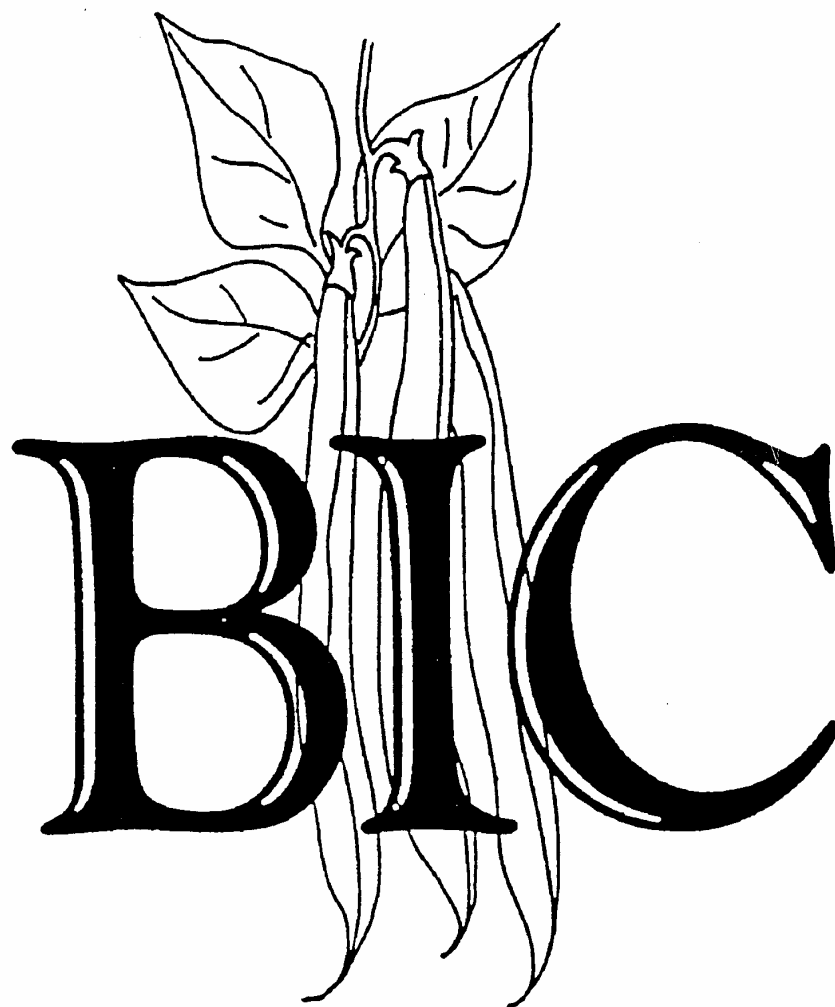


ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

BEAN IMPROVEMENT



COOPERATIVE

**A VOLUNTARY AND INFORMAL ORGANIZATION
TO EFFECT THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND MATERIALS**

VOLUME 49
2006



The XLIX
Report of The
BEAN IMPROVEMENT COOPERATIVE

No. 49

March 2006

[ISSN 0084-7747]

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
XLIX Annual Report of the Bean Improvement Cooperative	i
BIC Committee Memberships - 1957 to 2006.....	ii
Report of BIC Genetics Committee	ii
2005 BIC Awards Recipients	iv
In Memory of Shigemi Honma	ix
BIC/NAPIA Meeting in 2007	ix

RESEARCH PAPERS FOR 2006

Oral Presentations:

