Issue No. 62 Spring 2008

Bush Telegraph

The House Magazine of the Edinburgh Consortium for Rural Research

BIOSCIENCE VENTURES LAUNCHED

Professor Elaine Watson, Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies along with Professor David Hume, Director of the Roslin Institute and Easter Bush Research Consortium.

Two major new developments in animal bioscience are launched in Edinburgh this April.

- The **Roslin Institute** becomes a part of the **University of Edinburgh,** to form a new institute within the University that will include much of the research of the **Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.** This venture brings together scientists and support staff under the directorship of Professor David Hume who is an international authority in genome sciences.

The new organisation will retain the Roslin Institute name, with a continuing focus on animal health and welfare, sustainable agriculture and animal medicine. The Roslin Institute will effectively double in size with research including areas such as infectious diseases, immunology, growth and development, genetics and genomics.

- **The Easter Bush Research Consortium (EBRC)** is a new venture that brings together staff of the Roslin Institute along with researchers in the animal sciences from the **Scottish Agricultural College** and the **Moredun Research Institute.** Together, the EBRC, with some 450 scientists, will form one of the largest groups in the world focused on the biology of production and companion animals. It will tackle some of the most pressing issues in animal genetics and genomics, development, health and welfare and their implications for human health.

The EBRC was officially launched on 1 April 2008 and to celebrate this event a two day scientific meeting on 7 & 8 April 2008 was held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

Professor Hume said of the new organisations, "This is a key opportunity to help maintain Scotland's world-leading status in animal science through the establishment of an interdisciplinary and unique intellectual environment that will foster new ideas and new ways of working between researchers from different scientific disciplines."

Researchers from the Roslin Institute, along with animal sciences researchers from SAC, will be housed in a £58.5 million state-of-the-art building at the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush campus, planned for completion in 2010.

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Centre for Mountain Studies

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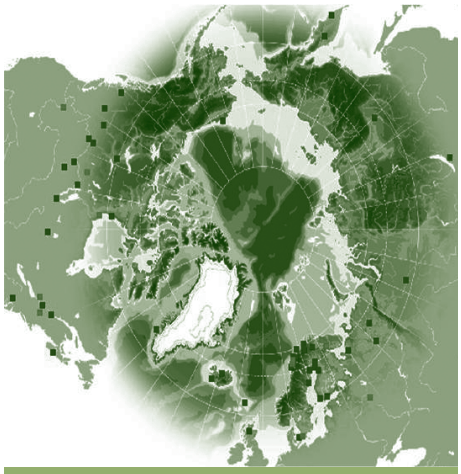

Figure 1: Location of University of the Arctic cooperative network of 109 universities, colleges,and other organisations across the Arctic.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE NORTHERN PERIPHERY

Clim-ATIC is a new three-year, €2.4 million, international project that has been awarded project funding of 60% by the European Commission's Northern Periphery Programme. The project will involve community stakeholders working in partnership with public sector and academic institutions, from Scotland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland and Finland, to explore, when facing climate change, the potential for different community sectors to develop adaptive capacity and deliver real adaptations that provide local economic and social advantages.

The overall objective is to establish a sustainable, self-financing service to provide information, training and advice to communities, small businesses, and local administrations across the Northern Periphery who wish to significantly increase their capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This service will be established and delivered in collaboration with the University of the Arctic, an existing cooperative network of 109 universities, colleges, and other organisations across the Arctic.

Clim-ATIC will be led and managed by the Centre for Mountain Studies at UHI-Perth College, with the support of several partners from academic and public sector organisations in other participating countries. Funding in Scotland is also from the Cairngorms National Park Authority, the Forestry Commission, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and HiTrans.

The project began on 1st March 2008 and runs until 30th April 2011. For more information, or to sign up to receive the project e-newsletter, please visit www.clim-atic.org.

