



« Montpellier, a thousand and one lives »

**Proposal to host
the 13th International Congress of Ethnobiology (ICE 2012)
in Montpellier, France**

Host Organization:

Research team

“Biocultural Interactions: domestication, resource management and human ecology”

Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (CEFE)

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Proposed Collaborating institutions and organizations

- Agropolis International

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- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

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- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)

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- CIRAD (Agricultural Research for Developing countries)

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Website: <http://www.agroparistech.fr/-English-version-.html>

Other proposed collaborators and supporters:

- INRA (French National Institute for Agricultural Research)
<http://www.international.inra.fr/>
- CEMAGREF (Agricultural and Environmental Engineering Research)
<http://www.cemagref.fr/English/>
- IAMM (Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier)
<http://www.iamm.fr>
- IFREMER (French Research Institute for Exploration of the Sea)
<http://www.ifremer.fr/anglais/>
- Centre International d' tudes Sup rieures en Sciences Agronomiques (Montpellier SupAgro)
<http://www.supagro.fr/>
- University Montpellier 3
<http://www.univ-montp3.fr/>
- Laboratory of Archaeology of Mediterranean Societies
<http://www.archeo-lattes.cnrs.fr>
- Maison des  coles Doctorales (MED)
<http://med.univ-montp2.fr/>
- Montpellier township
<http://www.montpellier.fr/>
- Montpellier Agglomeration
http://www.montpellier-agglo.com/03784459/1/fiche___pagelibre/&RH=1159291527598&RF=1140962347089
- Departmental Council of H rault
<http://herault.fr/conseil/index.html>
- Regional Council of Languedoc-Roussillon
<http://www.cr-languedocroussillon.fr/>

1- Why we want to host the 13th International Congress of Ethnobiology in Montpellier

Since its first edition in 1988, the International Congress of Ethnobiology has become a major international event in the field of the complex interrelationships between human societies and their natural environment. This congress is not only an indispensable event for the scientific community of ethnobiologists; it has also forged its originality by concomitantly offering an outstanding opportunity for the local communities to have their voices listened to by other

stakeholders. Our research team considers it both a great honor and a fantastic challenge to pose our candidacy for hosting the 13th edition of the ICE in Montpellier, and it is with warm enthusiasm that our institutions have agreed to support our submission.

In essence, ethnobiology is a discipline that works to build and strengthen yet fragile bridges between the life sciences and the social sciences. Accordingly, the congress is a unique attempt to forge links between traditional ecological knowledge, the scientific community, decision makers and land-use planners for a better integrated use of natural resources. Montpellier is a crossroad at many levels and an ideal place to meet the goals of the ISE and of its famous congress.

Geographic and cultural crossroad: Montpellier is at the intersection of three cultural spheres: Occitan, French and North African. Summer and winter, morning, noon and night, this cultural melting pot finds its expression through the vibrant artistic life of the city, which hosts various renowned festivals: Radio France Music Festival and the Montpellier Dance Festival, the International Festival of Mediterranean Film... The city is also home to the world-famous Fabre museum (recently renovated), to two opera houses, and to the St Pierre Cathedral, and features a rich historical center with countless gardens.

Montpellier is geographically situated as an open gateway between the developed countries of the North and the Mediterranean and tropical nations where the improvement of livelihoods and of rational use of resources remains a requirement for sustainable development.

Montpellier is also a city of symposia (past events are listed at the following link: http://www.enjoymontpellier.com/47732374/1/fiche___pagelibre/&RH=CORUMEN&RF=1184747719444). Among the major international events in preparation by the *Agropolis International* scientific community, we may mention the 3rd Fair Trade International Symposium in May 2008, the 13th IWRA World Congress Water on September 2008, the APIMONDIA World Congress of beekeeping in September 2009, the CGIAR General Meeting in December 2009, the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists Congress in April 2010, and the 11th Agriculture Congress of the European Society of Agronomy in August 2010.

Biophysical and landscape crossroad: Montpellier is bounded by both mountains and sea. The hinterland of Montpellier is comprised of a large variety of cultural landscapes carved over many generations by agriculture and pastoralism ("garrigue" Mediterranean scrublands, Cévennes chestnuts agroforests, Causses) of major importance for biodiversity as well as for maintaining intimate relationships linking urban and rural areas, citizen knowledge and farmers knowledge, modernity and traditional ways of living that are closely associated with natural environments.

Economic crossroad: Although integrated into the global economic networks, the strength of French land products lies in the very old tradition, both within trade networks and in consumers' habits, of the recognition of geographically circumscribed quality products intimately associated with a local land use system, and of respect for the knowledge systems and know-how related to such products. Montpellier and its surrounding rural ecosystems present exemplary illustrations of such local land products, including worldwide renowned wines (Pic Saint Loup, Listel), cheeses (Roquefort, Caussedou, Sourire lozérien, Pelardon des Cévennes), and seafood (oysters, mussels), to name just a few examples of local flagship products. This particular context, which links modern economy to old-aged local knowledge and know-how, would be an inexhaustible source of inspiration for the congress participants.

Scientific and educational crossroad: Montpellier was one of the very first Western European cities to establish a university, in the 13th Century, including the very old School of Medicine. Today, the "Centre Hospitalier Universitaire" of Montpellier remains one of the most

important in France in a number of areas of medical research. Montpellier also excels in life sciences, agricultural sciences, plant biotechnology and new information technologies.