Plant Breeding and Genomics: Staying In Touch Perry Cregan	1
The Beans for Health Alliance: A Public-Private Sector Partnership to Support Research on the Nutritional and Health Attributes of Beans Widders, I.E.	3
Phenolic Acids Profiles of Beans Commonly Consumed in the United States Devanand L. Luthria, Marcial A. Pastor-Corrales	6
Effect of Isolates and Concentrations of <i>Xanthomonas Campestris</i> pv. <i>Phaseoli</i> on Dry Bean Genotypes Margarita Lema, Henry Terán, and Shree P. Singh	9
Comparison of Marker-Assisted and Direct Selection for Introgression of Common Bacterial Blight Resistance in Common Bean Robert W. Duncan, Henry Terán, Shree P. Singh, Robert L. Gilbertson	11
Molecular Markers Used To Improve the Level of Resistance to Common Bacterial Blight in Dry Bean Ibarra-Perez, F.J., J.A. Acosta-Gallegos, R. Navarrete-Maya, R. Zandate-Hernandez, P. Fernandez-Hernandez and J.D. Kelly	13
Development Of Races Of <i>Phytophthora Phaseoli</i> , The Causal Agent Of Downy Mildew Of Lima Bean (<i>Phaseolus Lunatus</i>) And Development Of Resistance T. A. Evans, R. P. Mulrooney and L. Santamaria	15
Epidemiological Studies of Downy Mildew of Lima Bean Caused By <i>Phytophthora Phaseoli</i> L. Santamaria, T.A. Evans and R.P. Mulrooney	17
The ‘Maffei 15’ Lima Bean Compensates For Reduced Plant Stand Pill, Wallace G., Thomas A. Evans, Michael W. Olszewski, Robert P. Mulrooney, and Walter E. Kee Jr.	19
Selection for Drought Resistance in Dry Bean Landraces and Cultivars Carlos German Muñoz-Perea, Henry Terán, Richard G. Allen, James L. Wright, Dale T. Westermann, and Shree P. Singh	21
Low Phosphorus Tolerance In An Andean Bean Population Karen A. Cichy, Matthew Blair, and Sieg Snapp	23
Managing White Mold of Lima Beans With Reduced Risk Fungicides And Biofungicides Kathryne L. Everts and Xin-Gen Zhou	27
Chemical Control Strategies for Downy Mildew (<i>Phytophthora Phaseoli</i>) Of Baby Lima Bean Mulrooney RP, Davey JF, Evans TA	29
Reaction Of Common Cultivars To The Asian Soybean Rust Pathogen, <i>Phakopsora Pachyrhizi</i> , Under Field Conditions In South Africa And Brazil M. A. Pastor-Corrales, M. M. Liebenberg, Aloisio Sartorato, P. A. Arraes-Pereira	31
Inheritance and Allelism Of Anthracnose Resistance In Common Bean Jalo Vermelho Cultivar M. C. Gonçalves-Vidigal, G.F. Lacanallo, P.S. Vidigal Filho, M. J. C. Nunes and J. P. Poletine	33
Characterization of the Anthracnose Resistance Genes In Andean Common Bean Jalo Listras Pretas Cultivar Pedro Soares Vidigal Filho, Maria Celeste Gonçalves-Vidigal, Abrão F. Medeiros, Pedrina Gonçalves Vidigal.....	35
Inheritance of Resistance to Lima Bean Downy Mildew (<i>Phytophthora Phaseoli</i>) and Preliminary Lima Improvement Efforts E.G. Ernest, W.E. Kee, L. Santamaria, T.A. Evans	37
Selection of Backcross <i>Phaseolus</i> Germplasm Lines Derived Through Interspecific Hybridization of Common Bean and Tepary Bean Richard C. Pratt, Joseph C. Scheerens, Soon J. Park.....	39

Application of Different <i>In Vivo</i> Pollination Techniques to Improve the Fertilization Efficiency of Interspecies Crosses in the Genus <i>Phaseolus</i>	
Valarmathi Gurusamy, Bert Vandenberg and Kirstin Bett	41
Repeatability of Morphological & Phenological Traits Used By The Cropgro-Dry Bean Crop Model	
Marcos Saliceti, Elvin Román-Paoli and James S. Beaver	43
Systematics and Molecular Variability of Bean Rusts	
M.C. Aime	45
Molecular Advances with Common Bean Rust Resistance	
Phillip N. Miklas	47
The Occurrence of Asian Soybean Rust (Caused By <i>Phakopsora Pachyrhizi</i>) On Common Bean in South Africa	
MM Liebenberg, AJ Liebenberg and ZA Pretorius	49
Diversity of the Rust Pathogen and Common Bean Guides Gene Deployment for Development of Bean Cultivars with Durable Rust Resistance	
M. A. Pastor-Corrales	51
Proceedings from the Rust Workshop Held at the 2005 BIC Meeting: Challenges To and Priorities for Management of Rusts of Common Bean	
H. F. Schwartz, J. R. Steadman and M. A. Pastor-Corrales	53
Poster Presentations:	
Initial AFLP Tagging of the Gene (Cl) for Circumlineated Pattern	
L. Aranda, T.G. Porch and M.J. Bassett	55
Evaluation of Common Bean for Resistance to <i>Clover Yellow Vein Virus</i>	
Richard C. Larsen and Phillip N. Miklas	57
Tillage, Pesticide and Resistance Management Of White Mold In Dry Bean	
Howard F. Schwartz, Mark A. Brick, J. Barry Ogg, Kris L. Otto and Mark S. McMillan	59
Construction and Characterization of a Common Bean BAC Library	
Kangfu Yu, Margaret Haffner and Soon J. Park	61
Quantitative Trait Loci for Resistance to White Mold in Common Bean	
Judd Maxwell, Mark Brick, Patrick Byrne, Howard Schwartz, Xueyan Shan, James B. Ogg and Robert Henson	63
Genetic Divergence in Landrace Bean (<i>Phaseolus Vulgaris</i> L.) Germplasm in the State of Paraná, Brazil	
L. P. Bonett, M. C. Gonçalves-Vidigal, A. R. Schuelter, P. S. Vidigal Filho and Klasmann, J. P	65
Potential Marker-Assisted Selection For Resistance To Sclerotinia White Mold In Pinto And Great Northern Bean	
Phillip N. Miklas	67
Halo Blight Resistance In Host Differential Cultivar ZAA 12 Is Conditioned By Three Major Gene Loci	
Phillip Miklas and Deidré Fourie	69
Biological Control of Sclerotinia Diseases (<i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i>) of Bean and Canola by <i>Coniothyrium Minitans</i>	
McLaren, D.L., Huang, H.-C., Conner, R.L., McAndrew, D.W., Irvine, R.B.	71
A Molecular Marker Linkage Map of Snap Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>)	
J.W. Davis, D. Kean, B. Yorgey, D. Fourie, P.N. Miklas, & J.R. Myers	73
Arcelin-Like And -Amylase-Like Inhibitor DNA Sequences Cosegregate With A Novel Seed Storage Protein In <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> X <i>P. acutifolius</i> Hybrids	
Paul M. Kusolwa and James R. Myers	75
New Sources of Resistance to Bean Rust and Implications for Host-Pathogen Coevolution	
Acevedo, M., Steadman, J.R., Rosas, J.C., J. Venegas	77
Timing of Anthocyanin Deposition in Black Bean	
Adams Frimpong, Perumal Vijayan And Kirstin Bett	79
Effect of Rate of Seed Infection on Anthracnose Severity And Yield Loss In Dry Beans	
Conner, R.L., McAndrew, D.W., Balasubramanian, P. and Kiehn, F.A.	81
Bean Root Rot Evaluation Protocols Currently Used In New York	
George S. Abawi, John W. Ludwig, and Beth K. Gugino	83
Dry Bean Transformation to Enhance White Mold Resistance	
Ann Roselle O. Armenia, Richard F. Allison, and James D. Kelly	85
DNA Sequencing and Analysis: A Tool for Improving Web Blight Management and Resistance Breeding	
Godoy-Lutz G, Kuninaga S, Steadman JR, Beaver JS, Rosas JC	87
Development of Drought-Resistant Bean Genotypes for Ecuador	
Esteban Falconi, Jose Pinzón, and James D. Kelly	89

