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Report of my attendance to the 11<sup>th</sup> *Antirrhinum* meeting in May 2001.

At the beginning of May, I had the pleasure to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> *Antirrhinum* meeting in Gargnano. It lasted two days and offered a range of talks which I followed with much interest as many of them were connected either directly to the subject of my PhD (e.g. Floral symmetry in *Lotus japonicus* (Luo Da)) or connected to the type of approach characteristic of my project (e.g. Genes involved in limp development (Emma Keck), Towards isolating the flower shape genes in *Plantago lanceolata* (Reardon Wesley)).

I gave a talk on the preliminary results of my project which investigates how conserved is the mechanism controlling dorso-ventrality between *Antirrhinum* and the Solanaceae, a family related to that of *Antirrhinum*. I was pleased to notice that my talk raised the interest of many researcher familiar to this type of studies and I could discuss my project with a few of them, including Cathie Martins, Zsuzsanna Schwartz-Sommer, Roccario Mario and Da Luo (I intended to meet also Pilar Cubas and Christophe Thebaud but they both cancelled at the last minute). The meeting was very intense (44 talks) but there were many occasions to socialise. As a result, I had the opportunity to meet in an informal context many of the scientists who have written the key papers relevant to my PhD (Jorge Almeida, Da Luo, Zsuzanna Schwartz-Sommer, Desmond Bradley, David Brendan, Valerie Gaudin, Jackie Nugent and Hans Sommer). I am confident that I can now easily contact all of them if it is needed in the future.

Overall, this meeting has been really profitable for my PhD as it gathered most of the best scientists in my field, enabled me to present my work to the *Antirrhinum* group and obtain an interesting feedback. I have certainly broaden my scientific knowledge but even more importantly, I made very important contacts that will surely provide me with more support and opportunities for my future as a plant scientist.

Next year's meeting is held in France and I have been invited to talk again.

I am very grateful for the financial help that was provided by the James Rennie Bequest towards the attendance of this meeting and I wish to thank the committee for having giving me their support.

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