The city holds the oldest botanical garden of France and one of the oldest in Europe associated with a famous herbarium. The garden was founded in 1593 by Henri the VIth to educate several generations of medical doctors and apothecaries. Throughout the 17th and the 18th centuries, several famous naturalist doctors like Guillaume Rondelet, Pierre Magnol and François Boissier de Sauvages began to forge the worldwide reputation of Montpellier as a “city of botany” that still prevails up until today.

Political and active crossroad between North and South: Montpellier is France’s leading city for applied research in developing countries and for welcoming and providing training and education to a large number of scientists and students from developing countries. It thus holds a strategic position as an important research center with a large variety of institutions focusing on research topics particularly oriented towards issues related to sustainable development in tropical regions. Montpellier is also a leading center for agro-environmental research in the Mediterranean region, and the city hosts many local antennae of international research centers such as ICARDA, Bioversity International, ICRA, CIAT, USDA, CSIRO, CAB and Embrapa. Montpellier is also home to numerous professional organizations, activist groups, NGO’s, producer associations and various publicly funded agencies, as well as active networks devoted to the protection of environment and of related knowledge.

2- How the Congress hosted by Montpellier will further the goals of the ISE

While many examples in ethnobiological research have attempted to build strong linkages between local communities and national and international research teams, a major challenge put forward to our community of ethnobiologists in the 2012 congress will be to improve our understanding of how research in ethnobiology can fruitfully build on partnerships both with local organizations and with public authorities.

Many concrete examples of strong involvement of researchers in Montpellier with local and regional public administration (Department, Region) and with local citizen organizations (environmental NGOs, agricultural and forestry associations) will provide food for thought during the congress upon ways on how academic research may link fruitfully with citizen organizations as well as public administration.

A second framework for developing reflections on the conceptual basis of ethnobiology as well as on methods in the discipline concerns the new role attributed to local knowledge and know-how in the context of environmental issues and sustainable development. There is an urgent need to understand how local societies — whose knowledge systems are put forward as paths for improving environmental management — adapt their knowledge systems to the new environmental arena, to trade circuits that put forward green labels and to the very fact that local knowledge has become a new resource for development. The organization of the congress will actively aim at discussing new concepts and innovative methodologies to understanding local knowledge in the context of the discourse and the practice of sustainable development.

The many students from developing countries who conduct their studies in Montpellier (ecology, forestry, agronomy, anthropology, geography and other subjects) will benefit from the congress.

Multi-scale policies (local, regional, national, European and international) are currently applied in France and researchers in ethnobiology have started to explore this very new context, attempting to understand how local territories and local practices and knowledge systems are affected by policies at these different scales. By providing a venue in which participants can

share their diverse experiences concerning the interface between local communities and policies at different scales, the congress will further the exploration of new concepts and paradigms in ethnobiology.

In France, ethnobiologists strive to facilitate communication and collaboration between disciplines by being themselves crossers of disciplinary borders. Montpellier is an ideal place to engage researchers from a wide range of disciplines. The city offers an exceptional forum to mediatize ethnobiological research and encourage interdisciplinary collaborations with disciplines — geology, pedology, hydrology, archaeology, palaeoecology — that too rarely consider interactions with ethnobiologists.

The Department Council of Hérault is actively involved in decentralized cooperation, especially in Latin America (Chile) and Northern African (Morocco, Tunisia) countries. Furthermore, many villages and small cities of the Languedoc-Roussillon region have twin-town relationships with villages and cities in developing countries. The tendency to twin with towns and villages located in developing countries is much greater than in other regions of France. We plan to mobilize the networks of town Councils, and Languedoc-Roussillon's 129 federations of municipalities ("communautés des communes"), to organize the accommodation of delegates of indigenous and local communities who will attend the congress.

As an illustration of the Region's propensity for North-South solidarity, during the first two weeks of May of this year a major national meeting pertaining to fair trade is being hosted in Montpellier. A few days after, the city is hosting a forum of nearly 40 local associations involved in decentralized cooperation and international solidarity. The fair for the network of producers of medicinal and aromatic plants in France that usually takes place each year in May-June could be organized as a side event of the congress, an association justified by the many linkages existing between ethnobiologists in France and this network.

3- Preliminary ideas of Congress themes

We wish to tentatively propose an overarching theme for the 13th edition of ICE that is highly complementary with the historical background and the intrinsic dynamism of the Montpellier region. This region has been influenced by its long and multicultural traditions as well as recent development. We propose to include all these themes under the banner of:

“Cultural diversity and biological diversity for sustainable development: Exploring the past to build up the future”.

The remarkable diversity in space and time of both natural environments and human societies have contributed to a complex structure of these coupled systems. Human societies have progressively shaped the various landscapes of the Mediterranean region. Using the features of the proposed hosting region as a source of inspiration, we wish to question the history of human-induced changes for a better understanding of the components and dynamics of current global biodiversity. Congress participants would be encouraged to focus on their understanding of past human activities as a means to develop more sustainable patterns of natural resource management in the near future.

The main keywords upon which we would like to draw the congress debates are the following: coupled natural and ecological systems; historical ecology; cultural landscapes; biocultural interactions; socio-ecological resilience.

Following on this issue, we suggest a few indicative sub-themes among many others that will certainly emerge from submissions by declared participants:

- Local products in changing rural/urban relationships;
- Agrodiversity: from domestication to contemporary practices in the global context;

- Land use legacies: excavating fossil knowledge and analyzing contemporary practices;
- Co-learning processes in ethnobiological research: how to build constructive interactions between research and local actors.
- Sustainable development: Local knowledge in relation to environmental norms and policies.

4- How the organizing team will incorporate information sharing structures into the Congress

In addition to the usual plenary sessions, parallel sessions, conferences by keynote speakers, round-tables, workshops, and poster exhibitions that are inherent facets of an international congress, we wish to propose a panel of less usual forms of communications.