Use of Multi-Sites to Identify Partial Resistance to <i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i> In Common Bean over Multiple Years	
L.K. Otto-Hanson, J.R. Steadman, C. Kurowski, R. Mainz, J. Kelly, P. Griffiths, K. Grafton, J. Myers, P. Miklas, H. Schwartz, S. Singh, K. Kmiecik, R. Felix, E. Kee, and A. Oppelaar.....	91
Early Growth Promotion of Dry Beans (<i>Phaseolus Vulgaris</i> L.) by Gibberellic Acid	
Alexander D. Pavlista, James A. Schild, Gary W. Hergert, and Carlos A. Urrea.....	93
Progress in Breeding Dry Beans with Resistance to Fungal Diseases in South Africa	
MM Liebenberg, AJ Liebenberg and CMS Mienie.....	95
Bean Quality Accessed By Different Soaking and Cooking Methods	
P.Z. Bassinello, M.G.C. Oliveira, L.L. Rodrigues, D.M. Soares, M.J.D. Peloso, M. Thung.....	97
Response of Dry Bean Cultivars to Fusarium Root Rot under Field and Controlled Conditions	
V. N. Bilgi, C. A. Bradley, J. B. Rasmussen, S. D. Khot and K. F. Grafton.....	99
‘Almonga’, A New Spanish Planchada Dry Bean	
Carmen ASENSIO, M.Carmen ASENSIO S-MANZANERA, Ruth LÓPEZ.....	101
Preliminary QTL Analysis for White Mold Resistance In A Black Bean x Wild Mexican Bean Inbred Backcross Mapping Population	
K.A. Terpstra and J.D. Kelly.....	103
Distribution and Pathogenicity of Bean Common Bacterial Blight in the Semiarid Highlands of Mexico	
R. Navarrete-Maya, J.A. Acosta-Gallegos, F.J. Ibarra-Pérez, R. Zandate-Hernández, P. Fernández-Hernández, J. Navarrete-Maya and J. D. Kelly.....	105
Introgressed Genotypes To Improve Common Bean	
Santalla, M., M. Lema, M. Pérez-Barbeito, M. De La Fuente, S.P. Singh & A.M. De Ron.....	107
Variability In Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation In Common Bean	
A. P. Rodiño, M. Santalla, A. M. González, J. J. Drevon and A. M. De Ron.....	109
Preliminary Screening of Runner Bean for Tolerance to Low Temperature at Early Stage	
A. P. Rodiño, M. Santalla, and A. M. De Ron.....	111
Agronomic Performance of Flageolet Beans in Spain	
A. M. De Ron, A. P. Rodiño, S. Rodríguez, M. Santalla.....	113
Modified Petzoldt and Dickson Scale for White Mold Rating Of Common Bean	
Henry Terán, Margarita Lema, Howard F. Schwartz, Robert Duncan, Robert Gilbertson, and Shree P. Singh..	115
On-Farm Dry Bean Breeding For High- And Low-Input Conventional and Organic Farming Systems	
Shree P. Singh, Henry Terán, Dale Westermann, Richard Hayes, Carlos German Muñoz, Margarita Lema, Marie Dennis, David Fullmer, Richard Parrott, Kenneth Mulberry, and Jay Smith.....	117
Analysis of Iron Content In Different Cultivars, Tissues And Developmental Stages Of Common Bean	
Espinosa-Huerta E., Acosta-Gallegos J. A., Guzmán-Maldonado H.S., Mora-Avilés M.A.....	119
Organogenic Plant Regeneration System for the Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L)	
Saucedo-Ruiz, M., Delgado-Sánchez, P., Guzman-Maldonado, S.H., Villordo-Pineda, E., Acosta-Gallegos, J.A. and Mora-Aviles, M.A.....	121
Effect of Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>) Consumption on Colon Cancer in Spargue-Dawley Rats	
M.C. Ríos-Uglade, R. Reynoso-Camacho, I. Torres-Pacheco, J.A. Acosta-Gallegos, A.C. Palomino- Salinas, M. Ramos-Gómez, E. González-Jasso, and S.H. Guzmán-Maldonado.....	123
<i>Phaseolus acutifolius</i> as a Potential Bridge Species in the Hybridization of <i>P. vulgaris</i> And <i>P. angustissimus</i>	
Gurusamy Valarmathi, Jocepascual Martinez Rojo, Kirstin Bett and Bert Vandenberg.....	125
2006 Articles:	
Agronomic Diversity of Wild <i>Phaseolus</i> Species in Central Mexico.	
Jorge A. Acosta-Gallegos, Francisco Manuel Mendoza-Hernandez, Alejandra Mora-Aviles , Rosa Navarrete-Maya, Bismarck Aguilar-Garzon and Salvador H. Guzman-Maldonado.....	127
Evaluating Heirloom Dry Bean Varieties As A Niche Market Crop In The Maritime Northwest	
Jennifer Wagner, Carol Miles, and Phil Miklas.....	129
Genetic Diversity among Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.) Accessions Based On RAPD Markers	
Marco Antonio Aparecido Barelli, Maria Celeste Gonçalves-Vidigal, Cláudia Thomazella, Pedro Soares Vidigal Filho and Carlos Alberto Scapim.....	131
Genetic Divergence In Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.) Landraces from Paraná State	
L. P. Bonett, M. C. Gonçalves-Vidigal, A. R. Schuelter, P. S. Vidigal Filho and J. P. Klasmann.....	133
Evidence of Gene Flow among Bean Species of Section <i>Phaseoli</i> in Colombia and Costa Rica Using Microsatellite Markers	
R.I. González-Torres, M. Carvajal, O. Toro, M.C. Duque, R. Araya & D.G. Debouck.....	135
Frimex: A Common Bean Data Base Which Includes Mexican Old And Recent Bred Cultivars	