SUSTAINABLE ESTATES

The first major project to take an integrated look at estates in Scotland's uplands for some years began in September 2007 at the UHI Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS) at Perth College. It is fully funded by the Henry Angest Foundation, with support for 4 PhDs and a concluding postdoc. It recognises three key issues:

1) the significant proportion of the land in private ownership, with many very large estates (one of the most distinctive characteristics of the Highlands and Islands);
2) the purchase of some of these estates by NGOs with conservation, recreation, sustainable development interests especially in the last two decades;
3) the purchase of estates by their local communities, especially since the 2003 Land Reform Act.

The primary objective is to understand both the complex driving forces influencing these estates, and how their owners and managers make decisions that permit them to ensure that their estates fulfil their diverse roles, while at least breaking even. Other key issues to be examined will be the economic and employment benefits of estates to local communities, and connections between land ownership and land management, exploring motivations, objectives, and constraints.

The dissertations are being supervised by Professor Martin Price, CMS Director, together with Dr. Charles Warren (St. Andrews University) and Dr. Alister Scott (University of Aberdeen).

To ensure the on-the-ground and policy relevance of the project, an advisory board has been established, with representatives from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association, Environment Link, Cairngorms National Park Authority, and the Knoydart Trust.

School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh

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RESEARCHING LAKES BENEATH ANTARTICA

It is now an established hypothesis that Antarctic subglacial lakes house unique forms of life and hold detailed sedimentary records of past climate change. To test this hypothesis requires in-situ examination. Of the 145 subglacial lakes known in Antarctica, one lake in West Antarctica, named Subglacial Lake Ellsworth, stands out as a prime candidate for first exploration.

A UK-consortium of scientists from ten universities and research institutions has been assembled to plan the exploration of Lake Ellsworth. A five-year programme is envisaged: two years for equipment development and testing; one year for field planning and operation; two years for sample analysis and data interpretation.

The science experiment is simple. Lake Ellsworth will be accessed using hot water drilling. Once lake access is achieved, a probe will be lowered down the borehole and into the lake. Measurements to be taken by the probe include: depth, pressure, conductivity and temperature; pH levels; biomolecules; anions; nitrogen isotopes; water currents; visualization of the environment; dissolved gases; and morphology of the lake floor and sediment structures. In addition, samples of water and sediment will be taken.

The exploration of Lake Ellsworth will be unique, interdisciplinary, and will result in major findings concerning subglacial lake environments and glacial history. The programme, which has already experienced considerable public interest, is challenging yet feasible given the expertise within the UK consortium of scientists involved.

For further information see our website at:
www.geos.ed.ac.uk/ellsworth
or contact Martin J. Siegert (m.j.siegert@ed.ac.uk).

Melting glaciers

CARBON STORAGE

The challenge of climate change requires innovative approaches to carbon dioxide management. The **Scottish Centre for Carbon Storage** is a Research Centre established in Edinburgh to deliver the R&D capability to create containment solutions to complement emissions reduction strategies.

The key expertise of SCCS is in geological injection, storage and monitoring. The SCCS also has active links to Edinburgh work on carbon trading, regulation, and capture process engineering.

This innovative collaboration between the **University of Edinburgh** and **Heriot Watt University** along with the **British Geological Survey** makes Edinburgh a centre of excellence for research and development in carbon capture and storage. SCCS builds on and extends the established world-class expertise in petroleum and hydrocarbon geoscience based on geology, geophysics, geo-engineering and subsurface fluid flow. The Centre comprises experimental and analytical facilities, expertise in field studies and modelling, and key academic and research personnel to stimulate the development of innovative solutions to carbon capture and subsurface storage.

A map of worldwide carbon dioxide storage sites has been developed; this displays large pilot and pre-commercial, and proposed commercial sites, with locations and links to the source references.

For further information contact Professor Stuart Haszeldine (Edinburgh), or Professor Adrian Todd (Heriot-Watt), and see www.geos.ed.ac.uk/scc

Forest Research – Northern Research Station

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CLIMATE CHANGE & SCOTLAND'S FORESTS

The shape and look of Scotland's forests will have to change if they themselves are to escape the worst effects of climate change, according to work commissioned by Forestry Commission Scotland.