Proxy conferences: We will try to facilitate proxy conferences involving representatives of local communities throughout the world who will not be able to attend physically the congress site.

Films and other audiovisual materials: As a complement to the usual poster session, plenary conferences, satellite workshops and parallel sessions, an auditorium of the Congress center will be devoted to the projection of slideshows, videos and movies. We wish to encourage exhibition of audiovisual materials both as an effective means to share scientific results and as a means to improve communication with decision-makers and the public.

Internet forums: During the year preceding the Congress, we plan to initiate various Internet forum networks that will serve as the base of different wrap-up and restitution sessions during the Congress.

Pre-congress workshops: Participants will be invited to propose pre-congress topics that could be held outside of Montpellier. We will give priority to non-scientific proposals that encourage interactions between local producers, associations, NGOs, public services and the delegates representing local communities worldwide.

Side meetings and satellite workshops: If planned sufficiently in advance, several meeting rooms (capacity of 15-20 people) will be available for reservation in 2-hour blocks at *Le Corum* center during the Congress. We will encourage delegates to use this service to organize any significant meetings with other participants during the Congress.

Stands: The available exhibition space, located at the heart of the Congress facilities will be highly visible and accessible during the entire Congress. It represents an excellent opportunity to communicate with public and private organizations, decision-makers, various stakeholders and the general public. Organizations will be warmly invited to reserve an exhibition space during this global occasion.

Public events: Cultural events will be held throughout Montpellier and its environs under the banner of the 13th ICE Congress. Montpellier citizens love public debates on societal issues providing a high interaction between the audience and key speakers (“bar des sciences”, “bistrot des ethnologues”, etc.). Accordingly, several evening conferences involving Congress delegates will be open to the public during the Congress.

Educational events and youth involvement: Students from the University of Montpellier 2 and scholars from various secondary schools involved in nature and culture preservation initiatives through tutored projects under the supervision of scientists will be invited to present their works to the Congress participants.

Dinner and Lunch during the Congress: For delegates who would like to discover Montpellier’s culinary choices, the Congress will be located a short walk from the city centre where a wide range of dining places is available to suit all budgets from international fast food

to high-quality French dining. For those who prefer to make the most of their Congress time, buffet style lunches with quality foods from Mediterranean caterers will be available daily at the Congress facilities. The Slow Food international network, which celebrates knowledge and pleasure in eating, will be solicited to contribute. The Languedoc convivium of this hedonist network is the most active among the 34 French convivia. *Further information on Slowfood network:* <http://www.slowfood.fr/languedoc>

Congress tour: During the Congress, a day trip will be proposed to the delegates, who will be invited to choose among a set of 3 to 4 informative tours in relation to the subthemes of the Congress (marine resources in the coastal lagoon, the protected wetlands of the Camargue, local products of the hinterland, regional nature parks, etc.).

Post-Congress excursions will be proposed to delegates and accompanying persons who wish to further visit the countryside. Recreational activities may also be proposed to accompanying persons during the Congress.

5- The host organization, its strengths in relation to ethnobiology and related fields

The research team “Biocultural Interactions: domestication, resource management and human ecology” is a multidisciplinary (ethnobiology, geography, anthropology, ecology, genetics) and pluri-institutional (IRD, CNRS, CIRAD, University of Montpellier 2) group of scientists hosted at the Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (CEFE), further introduced in Appendix 4. In essence, it is an ethnobiological team with long experience in African, Latin American, Asian, and Mediterranean regions. The analysis of Man-Nature relationships is the major scope of these scientists, who are explicitly trying to approach humans through their cultural diversity, which is a fundamental distinctive character of our natural history. Human practices exerted on Nature are thus viewed as ecological and evolutionary forces. Intense and specific interactions between agricultural activities or the gathering of wild resources, on the one hand, and the functioning of a given plant or animal population, on the other hand, may result in truly coevolutionary dynamics. Selection is not the only evolutionary force that may be altered by human intervention. Indeed, cultural practices often are drivers of gene flow, and of genetic drift, in managed populations. We explore the social links between members of a social group and between social groups, and we try to assess to what extent human social features and population structures of resource species mutually affect each other. Creation and maintenance of genetic diversity in resource populations may depend upon manipulation by human societies and on the flexibility of resource users in response to bioclimatic fluctuations and other causes of environmental change. As the fates of human groups and their main resources are indissociable, one cannot study the biological reproduction of resources without concomitantly exploring the socio-cultural reproduction of the human group that manipulates these resources. We advocate that anthropological observations should be more closely coupled with evolutionary and genetic investigation if one wants to understand the human contribution to the diversity of biotic resources, be they wild or domesticated.

6- Why would ethnobiologists be interested in meeting in the host country and region? What points of geographical and historical interest exist in the region? Please make special reference to cultural and biological diversity; ability to interact with local ethnobiologists and with indigenous, traditional, and/or local communities; and to contacts with other relevant organizations and institutions

Montpellier is bounded between two Unesco biosphere reserves: the Camargue (a biosphere reserve since 1977) and the Cévennes (since 1984). The region holds several listed natural sites along the coast as well as in the hinterland (see overview in pictures in Appendix 6).

France features a very distinctive type of protected area, the regional nature parks. A Regional

Nature Park is an inhabited rural area, recognized at a national level for its high heritage and landscape value, which organizes itself around a concerted project of sustainable development, based on the protection and valorization of its heritage. Three Regional Nature Parks are found near Montpellier (Haut-Languedoc, Camargue, Grands Causses).