Rigoberto Rosales-Serna, Juan Manuel Hernández-Casillas, Octavio Salvador Magaña-Torres and Horacio González-Ramírez	137
Predicting The Genetic Potential In Segregating Populations Of Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus Vulgaris</i> L.)	
Carlos Lásaro P. de Melo; José Eustáquio de S. Carneiro; Pedro Crescêncio S. Carneiro; Lêlisângela C. da Silva; José Eduardo V. Cintra; Alisson C. Pereira; Maurílio A. Moreira and Everaldo G. Barros	139
Relative Heterosis In Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.) Genotypes	
Lucas Silvério, M. C. Gonçalves-Vidigal, P.S. Vidigal Filho, C. A. Bastos Andrade and J. P. Poletine	141
DNA Sequence Polymorphisms Among Common Bean Genes	
Melody McConnell, Sujun Mamidi, Rian Lee, and Phillip McClean	143
Serine Proteinase Inhibitors In Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.): Preliminary Investigation on Genome Organisation	
Incoronata Galasso, Angela R. Piergiovanni, Lucia Lioi, Bruno Campion, Francesca Sparvoli and Roberto Bollini	145
Toward Production of Genetically Modified Common Bean via Agrobacterium-Mediated Transformation	
Mohamed F. Mohamed, Jun Cao and Elizabeth D. Earle	147
Screening <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L. EMS Mutants to Isolate Plants Failing in Seed Development and to Study Genetics of Embryogenesis	
S. Silué, P. Lariguet, C. Pankhurst, J.M. Jacquemin, W. J. Broughton and J. P. Baudoin	149
Tannin Content of Commercial Classes of Common Bean	
M.W. Blair, G. V. Caldas, P. Avila, C. Lascano	151
Low Phytic Acid (<i>Lpa</i>) Mutants In Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.): Mutant Isolation And Molecular Analysis of Myo-Inositol-3-Phosphate Synthase	
E. Doria, B. Campion, M. Fileppi, I. Galasso, R. Bollini, E. Nielsen and Sparvoli	153
Iron, Zinc and Protein Concentration in African Bean Cultivars	
P. M. Kimani, E. Karuri and S. Mwaura	155
The Effect Of Soaking And Cooking On The Oligosaccharide Content Of Red Kidney Beans (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.)	
G.Nyombaire, M.Siddiq, K.D.Dolan	157
Effect Of Soaking On The Oligosaccharide Content In Common Beans	
Carmen Jacinto-Hernández; Marcela E. Blancas-Carrasco; Samuel Sánchez-Domínguez; J. Enrique Rodríguez-Pérez; Ramón Garza García; Irma Bernal-Lugo	159
Interaction of Storage Conditions On The Loss Of Bean Quality	
Carmen Jacinto-Hernández, Lucero Mendoza-Bahena Irma Bernal-Lugo y Ramón Garza-García	161
Effect of Storage on the Antioxidant Activity of Common Beans (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.)	
Patricia Vargas Vázquez and Yolanda Salinas Moreno	163
Genetic Variability of Pre-Harvest Sprouting In Black Beans Genotypes	
Paulo Campos Granado Zerbinatti, Nelson da Silva Fonseca Júnior, Milena Pierotti Euzebio, Édison Miglioranza	165
Genetic Variability of Pre-Harvest Sprouting In Pinto Beans Genotypes	
Paulo Campos Granado Zerbinatti, Nelson da Silva Fonseca Júnior, Milena Pierotti Euzebio, Edison Miglioranza	167
Genetic Control of Seed Shape of the Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.)	
Dimitar Genchev	169
Seed Coat Integrity: Seed Characteristics and Micro-structure of Seed Coats Resistant to Mechanical Damage of Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.)	
S. J. Park and T. Rupert	171
Effect of Storage on Seed Coat Color Changes In Common Bean	
Patricia Vargas Vázquez and Patricia Pérez Herrera	173
Slow Aging, Darkening, or Oxidizing Dry Bean	
Shree P. Singh	175
Quantification of Change in Pinto Seed Coat Color after an Accelerated Aging Treatment	
John Rayapati, Brett Despain, Pat Jennings, Trish DeMark, Roger Hoffman	177
Assessing Germplasm Resistance to the Soybean Aphid Virus Complex	
Michell Sass, Thomas German, and James Nienhuis	179
Development of a SCAR Marker for Common Bean Resistance to the Bean Pod Weevil (<i>Apion Godmani</i> Wagner)	
M.W. Blair, C. Cardona, C. Quintero, R. Garza, N. Weeden, and S.P. Singh	181