Visiting the Forestry Commission's Northern Research Station in January, Michael Russell, Environment Minister, said: "Climate change is not something that is on its way – it is happening already. Over the past 40 years there has been a 30 day increase in the growing season, over 20 fewer frost days per year and a 60 per cent increase in winter rainfall. Forests and forestry contribute a great deal to our society and they have huge potential for making a significant contribution to lessening the impact of climate change.

Michael Russell MSP, Environment Minister, using the HitMan tool for acoustic measurement of timber properties in standing trees with Forest Research's Shaun Mochan in background

To do this most effectively, the industry needs to be pro-active in looking at new ways of maintaining the health of the nation's forests so that they can continue to be at the forefront of our drive to lead Scotland towards a greener, more sustainable future. It will mean that the look and shape of our forests will change. The Commission's proposals will help the people who manage the country's forests and woodlands to consider what steps they can take now to ensure that those forests remain strong, healthy and accessible for generations to come. Making changes now could help the forestry industry both to minimise the effects of climate change in Scotland's woodlands and to exploit evolving conditions to best effect."

Chris Quine, Head of Forest Research Ecology Division, said: "Forest Research is involved in a wide range of work that aims to strengthen and enhance Scotland's forests and the forestry industry, from developing habitat networks to improving timber quality and contributing to the increasingly important social role of forestry. Climate change is the issue of our time and our report is a vital piece of work that will be of interest to the public and private agencies involved in forestry. We are working to inform the healthy debate that needs to take place on the best approaches for adaptation of forestry to climate change."

A summary of the main findings has been published as a Forestry Commission Information Note. A copy of the full report can be found at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/climatechangescotland - and further information at www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechange

RESEARCH LIAISON OFFICERS

Steve Penny has joined staff at the Forestry Commission's Northern Research Station as Research Liaison Officer (RLO) for Scotland.

Steve will provide the point of first contact for anyone in Scotland seeking expert advice or information on forest or woodland research at Forest Research.

Steve will work to enhance the knowledge of forest research output for practical use, and to assist in the delivery of national policies. An equally important role is bringing requests for information back to Forest Research and seeking out the forest industries' and users' views on research needs.

Steve was previously Forestry Commission Scotland's area operations manager in South-East Scotland. He told us, "I've long been an admirer and user of the expertise of the scientists and other staff who work with Forest Research throughout Great Britain. I look forward to working closely with them and the many people who currently use, and will use, the vast breadth and depth of Forest Research information."

Steve can be contacted at the Northern Research Station, tel: 0131 445 6989; mob: 07808 900331; e-mail: steve.penny@forestry.gsi.gov.uk;

Forest Research's Liaison Officer in Scotland, Steve Penny.

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology - Edinburgh

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

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ALL CHANGE

The restructuring of the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology is now well underway. The site at Banchory closed at the end of 2007. Some of the staff from there and from the Dorset site have already moved to CEH Edinburgh, and we are expecting others to move from Monks Wood (Huntingdon) in the course of this year. Not all staff, however, were in a position to be able to move, and so we are also in the process of recruiting new staff to replace essential skills. The consequence is a lot of new faces in the building, and the need for more space. An extension was opened in October 2007, with a mixture of laboratories and office space. To our delight it was ready on time, and on budget.

The influx of staff also means that our science portfolio has expanded to include research on birds and insects, and the site now has two main research sections, headed by Mike Billett (Biogeochemistry) and Allan Watt (Biodiversity and Water). Once all the rearrangements have taken place the staff complement will be around 80, with a further 20 or so students and visitors. Although CEH does not award degrees, we have shared studentships with several universities, with students spending some or most of their research time working on site or at one of our field sites.

