

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/Conference Title: 7th International Botanical Microscopy Meeting

Travel Dates: 11/04/2003-18/04/2003

Location: University of Lisbon, Portugal

Group Member(s): Eric Kalkman, Nick Read

Aims: Presenting poster

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The reason for me attending the 7th International Botanical Microscopy Meeting in Lisbon was to present a poster entitled: Endocytosis in filamentous fungi. The topic of this was very relevant to the meeting as there were many other people there working on endocytosis.

I received very good responses to my poster and had extremely helpful discussions, which strengthened my opinion that there are marked differences between endocytosis in plants and fungi, and indeed between plants and animals. These differences have provided much food for thought for the design of my future experiments, and made the meeting extremely worthwhile for me. I also benefited greatly from discussions about microscopy techniques, both in the talks presented, and informal conversations.

Constructing the poster and presenting the poster proved to be a very useful exercise. It greatly clarified the scientific problems I am working on and gave me much experience in communicating my scientific results and ideas to others.

Presentations covered areas such as fungal processes, fungal plant pathogens, 3D imaging of cells, endocytosis in plants, root hair tip growth in plants.



Figure 1 Lisbon University

Apart from the scientific part the social part of the meeting was very rewarding too. Trips to the aquarium in Lisbon and the castle were organized and were both fun and interesting. These were also great opportunities to get into contact with other scientists on an informal basis and have discussions that were quite often very useful.



Figure 2 Oceanarium in Lisbon



Figure 3 Oceanarium in Lisbon

The second largest aquarium in the world was built in Lisbon for the Expo 1998. It has a stunning display of many different sea animals. Both this and the Parque das Nações that surrounds it were definitely worth the visit.



Figure 4 Castle overlooking Lisbon

The Moors built the Castle in the ninth century and the site was once a Roman outpost. When the Portuguese re-conquered Lisbon, the castle was turned into a royal palace. Many of Portugal's most important historical events have taken place within the Castle's walls. Kings have been born here, and Vasco da Gama was received at the castle after his historic voyage to India.