafety) that are now in preparation. In this meeting, the structure of the papers was discussed, a timing was agreed and the different tasks were allocated to the different co-authors.

In second, also the interactions of dsRNA with natural enemies for biological control as predators and parasitic wasps, and also with other beneficial organisms as earthworms and entomopathogenic microorganisms as entomopathogenic viruses, were discussed. In this meeting, a timing was agreed and the different tasks for a ring testing on the biosafety of dsRNA in a selection of agriculture-relevant beneficial organisms were discussed.