CEH Edinburgh is one of the 4 sites that will comprise the 'new' CEH, with our headquarters in Wallingford, and other sites at Bangor (Wales) and Lancaster. Although CEH Edinburgh has its own range of scientific expertise, we can also act as a portal into the whole range of CEH science for collaborative research, and have active links with customers such as Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Scottish research customers such as the Scottish Government, SEPA, SNH and SNIFFER. We also have several EU contracts, as noted in earlier issues of Bush Telegraph. CEH is one of the partners in PEER (Partnership for European Environmental Research: http://peer-initiative.org/html/), which aims to be a world leader in integrating knowledge and expertise for sustainable development.

Cairngorm Wing, CEH Edinburgh, opened October 2007. Photo: Deena C Mobbs

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

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The Bismarck Kingfisher. Photo: Nik Borrow

BIRD SPECIES CONSERVATION AND REMOTE SENSING

Accurate information is essential in assessing the conservation status of species, and informing conservation priorities, but this frequently does not exist. In a recent paper[1], RSPB and other members of the BirdLife network, together with Conservation International, the EC JRC and others demonstrate a novel method for assessing conservation status by utilising remote sensing. Remote sensing is a well established method for assessing forest conversion, and following the production of the first high resolution map of forest loss produced from remote sensing, we use quantitative estimates of loss in combination with the known altitudinal ranges and habitat preferences of the endemic and restricted-range birds of New Britain. This island situated off the east coast of New Guinea supports 37 range restricted species, 16 of which are found only on New Britain. These may be under serious threat from deforestation, with lowland forest reported to be susceptible to clearance for timber and conversion to small-scale agriculture and larger-scale commercial coconut and oil palm plantations.

Approximately 12% of forest cover was lost between 1989 and 2000 (Figure 1), including over 20% of lowland forest (under 100 m altitude). Lowland forest species were hardest hit, with, for example, all forest habitat within the narrow altitudinal range of Bismarck kingfisher (*Alcedo websteri)* potentially lost within less than 50 years. By contrast, montane species have suffered relatively less, but the absolute extent of montane forests is small (habitat for Bismarck fantail *Rhipidura dahlia* is only predicted to decrease by about 15% in the next 50 years, but will by then total about 3200 km^2). The current Red List classifications were supported for most species, but five qualify for uplisting from Least Concern to Near Threatened, two from Least Concern to Vulnerable, and one from Near Threatened to Vulnerable. Two Data Deficient species could be identified as Vulnerable. The novel approach of calculating quantitative estimates of the area of remaining forest, and the rate of forest loss within the altitudinal ranges of each species using remote sensing, permitted the first realistic estimates of their population sizes and rates of decline, and allowed assessment of two Data Deficient species for the first time. We also suggest it demonstrates that the approach could usefully be applied to other areas where the conservation status of species is poorly known owing to sparse field data, aiding the development of an EO based biodiversity monitoring system.

[1] References: Buchanan GM , Butchart SHM , Dutson G , Pilgrim JD , Steininger MK , Bishop D , Mayaux P 2008. Using remote sensing to inform conservation status assessment: estimates of recent deforestation rates on New Britain and the impacts upon endemic birds. Biological Conservation, 141, 56-66.

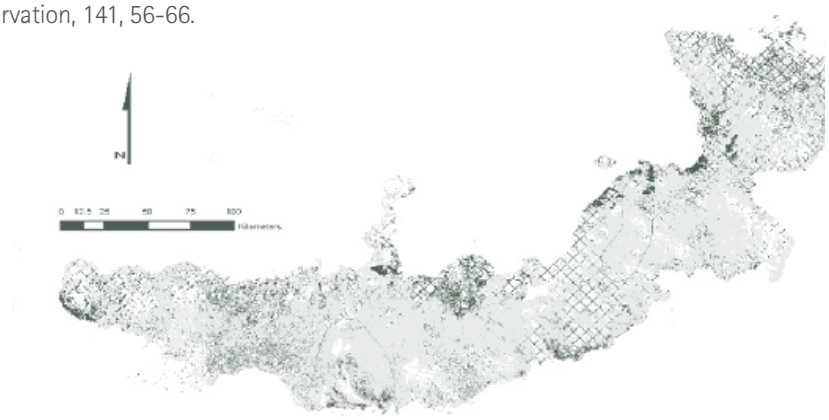

Figure 1 - Land cover change on New Britain between 1989 and 2000. Solid black indicates areas of forest cleared between 1989 and 2000. Light grey indicates areas of forest remaining in 2000 while dark grey indicates areas that had already been cleared in 1989. White indicates cloud cover in either of the two time periods.