Field Management Of Common Bean Bruchids By Using Selected Phytochemicals In Haricot Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>)	
Mesele Gemu, Shiferaw Mekonen and Asrat Asfaw	183
On-Farm Evaluation of Edible Oils against Bean Bruchids (<i>Acanthoscelides obtectus</i> & <i>Zobratus subfasciatus</i>)	
Mesele Gemu, Shiferaw Mekonen and Asrat Asfaw	185
Pyramiding Of Anthracnose, Angular Leaf Spot and Rust Resistance Genes In Black And Red Bean Cultivars	
Costa, M.R.; Tanure, J.P.M.; Arruda, K.M.A.; Carneiro, J.E.S.; Moreira, M.A.; Barros, E.G.	187
Potential Use of TRAP Markers for Mapping Telomeres In Common Bean	
Phillip N. Miklas and Jinguo Hu	189
Protocol for Visualizing Sequence Related Amplified Polymorphism (SRAP) and Target Region Amplified Polymorphism (TRAP) Markers on Agarose Gels	
Karolyn A. Terpstra, Evan M. Wright, and James D. Kelly	191
Validation and Use for Marker-Assisted Selection of Scar Marker Linked To Common Bean Rust Resistance Gene <i>Ur-5</i>	
Thiago Livio P. O. De Souza, Suelen N. Dessaune, Ana L. Alzate-Marin, Endson S. Nunes, Vagner T. De Queiroz, Maurilio A. Moreira & Everaldo G. De Barros	193
Development of STS Markers Tightly Linked To The Major QTL For Common Bacterial Blight Resistance In Common Bean	
Shuyu Liu, Kangfu Yu, Soon J. Park	195
Pyramiding Angular Leaf Spot Resistance Genes in a “Carioca-Type” Common Bean	
Demerson A. Sanglard, Jeziel D. Damasceno, Thiago Livio P. O. de Souza, Bruno P. Balbi, Maria A. C. Medonça, Everaldo G. de Barros and Maurilio A. Moreira	197
The Impact of CMV in Reducing Yield Of Selected Snap Bean Cultivars And Lines	
A. G. Taylor and J. W. Shail	199
Evaluation for Resistance to Anthracnose of a Core Collection Established From the CRF-INIA Common Bean Collection	
E. Pérez Vega, Campa A., L. de la Rosa, R. Giraldez, and J.J. Ferreira	201
Dissection of The Anthracnose Resistance In The Differential Cultivars TU And MDRK	
Campa A.; E. Pérez. Vega C. Rodríguez-Suarez, R. Giraldez, and J.J. Ferreira	203
Reaction Of Black Bean Lines To Anthracnose, Angular Leaf Spot And Rust Pathogens	
José Eduardo V. Cintra; Pedro Crescêncio S. Carneiro; José Eustáquio S. Carneiro, Carlos Lásaro P. Melo; Alisson C. Pereira & Everaldo G. Barros	205
Reaction of “Carioca-Type” Bean Lines To Anthracnose, Angular Leaf Spot And Rust Pathogens	
José Eduardo V. Cintra; Pedro Crescêncio S. Carneiro; José Eustáquio S. Carneiro; Carlos Lásaro P. Melo; Márcia R. Costa; Maurílio A. Moreira & Everaldo G. Barros	207
<i>Phaeoisariopsis griseola</i> Virulence Pattern And RAPD Diversity	
R. A. V Garcia,, M. S Carneiro,, A. Sartorato	209
Angular Leaf Spot.	
R. A. V. Garcia, M. S.Carneiro, A. Sartorato	211
A Proposal For A Uniform Screening Procedure For The Greenhouse Evaluation Of Variability Of <i>Xanthomonas axonopodis</i> pv. <i>phaseoli</i> And Resistance on Leaves of <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	
Mildred Zapata	213
Reaction Of 36 Common Bean Cultivars Inoculated With Four <i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>phaseoli</i> Isolates.	
R. Navarrete-Maya, J. A. Acosta-Gallegos, F. J. Ibarra-Pérez, J. Navarrete-Maya, F. M. Mendoza Hernández and J. D. Kelly	215
A New Method for Screening Resistance of Common Beans (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.) To <i>Fusarium</i> Root Rot	
S. Chaudhary, T.R. Anderson, S. J. Park, K. Yu	217
Soil Moisture Affecting Activities of <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> and <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>	
Paula Jr., T.J. and Hau, B.	219
White Mold on Common Bean Related to Plant Density, Fungicide, Irrigation and Application of <i>Trichoderma</i> spp.	
Paula Jr., T.J.; Vieira, R.F.; Bernardes, A.; Ribeiro do Vale, F.X.	221
Identification of Partial Resistance To <i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i> in Common Bean At Multiple Locations in 2005	
J.R. Steadman, L.K. Otto-Hanson, J. Breathnach, C. Kurowski, R. Mainz, J. Kelly, P. Griffiths, J. Myers, P. Miklas, H. Schwartz, S. Singh and A. Oppelaar	223
Pathogenic Variability of Populations of <i>Uromyces appendiculatus</i> , Cause of Bean Rust in Individual Bean Fields and Development of Bean Rust Sampling Plans Based on Costs of Sampling	
C.N. Jochua, J.R. Steadman, X. Xue, K.M. Eskridge and M.I V. Amame	225