The city of Montpellier hosts the head office of the National Federation of the French Regional Nature Parks (45 Regional Nature Parks, 3,706 towns, 23 regions, 68 departments, 3 million inhabitants, 71,298 square km, 13% of French territory).

The Languedoc-Roussillon region also actively contributes to a broad European policy, the Natura 2000 network, favoring the sustainable management of natural environments. Over the last 25 years European countries have together built up a vast network of over 26,000 protected areas covering all the Member States and a total area of around 850,000 square km, representing more than 20% of total EU territory. This vast array of sites, the largest coherent network of protected areas in the world, is a testament to the importance that EU citizens attach to biodiversity.

The region is also notable because of its lavish associative community, focused on local products and conservation. Among the many institutions, several are affiliated with *Agropolis International*. SYAL is a Group of Scientific Interest (GIS) on local agri-food systems (<http://gis-syal.agropolis.fr/>). This organization is mandated to work in partnerships with local (individual as well as collective) actors to encourage small businesses, to work on geographical indications (GIs), norms and institutional plans for improved coordination and interaction between public authorities, scientists and individual/collective private initiatives regarding locally based agri-food systems. Other notable associations are Rural Land and Culture (terroirs & culture) (<http://www.terroirsetcultures.asso.fr>) and CARI (Center of International Actions and Achievements) (<http://www.cariassociation.org>).

Finally, the region is distinguished for the production of a few special local products and production activities: truffle sylviculture, lavender, chestnuts, wine, Mediterranean livestock, olives, lagoon aquaculture of mussels and oysters, beekeeping, hard wheat, fruit tree cultivation, and the production of a wide range of medicinal plants for cosmetic purposes (further illustrated in Appendix 6).

7- Proposed organizational plan

▪ Institutional and government support; fund raising strategy: *Agropolis International*, an outstanding organizational partner

The research team would not be able to organize the hosting of the congress without the enthusiastic support of *Agropolis International*. *Agropolis International* is a consortium of research and educational and non-governmental institutions related to agriculture, food, environment and rural societies. It is Europe's greatest concentration of expertise devoted to Mediterranean and tropical regions. The campus of *Agropolis* hosts 21 different institutes (<http://www.agropolis.fr/about/establishments.html>), including the *Agropolis Museum* that is devoted to agricultures of the world. It is a unique place to discover food and the people who produce it (further information on *Agropolis Museum*: <http://museum.agropolis.fr/english/index.html>). *Agropolis International* works in close partnership with other institutions such as the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, and it has implemented formal collaboration with 25 associate organizations whose activities meet the objectives of *Agropolis International* (http://www.agropolis.fr/about/associate_members.html). *Agropolis International* is a member of Era-More a European network of Centers of mobility. The mission of the Center for Mobility of the Languedoc-Roussillon region is to ease the installation of foreign doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, as well as visiting researchers and professors, who come to work in institutes and

universities that are members of the scientific community of *Agropolis International*. Furthermore, for participants coming from outside the Schengen area *Agropolis International* makes the obtaining of visas significantly easier.

The main territorial communities (Montpellier city township, Montpellier Agglomeration, Department council of Hérault, Regional council of Languedoc-Roussillon) are members of the board of *Agropolis international*. This is a strong warranty for our ability to obtain logistic and financial support from public authorities, as registration fees will cover only a small portion of the budget. Furthermore, *Agropolis International* has contributed to the creation of a Foundation for Scientific Cooperation (Montpellier-Agronomy and Sustainable Development) whose mandate is to assist initiatives such as the hosting of a Congress in the search for private and public funds. We wish to keep registration fees as low as possible (200 € per participant, current value) in order to facilitate the massive participation of delegates from developing countries.

Agropolis International will ensure the conception, maintenance and hosting of a professionally designed and multilingual congress website. In close partnership with the ISE Board, the organizing research team will put together a proposal to publish the major scientific outputs of the congress in the form of a special issue in an electronic journal. The publishing services of a few collaborating institutions (CNRS, IRD, INRA) will be used to produce an edition of the overall proceedings in paperback, including a multimedia CD-rom compilation of the audiovisual contributions.

▪ Infrastructure

Agropolis International has convened a special agreement with the company managing *Le Corum* conference center, and this will greatly improve access to the full range of facilities at the venue (further information about *Le Corum* conference center is found in Appendix 3). The center is equipped with all the necessary communication and correspondence facilities, including phone, fax, and high speed (including wireless) Internet access. English will be the main language of communication during working sessions and for printed material. Details regarding the venue, custom formalities, travel and accommodation costs, and other facilities are found in Appendix 2.

During one day, we will relocate the Congress sessions to the *Agropolis campus*. The campus is located 20mn by bus from the historical center. Sessions would be held in different buildings (all within walking distance of one another) of *Agropolis International*, *Agropolis Museum*, IRD, SupAgro Montpellier, Cirad, Cemagref, House of Remote Sensing, IAMM, and AgroParisTech Engref. The goal is to offer to congress delegates a unique overview of the research and educational capacities of the Campus and the possibility to establish contacts with scientists who will not necessarily attend the congress.

▪ Proposed local organizing committee

- The members of the research team “Biocultural interactions: domestication, resource management and human ecology” (CEFE):

- **Dr. Yildiz Aumeeruddy-Thomas**, Ethnobiologist, specialist of traditional ecological knowledge and conservation practices in Indonesia, Himalaya, Pakistan, and Mediterranean countries.
- **Laure Benoît**, Biologist, assists scientists for their laboratory biological analyzes.
- **Dr. Roland Bourdeix**, Botanist, is specialized on the improvement of genetic resources and expert on coconut trees.
- **Dr. Sophie Caillon**, Geographer, is a specialist of human and plant migrations throughout the Vanuatu archipelago.