Moredun Research Institute

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RESEARCHING DISEASES THAT SPAN SPECIES

HRH The Princess Royal recently praised the efforts of Moredun in trying to combat the diseases of both livestock and other animals. In a showcase event attended by over 100 invited guests, HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the Moredun Foundation, congratulated researchers for their sterling efforts in animal health research.

The event, held at Moredun on 12 February, highlighted a variety of the research being conducted to increase the health and welfare of animals outside Moredun's 'traditional' research portfolio, including grass sickness in horses, a virus that affects red grouse and other wildlife species, the surveillance and investigation of diseases in sea mammals and the viral infection that is having a devastating effect on the red squirrel population.

Professor Julie Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive of the Moredun Foundation commented, "This is the first time Moredun has showcased its work in wildlife. Although internationally renowned for its research in the infectious diseases of livestock, many people are unaware that Moredun also contributes significantly to help protect wildlife like red squirrels, deer, grouse as well as a variety of sea mammals in Scotland".

HRH The Princess Royal meeting researchers at Moredun

Moredun is a world leader in sheep health. However the knowledge and expertise of its staff in infectious diseases allows Moredun to also contribute to wildlife disease research.

The event highlighted Moredun's involvement in the squirrelpox virus work in red squirrels came from Moredun's long standing research programme and knowledge of similar pox viruses and the diseases they cause in sheep. Moredun also has a long standing research programme investigating louping ill – a viral disease spread by ticks that can be fatal in both sheep and red grouse. Moredun offers an important service investigating the causes of death in whales, dolphins and seals found around Scotland's coastline.

The event also celebrated the launch of the 20th Anniversary year of the Equine Grass Sickness Fund (EGSF), a specific fund within the Moredun Foundation. Grass Sickness is a devastating disease which affects all breeds of horses and often results in death. The EGSF is dedicated to supporting and advancing research into grass sickness and further improving the treatment of chronic cases.

Mrs Philippa Gammell, Chairman of the Equine Grass Sickness was delighted that HRH The Princess Royal was able to attend the event. She reported "Her Royal Highness has been Patron of the Fund since 1989. We are extremely grateful for her interest in our work and for the support she has given in helping to raise awareness of this devastating disease. "

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

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BRITAIN'S BLUEBELLS

One of Britain's best-known and most-loved wildflower spectacles in early summer is a carpet of native bluebells, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta.* No wonder there has been widespread concern about the potential threat to native bluebells from the closely related Iberian species *Hyacinthoides hispanica.* This larger species was imported as a popular garden plant but is thought to endanger *H. non-scripta* by both hybridizing with them and out-competing them for suitable habitat. The Bluebell Ecology Project was established by **RBGE** and the **Centre for Ecology & Hydrology Edinburgh** to provide the scientific data needed to clarify the nature of this much-publicised threat.

The first step was to assess the current situation by logging bluebells across Scotland and on both coasts, addressing questions such as: how widespread and abundant are non-native bluebells? Do natives and non-natives occupy similar habitat types? Next, bluebells were planted at seven sites across Scotland to find out how they perform – survive, flower, grow, set seed – side by side in various environments.

Planting bluebells in a range of temperature and rainfall conditions allows the scientists to gather direct evidence of climate effects on performance. They will be looking at whether changes in spring temperatures could reduce the native bluebells' ability to leaf and reproduce, or disadvantage them compared to the Spanish bluebells. Any changes in rainfall pattern could affect the bluebells in western coastal areas where natives reach maximum densities.

When the data are analysed, the team hopes to be able to predict where and under what conditions *H. non-scripta* will do well – including whether particular climate change scenarios could promote non-native or native growth at the expense of the other – and will assess what this means for the future of our favourite flower.

