

Bio-Blog

August 2023

Keeping all RBX Group Stakeholders Informed

Note from the Managing Director

A huge thank you to the team that attended ESSA this year and did such a great job of representing RBX with research from both River Bioscience and XSIT. Our mandate is to develop novel approaches to deal with phytosanitary and significant pests through holistic and accurate programmes. It is only through research that this can be achieved so the efforts of our researchers to secure the crop protection solutions for the future is much appreciated.

CHEERS, ROB

Our team shines at ESSA

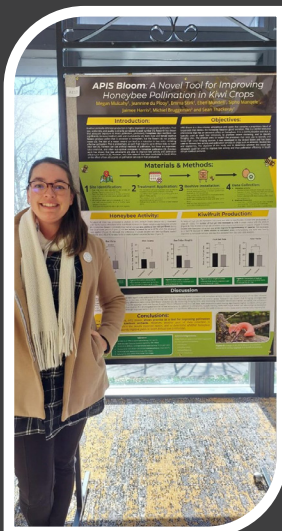
River Bioscience is proud to be part of the scientific research to improve pest management and holistic integrated pest management programmes. Our team had a good week at the 23rd Congress of The Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA) which was held in Stellenbosch this July. The research team presented research relating to area-wide pest management, pollination, phylogeny, and novel biopesticides.

The research posters presented are as follows:

- Morphological and molecular identification of a novel grapevine pest – Eben Mundell
- Mass rearing of multiple Tortricid species on a commercially produced artificial diet – Jeannine du Plooy
- Apis Bloom: A novel tool for improving honeybee pollination in Kiwi crops – Megan Mulcahy
- A novel baculovirus-based biopesticide for tortricid management – Sean Thackeray

Megan Mulcahy also presented two interesting talks titled 'Assessing the efficacy of a point release system for the deployment of sterile moths in a commercial SIT programme' which was done along with Sean Thackeray, Khalipha Dambuza, Emma Stirk and Sean Moore (CRI) and the other titled 'A comparison of x-ray and gamma irradiation for the sterilisation of false codling moths (FCM) in a commercial SIT programme' which was done with Charlene Scott, Marshall Pieterse and Sean Thackeray.

In his personal capacity, Khalipha also presented his Master's research titled 'Evaluation of potential repellents for false codling moth, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick) (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae)'.



A major highlight of the ESSA event was Eben winning the Best Poster Award.

A big congratulations!

Well done to all involved and keep up the good work!

August Birthdays

Gurmour Pedro, Cornelius Damon, Marco Saayman, Bronwill Pieters, Marnus Delpont, Kenneth Gamble, Zoleka Marwanqana, Edwald Dirks, Cheslin Aford, Getruida Engelbrecht, Welton Basson, Jan Dirks, Malizca Abrahams, Tristan Comley, Franco September, Ashley Persens

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