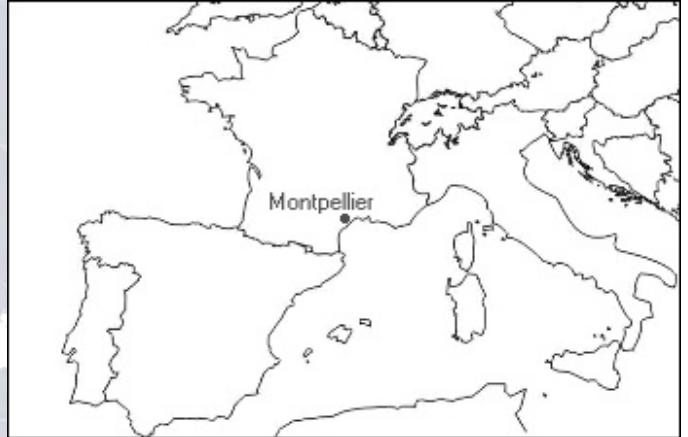
- **Dr. Geo Coppens**, Geneticist, is mainly interested by the ethnobotanical inventory of neotropical fruits.
 - **Dr. Edmond Dounias**, Ethnoecologist, is concerned by the future of rainforest peoples and their adaptation to climate change.
 - **Dr. Hélène Joly**, Geneticist, is mostly interested by the evolutionary, biology and ecology of domesticated plants.
 - **Prof. Doyle McKey**, Ecologist, is a specialist on the evolutionary ecology of mutualisms, including domestication mutualisms. He works on interactions between animals and plants, and between people and plants, in tropical regions.
 - **Brigitte Cabantous**, Direction Secretary of *Agropolis International*.
 - **Dr. Michel Chauvet**, Agronomist and Ethnobotanist, is leading the French office of the PROTA program (Plant Resources of Tropical Africa).
 - **Dr. Richard Dumez**, Anthropologist, is mainly interested by local practices in regards to fire production and control.
 - **Prof. Bernard Godelle**, Evolutionary Biologist, leads the doctoral school SIBAGHE (Systèmes Intégrés en Biologie, Agronomie, Géosciences, Hydrosociences, Environnement) at the University of Montpellier 2.
 - **Dr. Élisabeth Motte-Florac**, Ethnopharmacologist, is specialized on therapeutic practices, aromatic plants, and history of pharmacopoeia and botany.
 - **Dr. Geneviève Michon**, Ethnobotanist, is exploring the concept of nature at the interface between local practices and national/international environmental policies.
 - **Louis Olivier**, Ecologist, is Director of the Cévennes National Park.
 - **Alain Renaux**, Ethnobotanist, is an expert on plant uses by the inhabitants of the Cévennes National Park.
 - **Dr. John Thompson**, Assistant Director of CEFE, Ecologist, works on the ecology, population dynamics and conservation of plants.
 - **Les écologistes de l'Euzière**
<http://www.educ-envir.org/~euziere/anglais/indexang.htm>
- **Proposed advisory committee**
- **Dr. Miguel Alexiades**, Ethnobotanist, University of Kent, UK.
 - **Dr. Jacques Blondel**, Ecologist, CEFE, France.
 - **Dr. Anthony B. Cunningham**, Ethnobotanist, People and Plants International, Australia.
 - **Dr. Bernard Delay**, Ecologist, CNRS, France.
 - **Prof. James Fairhead**, Anthropologist, University of Sussex, UK.
 - **Dr. Éric Garine**, Anthropologist, University Paris 10, France.
 - **Prof. Francis Hallé**, Botanist, France.
 - **Dr. Philippe Marchenay**, Anthropologist, CNRS, France.
 - **Dr. Christine Padoch**, Anthropologist, New York Botanical Garden, USA.
 - **Sir Gillean T. Prance**, Botanist, Kew Gardens, UK.
 - **Dr. Jan Salick**, Ethnobotanist, New York Botanical Garden, USA.
 - **Dr. George Wilcox**, Archaeologist, CNRS, France.

Appendix 1: Location of Montpellier

France within Europe



Montpellier within France



Montpellier along the Mediterranean coast



Montpellier historical center



Le Corum congress center



Appendix 2: Travel and logistics

Do you need a Visa?

The European territory of France is part of the Schengen area. The Schengen area includes the territory of the following European Union countries and associated countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

For short stays (under 90 days or multiple stays totaling less than 90 days in a period of six months) in the Schengen area, European regulations determine the list of countries from which citizens are not required to have a visa to enter the Schengen area.

A visa is waived for:

- citizens of the following countries: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela;
- holders of passports from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Special Administrative Region of Macao of the People's Republic of China;
- holders of a valid residence document in France;
- holders of a residence document issued by a country which adheres to the Schengen Agreement;
- holders of a travel document issued by a country which adheres to the Schengen Agreement.

Further custom information:

- France diplomatie : http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france_159/entering-france_2045/index.html

How to travel to Montpellier?



Air

Montpellier's international airport has connections to 60 destinations across France, Europe and worldwide. It is serviced by main airlines and low-cost companies. For other air options, you may also consider nearby regional airports such as Barcelona, Lyon, Marseille, Beziers, Carcassone, Nimes or Perpignan.

Costs:

- Flights from Paris (more than ten daily services): 400 € (100 € if connection with an international flight).
- Low Cost flights from London (50 €), Amsterdam (150 €), and

Madrid (350 €).