Bryologist Gordon Rothero records bryophytes in quadrats along a transect of a snowbed on Ben Macdui, as part of the Scottish Natural Heritage-funded Snowbed Monitoring Project.

MONITORING SCOTTISH SNOWBEDS

Wild winds scour the high plateau of Scotland's Cairngorm mountains, blasting the snow into hollows and gullies where it packs so deep that some snow remains long after it has melted on the rest of the mountain. Flowering plants can't survive under this near-permanent snow and so, without their competition, a unique plant community has developed, dominated by cryptogram – mosses, liverworts and lichens – that are normally found in Greenland or northern Scandinavia.

As the snow recedes, these plants are under threat. In response to concerns about the threat, the Snowbed Monitoring Project, funded by **Scottish Natural Heritage** (SNH), seeks to measure the changes in this unique habitat by surveying different species of bryophytes within designated areas.

The work is being carried out by bryologist and mountaineer Gordon Rothero, who first surveyed snowbed bryophytes for SNH back in 1989. Gordon has been able to return to some of his original survey sites, compare photographs and assess changes. He is now setting up permanent transects in the Cairngorms so that the work can be repeated 10 or 20 years from now.

Scottish Crop Research Institute

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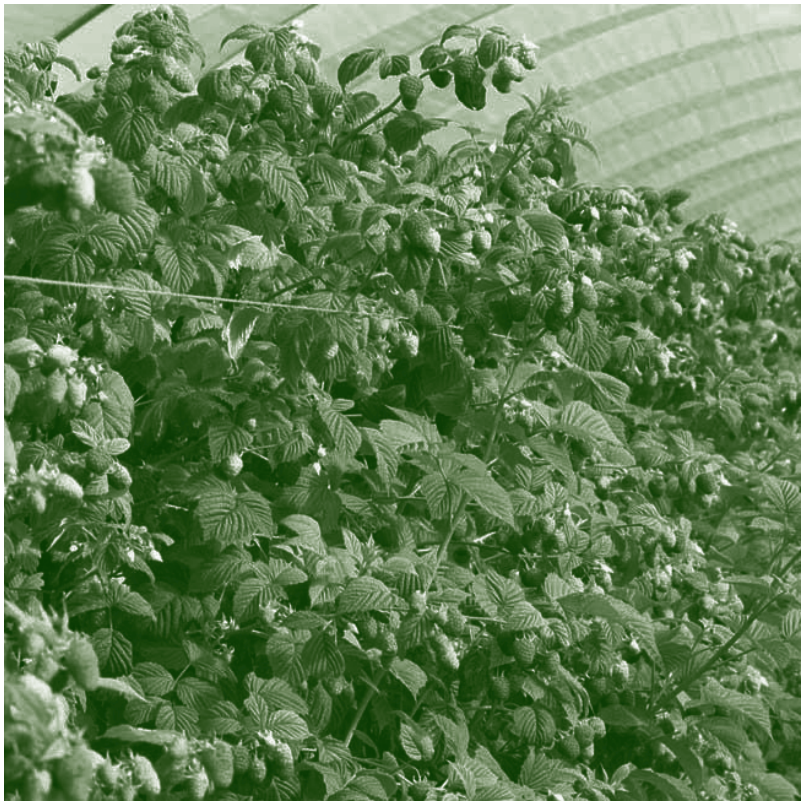
COULD TEA COMBAT DIABETES?

Drinking black tea could help prevent diabetes, according to new findings by scientists at SCRI working with a team at Dundee University. The researchers believe black tea may have the potential to combat Type-2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease. They believe certain constituents of tea might act as an insulin substitute. The results of the research appear in the current issue of the journal Aging Cell.

In collaboration with colleagues at the SCRI, the researchers discovered that several black tea constituents, known as theaflavins and thearubigins, mimicked insulin action. Dr Derek Stewart, head of the Plant Products and Food Quality programme at SCRI, said: "This collaborative study forms part of SCRI's effort to understand the basis of how and why our food is good for us. Although this study focussed on tea, similar compounds are found in common soft fruit and these will also be the studied as part of our effort in to nutritionally enhancing our fruit.