Virulence Diversity of <i>Uromyces appendiculatus</i> In Minas Gerais State, Brazil Thiago Lívio P. O. de Souza, Vilmar A. Ragagnin, Demerson A. Sanglard, Maurilio A. Moreira & Everaldo G. de Barros	227
Resistance Sources for Rust, Angular Leaf Spot, and Common Bacterial Blight in Common Bean for Ecuador Á. Murillo I., E. Falconí, N. Mazón, and E. Peralta I.	229
Pathogenic Variability of <i>Uromyces appendiculatus</i> In Bean Production Areas In Northern Ecuador Betty Paucar, Angel Murillo I., Esteban Falconí, Eduardo Peralta I.	231
Contents of Carbohydrates in Salt-Stressed <i>Phaseolus</i> Species Leobardo Bahena-Betancourt, Lourdes Macías-Rodríguez and Jeannette S. Bayuelo-Jiménez.....	233
Comparative Water Relations of Wild and Cultivated <i>Phaseolus</i> Species Grown Under Saline Conditions Leobardo Bahena-Betancourt and Jeannette S. Bayuelo-Jiménez.....	235
Selection of Bean Cultivars For Tolerance To Water Stress G.B. Biudes, V. Moda-Cirino, Rogério T. Faria and Ricardo T. Faria.....	237
Performance Of Common Bean Genotypes For Early Maturity In Semi-Arid Areas Of Eastern Ethiopia Chemeda Fininsa and Bulti Tesso	239
Drought Resistance In Different Market Classes Of Dry Bean Margarita Lema, Henry Terán, Marie Dennis, Craig Robinson, and Shree P. Singh	241
Dynamics of Day And Night Water Potential among Leaves of Common Bean under Soil-Water Deficit Galván-Tovar, Marcos; Kohashi-Shibata, Josué; López-Castañeda, Cándido; Acosta-Gallegos Jorge; Martínez-Garza, Ángel, García-Esteva, Antonio.....	243
Chlorophyll Content In Bean (<i>Phaseolus</i>) In Saline Soil With Foliar-Applied Of Iron Sulfate Maria Teresa Rodríguez-González, J. Alberto Escalante-Estrada, Mario Gutiérrez Rodríguez y Ricardo Vega Muñoz	245
Diversity In Tolerance Between <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> And <i>Phaseolus coccineus</i> Genotypes To Salinity Mario Gutiérrez Rodríguez, José Alberto Escalante Estrada.....	247
Evaluation of Limas under Imposed Environmental Stress John Rayapati and Brett Despain.....	249
Effect of Two Tillage Systems on Structural Soil Properties And Grain Yield Of Dry Beans Under Rainfed Conditions In North-Central Mexico E.S. Osuna-Ceja, J.S Padilla-Ramírez, E. Martínez-Meza, M.A. Martínez-Gamiño And J.A. Acosta-Gallegos	251
Beans (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.) Yield In Relation To Growth Habit, Plant Density and Nitrogen Fertilization J. Alberto Escalante-Estrada, Maria Teresa Rodríguez- Gonzalez and L. Enrique Escalante E.....	253
Natural Rock of Ipirá Used As Soil Conditioning Cropped With Common Bean Itamar Pereira de Oliveira; Daniel Pettersen Custódio, Belmiro Pereira das Neves, Renato Sérgio Santos Mota	255
Natural Rock of Ipirá Effects on Common Bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>) Production and Soil Acidity Itamar Pereira de Oliveira, Daniel Pettersen Custódio, Belmiro Pereira das Nesves, Renato Sérgio R. Santos	257
Lambsquarter (<i>Chenopodium album</i>) And Nutsedge (<i>Cyperus</i> spp) Interference In Dry Bean Yield Alberto Pedreros and Juan Tay.....	259
Response of Dry Beans to Tillage Systems and <i>In Situ</i> Rainwater Conservation Technique in The Semiarid Highlands Of Mexico J. S. Padilla-Ramírez, E. Martínez-Meza, E. S. Osuna-Ceja, M. A. Martínez-Gamiño and J. A. Acosta- Gallegos.....	261
Organic Production Evaluation of Snap Bean (cv UEL-2) Brito, O. R.; Miglioranza, E.; Nagashima, G. T.; Fey, R.; Corte, A. D.	263
Effect of Rhizobia Inoculation on Seed Iron and Zinc P.M. Kimani, S. Beebe and M. Blair	265
Effect of Inoculation of Bean and Snap Bean Vera Milić, Mirjana Vasić and Jelena Marinković.....	267
Field Evaluation of Bean Root Architecture J.P. Lynch, E. Peralta, G. Abawi and E. Falconí.....	269
Mapping and Segregation Distortion Analysis In The G2333 X G19839 Recombinant Inbred Line Population Of Common Bean I.E. Ochoa, O.E. Checa, S.E. Beebe, J.P. Lynch, M.W. Blair	271
Farmers' Participation in Common Beans Breeding In South Ethiopia: The Way Forward Asrat Asfaw, Daniel Dauro, Gashahune Wolde and Fistum Alemayehu	274