Train

With 11 daily services from Paris aboard France's famous TGV, the centre of Montpellier is only a 3.30-hour train ride away (full price is around 100 €). Direct fast train services (TGV) to Montpellier are also available from key European cities such as Brussels (135 €), Geneva (100 €), Lyon (50 €) or Marseille (30 €).

Road

Montpellier is situated by one of the main road arteries in the south of France. It is a short drive from key cities such as Barcelona (3hrs) and Geneva (4hrs).

Further transport information:

- SNCF (Rail): <http://www.voyages-sncf.com>
- Montpellier airport: http://www.montpellier.aeroport.fr/layer_en.asp?nav=0_0_0
- TAM (bus, tramway): http://www.montpellier-agglo.com/tam/page_en.php?id_rubrique=14

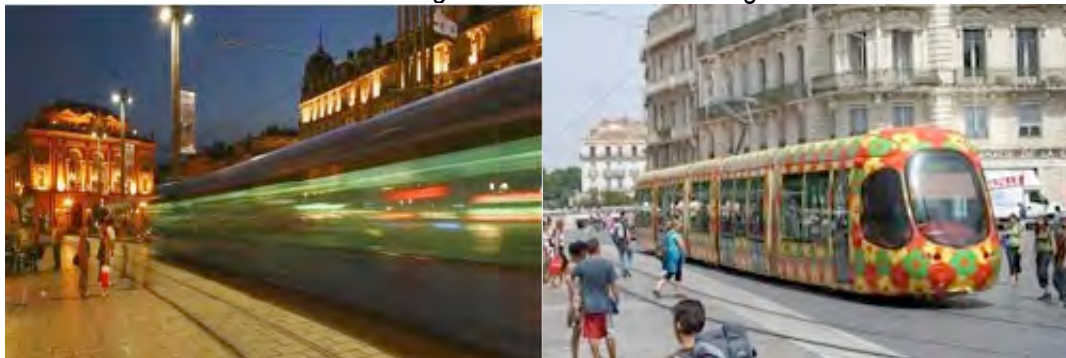
City facilities

A fully pedestrian historical center

Montpellier is located in the south of France with its celebrated Mediterranean lifestyle. Taking advantage of the long summer days, visitors can explore by walking its old medieval town. The elegant historic and pedestrian centre is a myriad of little streets, full of shops, restaurants, parks and gardens. Visitors may also travel a short distance after the Congress day to nearby Mediterranean beaches and regional seaside towns. Summertime is a season of rich of festivals and artistic events in town and throughout the countryside.

The Tramway and other public transportation

Traveling about Montpellier and its environs is easy with its world-class tram system. This southern France's first tramway enables rapid and inexpensive cross-city travel. Many tram stations are integrated with bus services, park-and-ride schemes and bicycle renting. Buses, car hire or taxis are also available to get out and discover the region.



Accommodation

With more than 4,300 hotel rooms customers have a wide range of choice of quality and price. Montpellier itself has some 2,900 hotel rooms, with 1,000 rooms within five to ten minutes walking distance of *Le Corum* conference and cultural center.

Prices range by category

Categories		Mini / maxi in euros
4 stars	1 person	180 / 200
	2 persons	200 / 220
3 stars Hotel	1 person	100 / 120
	2 persons	130 / 140
2 stars	1 person	70 / 80
	2 persons	90 / 100



Categories	Nber of rooms
4 *	186
3 *	2096
2 *	1796
1*	500
Total	4 582

Further location information:

- Enjoy Montpellier: <http://www.enjoy-montpellier.com>
- Tourist office: <http://www.ot-montpellier.fr/en/>

Appendix 4: The Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (CEFE) at a glance



Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (CEFE) – UMR 5175
<http://www.cefe.cnrs.fr>



CENTRE D'ÉCOLOGIE FONCTIONNELLE & ÉVOLUTIVE

Director: Jean-Dominique LEBRETON
Telephone: 04 67 61 32 00
E-Mail: jean-dominique.lebreton@cefe.cnrs.fr

Secretary: Karine DJARI
Telephone : 04 67 61 32 01
E-mail: direction@cefe.cnrs.fr

Address : CEFE-CNRS, 1919 route de Mende, 34293 Montpellier cedex 5

The CEFE

Research at the CEFE is focused on the major environmental ecological preoccupations of modern day society : global change, biodiversity and sustainable development. Mediterranean and tropical areas are the focal points of this activity. A major research goal is the understanding of mechanism and the identification of scenarios for the dynamics and evolution of ecological system and strategies for their conservation and/or restoration.

The CEFE is comprised of 55 research staff, 24 joint teaching/research positions, 45 administrative and technical support positions, 19 postdoctoral students, and 41 doctoral students. In the last four year period the CEFE participated in a total of 582 publications in indexed scientific journals and 48 invited conference presentations.

(2003-2006)



Ecotron

Partnerships

Technical platforms
ECOTRON, experimental field sites (CEFE and Puechabon), GIS and teledetection, chemical analyses in ecology, molecular markers, meteorological station, library facilities.

Partnerships
13 programs funded by the ANR
35 national and international evaluations
79 members of diverse scientific commissions
37 editorial boards
77 actions of vulgarization and transfer of scientific information

(2003-2006)

Three scientific departments



Population biology



Dynamics of ecological systems



Ecosystem function

Population Biology
- Population function and adaptation
- Integrative biology (behavioral ecology)
- Biodiversity of cultivated tropical plants and human activities

Dynamics of ecological Systems
- Landscape change : dynamics and conservation of biodiversity in relation to human and land-use changes.
- Interdisciplinary : joint analysis of ecological and socio-economic systems.
- Interface of evolutionary and functional ecology (traits)

Ecosystem Function
- Flux of resources and energy in ecosystems.
- Spatial modeling, controlled experimentation
- Relationship between diversity and function, global change

International research programs

"Groups of research" (3 national, 1 GDRE and 2 GDRI), 17 European collaborations and 18 other international collaborations, 3 PICS, and 3 conventions (CNRS/DREI).