Dr Derek Stewart, head of the Plant Products and Food Quality programme at SCRI

Dundee University's Dr Rena stressed that further research was needed. "People shouldn't be rushing to drink masses of black tea thinking it will cure them of diabetes," he said. "We are still some way from this leading to new treatments or dietary advice."



POLYTUNNEL RASPBERRIES BEST?

Scientists at SCRI say there is mounting evidence that raspberries grown in polytunnels are bigger and taste better than those grown out-of-doors and unprotected from the elements.

Fruit was assessed from field and polytunnel sites at SCRI and at Blairgowrie in Scotland's "fruit belt". Without exception the taste in terms of sensory perceptions of sweetness and flavour intensity were significantly higher in fruit grown under plastic protection. Size was also significantly increased in the case of soft fruit grown under cover.

The retail market for fresh raspberries is currently valued at over £50 million and has grown substantially over recent years. Persuading people to eat more health-boosting fruit is a Scottish Government priority.

The scientist leading the project, SCRI's Dr Julie Graham, said: "New production methods, particularly growing under plastic protection, offer opportunities for season extension and improved quality of produce. And yet still only 6% of consumers in the UK eat fresh raspberries in any given season. Clearly there is still room for major expansion of sales, provided the industry can grow the kind of fruit consumers want."

UN YEAR OF THE POTATO CONFERENCE

The Improving International Potato Production conference will be held at Dundee's Apex Hotel on Friday August 8th organised by SCRI and its commercial subsidiary Mylnefield Research Services.

Among the Conference speakers will be Dr Pamela Anderson, the Director General of the International Potato Centre in Peru, and Dr Mike Storey, the Head of Research and Development at the British Potato Council.

For more information contact Communications, SCRI, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5DA. Tel: +44 (0)1382 562731

In Brief. . .

New Keeper at National Museums of Scotland

Dr Nick Fraser has taken up post as Keeper of Natural Sciences at the **National Museums of Scotland.** Nick comes from the position of Director of Research and Collections and Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology at the Virginia Museum of Natural History where he has been working for the past 18 years.

Nick's research interests include terrestrial faunal and floral change across the Triassic-Jurassic boundary. His recent book, with the artist Douglas Henderson, entitled "Dawn of the Dinosaurs: Life in the Triassic" has been praised by reviewers. He has undertaken extensive fieldwork in the UK, North America and China.

Nick began his scientific career with a BSc degree in Zoology at Aberdeen University and followed with a PhD in Geology, also at Aberdeen.

Dr Nick Fraser

Edinburgh appoints new Vice-Principal

Professor Nigel Brown has been appointed Vice-Principal and Head of the **College of Science & Engineering, Edinburgh University.** Nigel is currently Director of Science & Technology at the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). He has also been a key contributor to the strategic development of Research Councils UK (RCUK).

Professor Brown takes up his post on 1 September 2008.

Professor Nigel Brown

New Director at Millport

Professor Jim Atkinson, Professor of Marine Biology at the **University Marine Biological Station, Millport** has taken up post as Acting Director at the Station.

Jim's research interests include: aspects of fisheries ecology, particularly crustacean fisheries and ecological studies to ground-truth fishery-independent methods of stock assessment for application to langoustine and mantis shrimp fisheries.

Jim is a qualified diver and UMBSM Research Vessel Manager.

Professor Jim Atkinson

Economics of disease control

George Gunn, Professor of Population Medicine and Zoonoses at **SAC**, gave his inaugural lecture on the 15th February. Over 120 people heard Professor Gunn's speak on 'Specialisation in Generalisation: Veterinary Research in a Highland Location'.

Professor Gunn was awarded his Professorship in recognition of his work linking field disease surveillance to epidemiological research and the assessment of the costs and benefits of disease control. Working with economics colleagues he has led the way in understanding the costs of endemic diseases and the practical rationale for their control. He has broadened the scope of **SAC's** epidemiology research programme enormously, helping implement the bench marking of disease for the UK pig industry and influencing thinking about animal disease control policies in Scotland, the UK and Europe.