The Impact of Common Bean Research in Michigan R.H. Bernstein, C. Ragasa, and M. Maredia.....	277
Brsmg Pioneiro: New Carioca Common Bean Cultivar Resistant To Anthracnose and Rust, for the Southern of Brazil Maurílio Alves Moreira, Everaldo Gonçalves de Barros, José Eustáquio de Souza Carneiro, Fábio Gelape Faleiro, Luís Cláudio de Faria, Geraldo Estevam de Souza Carneiro, Maria José Del Peloso, Trazilbo José de Paula Júnior, Ângela de Fátima Barbosa Abreu, Magno Antônio Patto Ramalho, Leonardo Cunha Melo, João Bosco dos Santos, Carlos Agustín Rava, Joaquim Geraldo Cáprio da Costa, Aloísio Sartorato, Josias Correa de Faria	279
‘Ouro Vermelho’: New Red Bean Cultivar for Minas Gerais, Brazil José Eustáquio S. Carneiro, Lélisângela Carvalho da Silva, Trazilbo José de Paula Júnior, Geraldo Antônio A. Araújo, Pedro Crescêncio S. Carneiro, Marcos Paiva Del Giúdice, José Ângelo N. Menezes Júnior, Magno Antonio Patto Ramalho, Maria José Del Peloso, Ângela de Fátima B. Abreu, Maurílio A. Moreira and Everaldo G. de Barros.....	281
Release of Common Bacterial Blight Resistant Pinto Bean Germplasm Lines USPT-CBB-5 and USPT-CBB-6 Phil Miklas, James Smith and Shree Singh	283
Release of Common Bacterial Blight Resistant White Kidney Bean Germplasm Line USWK-CBB-17 Phil Miklas, James Smith and Shree Singh	285
Release of ‘Silver Cloud’ White Kidney Dry Bean A. N. Hang, P. N. Miklas, M. J. Silbernagel and G. H. Hosfield	287
SUBJECT MATTER INDEX.....	288
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY	289
FINANCIAL STATEMENT	303

BIC ONLINE

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is working to provide on line access to Volumes 1-48 of the BIC Annual Reports, which date back to 1957 and to the 1973, 1977, 1979, and 1982 Conference Proceedings. When completed, the BIC collection will be hosted on NAL’s Digital Repository Web site (<http://naldr.nal.usda.gov/>). To further increase accessibility and visibility for the BIC publications, each article will be indexed in the AGRICOLA database. The AGRICOLA records will link to the full text article for easy access from the database. Digitizing and indexing the BIC publications is expected to be completed by August 2006. NAL will also investigate the requirements to create a routine process to index and archive future issues. Additional information regarding these activities will be forthcoming.

THE 49th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BEAN IMPROVEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Bean Improvement Cooperative enjoyed a stimulating meeting at the 2005 Biennial Meeting in Newark, Delaware. The meeting had approximately 100 registered participants and featured 29 oral presentations and 37 poster presentations. The quality of both the oral and poster presentations was excellent. The focus of the National Dry Bean Symposium on genetics of bean nutritional quality was very topical given the current interest in subject and the international activities directed toward the biofortification of major food crops. The meeting began with the Frazier-Zaumeyer Distinguished Lecture, entitled: '*Plant Breeding and Genomics – Staying in Contact.*' The lecture was presented by Dr. Perry Cregan, Soybean Geneticist, Research Leader of the Soybean Genomics and Improvement Laboratory, USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD. The meeting received excellent and generous support from the following organizations: Basin Seed; Harris Moran Seed Company; Seminis Vegetable Seeds; United States Dry Bean Council; University of Delaware Vegetable Crops Program. The strong support of these organizations allowed this meeting to succeed. On behalf of the BIC, I wish to acknowledge the very substantial assistance of the organizing committee, particularly Dr. Ed Kee and Ms. Emmalea Ernest and I wish to thank the sponsors and the participants for making the meeting a success.

Two student awards were presented for both oral and poster presentations at the BIC meeting.