Pôles de compétitivité

Pôles thématiques

Member of Agropolis International



Appendix 5: Le Corum, conference center and opera house

Le Corum, the experience and the facilities for the success of your event

Conference Centre and Opera House in the heart of Montpellier

Whether for 50 or 4,000 participants, the Corum Conference Centre - Berlioz Opera House is the ideal site for your annual general meeting with its highly efficient organisation, and a wide range of interesting sites and tourist attractions within easy reach.



Le Corum Quality Commitments



LE CORUM has developed a service commitments policy and obtained the certifications:

- AFAQ Service Confiance®
- ISO 9001 since 2003 by AFAQ, the leading certification body in France and 5th world-wide.

The ISO 9001 standard is the international business reference as regards certification of quality management systems.

The auditorium

Einstein Auditorium



- 318 seats
- specially designed for conferences
- seats in black leather, birch-wood walls, wall-to-wall carpeting
- audio-visual equipment
- simultaneous translation with infrared transmission

Berlioz Auditorium



- 1200, 1500 or 2010 seats
- tailor-made options, and ultramodern technical and audio-visual facilities
- Ideal site for all large meetings, congresses, conventions, and a wide range of cultural events
- simultaneous translation with infrared transmission

Pasteur Auditorium



- 745 seats
- grey leather armchairs with integral writing desks
- simultaneous translation using an infrared system
- sound and lighting control rooms
- audio-visual and projection equipment

20 committee rooms



- well furnished with tables and chairs, or armchairs with integral writing desks
- can be adapted for small conferences (seating 35 to 200)
- as lecture rooms (seating 36 to 144)
- in long table form (seating 24 to 72)

The exhibition

6,000 sq meters of exhibition areas which can be divided into modules:

- Esplanade lounges: 1,680 sq meters
- Antigone area: 1,440 sq meters
- Joffre area: 1,100 sq meters
- Berlioz hall: 1,160 sq meters



Catering area : the lounges

Catering area: the lounges

Highly suitable for business lunches and dinners, gala evenings and cocktail parties, the upper level has an area of 1,680 Sq meters, can be set up for up to 1 000 meals.



The lounge level 3



Corum's Brasserie

Brasserie

3 dining rooms and an open-air terrace, seating a total of 250 persons (340 with the open-air terraces)

The Corum services

As Le CORUM has managed some 200 events a year since 1989, we can provide a highly experienced team to help handle all your logistical problems. Le CORUM has proven and certified excellence in customer service: **You can thus concentrate on the essential : the actual contents of your event.**

From hiring a room to providing every service you need for a successful conference:

- **Event organisation**
- **MANAGEMENT OF HOTEL BOOKINGS**
- **MANAGEMENT OF CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS**
- **Management of exhibitions**
- **Technical services**

The "Enjoy Montpellier Pass". This combines a range of services to help conference members find out more about the city (guided tour), move around (transport card), practise a sport (entry to the Végapolis ice rink and the Olympic Pool), amuse themselves (entry to the Planetarium, Musée Fabre pavilion, etc.) and enjoy the city's friendly atmosphere (free aperitif in one of our partner restaurants).



Further information about Le Corum: http://www.enjoy-montpellier.com/47297322/1/fiche___pagelibre/&RH=ENJOY_EN&RF=CORUMEN

Appendix 6: Montpellier and countryside in pictures

Montpellier historical center

Botanical garden



Amazonian greenhouse



Pedestrian "Vieux" Montpellier: Place de Comédie and winding streets of the old city center