Outstanding research

Professor Alan McNeilly of the **MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit** has been awarded prestigious medals from two UK societies. The Dale Medal was awarded by the Society for Endocrinology (SoE) in recognition of Professor McNeilly's outstanding research, which has changed the understanding of endocrinology in a fundamental way, and is the highest accolade bestowed by the Society. Professor McNeilly also received the Marshall Medal from the Society for Reproduction and Fertility. This is the Society's premier honour and is awarded to an outstanding contributor to the study of fertility and reproduction.

Professor Alan McNeilly

ECRR DIARY 2008

May 1	Directors' lunch	Edinburgh University, School of GeoSciences, King's Buildings	12.30
	Main Board meeting		14.00
June 9	Executive Committee meeting	St Andrews University	10.30
	Directors' lunch		12.30
Sept 16	Executive Committee meeting	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Edinburgh, Bush Estate, Roslin	10.30
	Directors' Lunch		12.30
	Workshop – "Funding of rural research"	Venue TBA	14.00-17.00
Nov 5	Main Board meeting & AGM	Venue TBA	15.00
	Reception		17.00
Dec 2	Executive Committee meeting	Heriot Watt University	10.30
	Directors' lunch		12.30

Animal Athletes: Welfare of Animals in Sport

Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Sciences (SCAWS)

is organising this conference at the
Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh
24 September 2008

Provisional Programme

10.00	Coffee and Registration	
Chair	**Prof. Sir Colin Spedding**	
Session 1 "Concerns"		
10.35	**Carrie Humble**	Racehorse Rehabilitation
11.05	**Denis Bearly**	Greyhound Vet. in UK and Ireland
11.35	**Peter Webbon**	CEO of the Animal health Trust
12.05	**General Discussion**	
12.45	**Poster Session and Buffet Lunch**	
Session 2 "Solutions"		
14.05	**Ian Strachan**	Animal Welfare Legislator, Scottish Gov.
14.35	**Mark Johnston**	Vet and Racehorse Trainer
15.05	**Peter Laurie**	Welfare Officer, British Greyhound Racing Board
15.35	**General discussion**	
16.10	Tea and Close	

Posters: Attendees are welcome to submit the title and short abstract for posters.
For more information contact Colin Morgan colin.morgan@sac.ac.uk or 0131 535 3230

ECRR Member Organisations

University of Edinburgh	www.ed.ac.uk
College of Science & Engineering	
College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine	
College of Humanities & Social Science	
Scottish Agricultural College	www.sac.ac.uk
Research & Development	
Education & Training	
Heriot Watt University	www.hw.ac.uk
University of St Andrews	www.st-andrews.ac.uk
Napier University, School of Life Sciences	www.napier.ac.uk/fhls/lifesciences
University of Stirling, Institute of Aquaculture	www.aquaculture.stir.ac.uk
UHI Millennium Institute	www.uhi.ac.uk
University Marine Biological Station Millport	www.gla.ac.uk/centres/marinestation
Moredun Research Institute	www.mri.sari.ac.uk
Forest Research, Northern Research Station	www.forestreachearch.gov.uk
Roslin Institute	www.roslin.ac.uk
Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland	www.bioss.sari.ac.uk
British Geological Survey	www.bgs.ac.uk
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology Edinburgh	www.ceh.ac.uk
MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit	www.hrsu.mrc.ac.uk
National Museums of Scotland	www.nms.ac.uk
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	www.rbge.org.uk
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - Scotland	www.rspb.org.uk
Scottish Agricultural Science Agency	www.sasa.gov.uk
Scottish Crop Research Institute	www.scri.sari.ac.uk
Scottish Natural Heritage	www.snh.org.uk
Scotland & N. Ireland Forum for Environmental Research	www.sniffer.org.uk
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FUTURE ISSUES

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