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International Organization for Chemical  
Sciences in Development

Working Group on Plant Chemistry

**IOCD International Symposium**  
**BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHARMACOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS**  
**OF PLANTS OF THE AMERICAS**  
**Viña del Mar, Chile, November 8-11, 2009**

## REPORT

The above mentioned IOCD-Symposium was initiated by Prof. Kurt Hostettmann, chairman of the Scientific Committee. The local organization was attributed to Prof. Ricardo San Martín, Catholic University of Chile, Santiago. Unfortunately, Prof. San Martín could not act as chairman of the local Organizing Committee due to health problems. We had to find urgently another chairman suggested by Prof. San Martín, namely Mr. Javier Sainz from Natural Response, a company dealing with extraction of plants located at Quilpue, near Viña del Mar. Mr. Sainz was assisted by Ms. Andrea Belancic, from the same company. The new organizing team performed an immense and fantastic work and attracted participants not only from academia but also from industries involved in the development of natural products. A total of 91 scientists attended the Symposium:

- 81 from the Americas
  - Argentina : 5
  - Brasil : 2
  - Chile : 70
  - Mexico : 1
  - Panama : 1
  - USA : 2
- 8 from Europe :
  - Austria : 1
  - France : 2
  - Netherland : 1
  - Switzerland : 4
- 1 from Asia (China)
- 1 from French Polynesia (Tahiti)

The opening lecture should have been delivered by the famous Prof. Koji Nakanishi, Columbia University, New York. Unfortunately, Prof. Nakanishi could not attend due to health problems and cancelled his participation 5 days before the beginning of the Symposium. Thus, Prof. K. Hostettmann gave the opening lecture entitled « The Plant Kingdom, a still unexploited source of new drugs» in order to demonstrate that plants will still lead to new drugs. Recently, substantial progress could be realized in the field of the control of Alzheimer's disease. In addition to the opening lecture, 13 plenary lectures were delivered by eminent scientists working mainly with plants from the Americas. Agricultural and medical applications of compounds and extracts of plants of South America were highlighted, as well as analytical techniques and industrial production of various plant constituents, for example the natural sweetener stevioside from *Stevia rebaudiana*, a plant originating from Paraguay which is now cultivated in numerous countries, mainly Brasil and Chile. The importance of saponins in human medicine, in veterinary medicine, in food industry and in agriculture was evidenced and discussed. In particular also the role of saponins as adjuvants in vaccines.

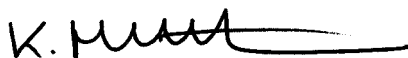
A very interesting poster session took place with 16 presentations. There were also two oral short communications.

After the closing of the Symposium, a visit of a winery was organized at Casablanca Valley, located between Santiago and Vina del Mar. All participants could taste excellent Chilean wines, including the famous Carmenère which is native from Europe but survived only in Chile.

The overall aims of the Symposium were achieved and the meeting can be considered as a great success. Perhaps more participants were expected. This is most probably due to the last minute change of the local organizer. Less participants allowed on the other hand more interactions between the scientists present at Vina del Mar.

We express our gratitude to IOCD for providing funds to organize this Symposium, to two important sponsors from Chile and to the invited speakers and poster contributors who allowed us to have a meeting of high scientific level. Last but not least, our thanks go to Javier Sainz and Andrea Belancic who did a great job as the local organization was absolutely perfect in a nice surrounding, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Champex, 15 December 2009



Prof. K. Hostettmann  
Chairman, IOCD Working  
Group on Plant Chemistry

P.S. The Abstract Book is available from the local organizers