Fabre museum



Faculty of Medicine



Any number of natural sites

Coastal ponds and lagoons



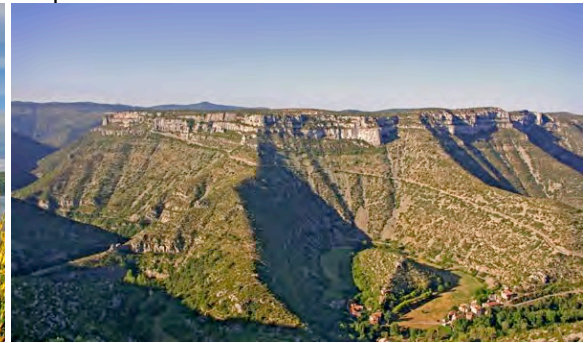
“Garrigue” Mediterranean scrubland



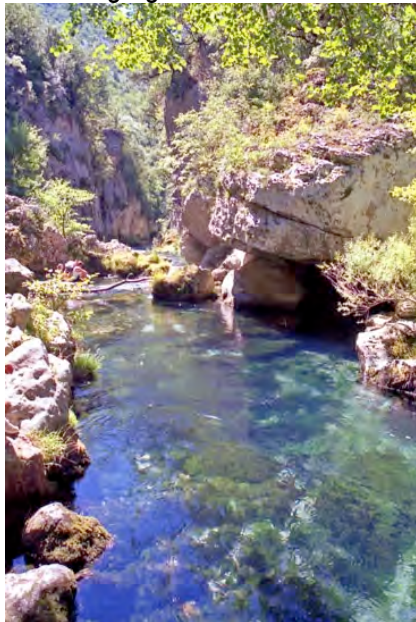
Salagou lake



Cirque de Navacelles



Vis river gorge



Pic Saint Loup



A rich architectural and cultural heritage

Saint Martin de Londres



Saint Jean de Buèges



Saint-Guilhem le Désert



Abbaye de Maguelone



Canal du Midi



Pegairolles sur Buèges



Various listed natural sites

Cévennes National Park



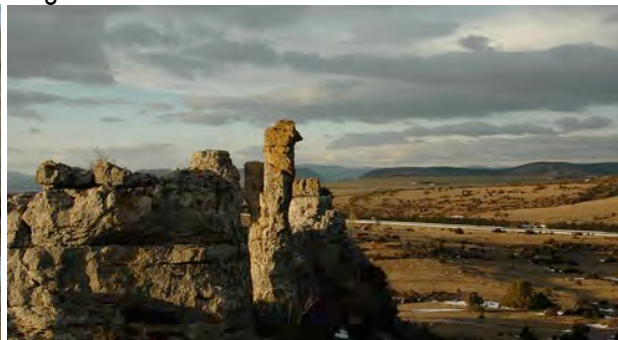
Regional Nature Park of Haut-Languedoc



Regional Nature Park of Camargue



Regional Nature Park of Grands Causses



Some characteristic local products of the Languedoc-Roussillon region

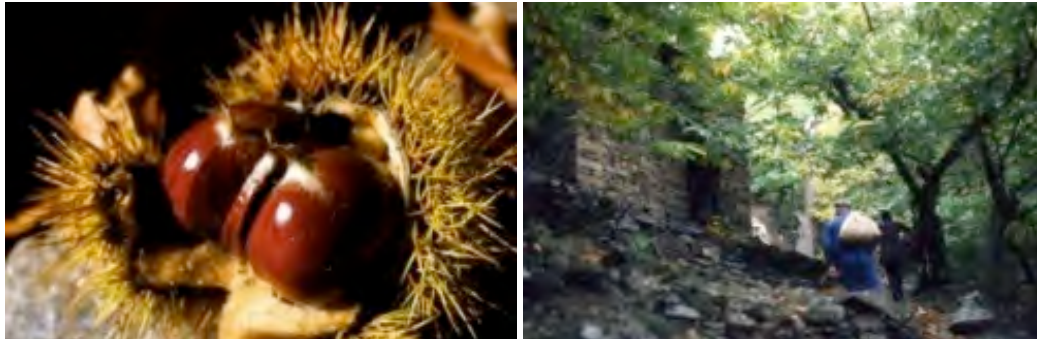
Les simples: Natural cosmetics from medicinal plants



Truffles



Chestnuts



Lavender



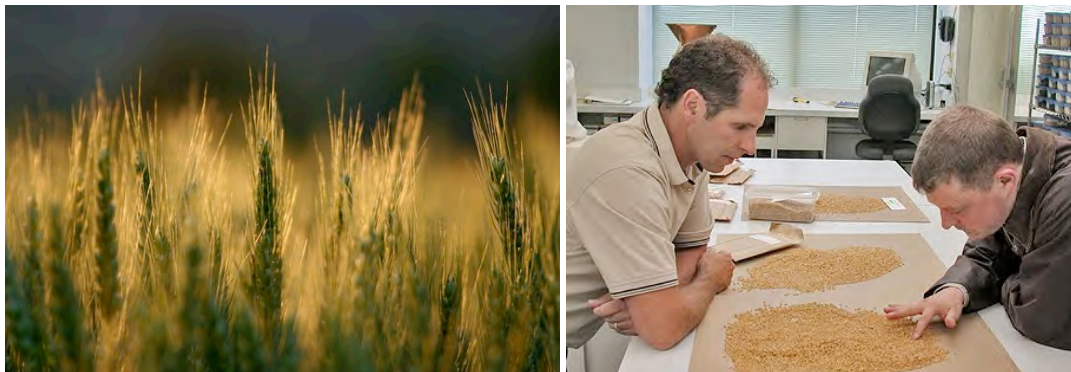
Olives



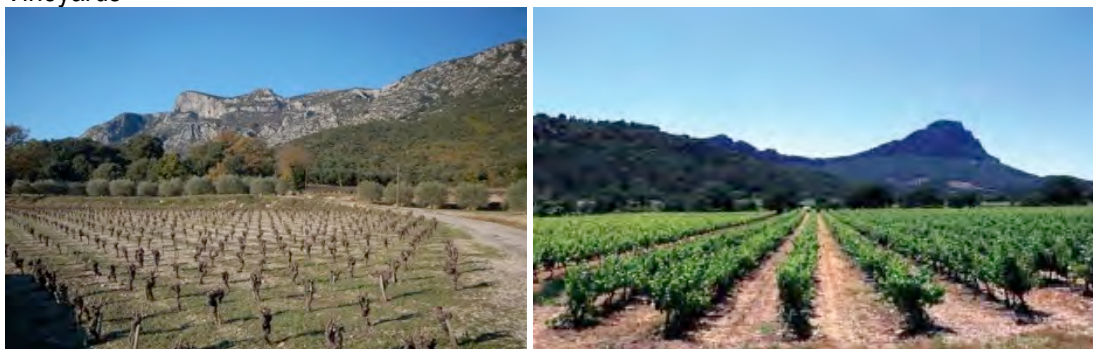
Estuarine aquaculture



Hard wheat



Vineyards



Fruit tree cultivation



Beekeeping



Mediterranean livestock



Cheese

Roquefort



Pélardon des Cévennes