The outstanding student oral presentation was entitled: '*Comparison of marker-assisted selection and direct selection for introgression of common bacterial blight in dry bean*' presented by Robert Duncan, University of California, Davis – Robert Gilbertson, advisor.

The outstanding poster presentation was entitled: '*Dry bean transformation to enhance white mold resistance*' presented by Ann Armenia, Michigan State University – Jim Kelly, advisor.

On behalf of the BIC, I would like to recognize Chet Kurowski for his years of dedicated service on the BIC Coordinating Committee and I wish to welcome Ron Shellenberger as the newest member of the coordinating committee. I also would like to recognize Jim Beaver who served as acting chair of the BIC Genetics Committee and Tim Porch who assumed the role as chair of the Genetics Committee. I wish to welcome Carlos Urrea as a new member on the Genetics Committee.

The BIC is looking forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2007. Details of the 2007 BIC meeting in Madison, WI are provided in this issue or can be found at the BIC Web page www.css.msu.edu/bic. Madison was the venue for the first BIC meeting and is the most appropriate to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Members are asking to check the web page periodically for upcoming events and deadlines related the BIC.

Finally, the BIC mourns the passing of a friend and colleague Dr. Shigemi Honma from Michigan State University. Shig was awarded the BIC Meritorious Service Award in 1975 and he is best known for the early work on the introgression of common blight resistance from tepary bean. The BIC recognizes him for his significant achievements to bean research.

Dr. James D. Kelly, BIC President

BIC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP - 1957 to 2006

Coordinating Committee (approximate year of appointment):

1957	Dean, Enzie, Frazier* (BIC Coordinator/President), McCabe, Zaumeyer
1960	Anderson, Atkin, Dean, Enzie, Frazier , McCabe, Zaumeyer
1962	Anderson, Atkin, Dean, Frazier , Pierce, Polzak, Zaumeyer
1968	Anderson, Coyne , Dean, Jorgensen, Polzak, Zaumeyer
1971	Briggs, Coyne , Dean, Jorgensen, Polzak, Zaumeyer
1972	Burke, Coyne , Dean, Jorgensen, Kiely, Polzak, Zaumeyer
1974	Ballantyne, Bravo, Burke, Coyne , Dickson, Emery, Evans, Kiely, Saettler, Zaumeyer
1977	Ballantyne, Bliss, Coyne, Dickson , Emery, Evans, Graham, Meiners, Morris, Saettler, Zaumeyer
1978	Atkin, Ballantyne, Bliss, Coyne, Dickson , Graham, Meiners, Morris, Saettler, Sprague
1979	Atkin, Bliss, Dickson , Graham, Hagedorn, Meiners, Morris, Sprague, Wallace
1980	Atkin, Bliss, Dickson , Hagedorn, Morris, Sprague, Steadman, Temple, Wallace
1982	Atkin, Coyne, Dickson , Hagedorn, Sprague, Steadman, Temple, Wallace, Wyatt
1983	Coyne, Dickson , Hagedorn, Saettler, Silbernagel, Steadman, Temple, Wallace, Wyatt
1985	Coyne, Dickson , Mok, Saettler, Silbernagel, Steadman, Temple, Wallace, Wyatt
1986	Coyne, Dickson , Mok, Saettler, Schoonhoven, Schwartz, Silbernagel, Steadman, Wallace
1988	Brick, Dickson, Emery, Magnuson, Roos, Schwartz , Singh, Steadman, Uebersax
1992	Dickson, Emery, Grafton, Magnuson, Schwartz , Singh, Stavely, Steadman, Uebersax
1994	Antonius, Dickson, Grafton, Magnuson, Park, Schwartz , Singh, Stavely, Uebersax
1996	Antonius, Grafton, Park, Schwartz , Singh, Stavely, Myers, Kotch, Miklas, Riley
1998	Antonius, Beaver, Kelly , Kotch, Miklas, Myers, Park, Riley, Schwartz (ex officio), Singh, Vandenberg
2001	Antonius, Beaver, Kelly , Kotch, Miklas, Myers, Park, Riley, de Ron, Schwartz (ex officio), Vandenberg
2003	Beaver, Kelly , Kmiecik, Kurowski, Miklas, Myers, Park, Riley, de Ron, Schwartz (ex officio), Vandenberg
2006	Beaver, Kelly , Kmiecik, Miklas, Myers, Park, Riley, de Ron, Schwartz (ex officio), Shellenberger, Vandenberg

Awards Committee:

1971	Baggett, Briggs, Burke, Dean, Wallace	1985	Emery, Hagedorn, Sandsted, Schwartz
1973	Burke, Dean, Mauth, Zaumeyer	1987	Emery, Hagedorn, Sandsted
1975	Ballantyne, Frazier, Mauth	1989	Coyne, Silbernagel, Wallace
1977	Ballantyne, Curme, Frazier, Schuster	1995	Coyne, Dickson, Stavely
1979	Ballantyne, Schuster, Silbernagel, Temple	1997	Coyne, Schwartz, Stavely
1981	Abawi, Bliss, Monis, Silbernagel	2001	Hosfield, Magnuson, Schwartz
1983	Adams, Bliss, Burke, Dean, Morris	2004	Hosfield, Schwartz, Singh
		2006	Hosfield, Schwartz, Singh

Genetics Committee

2005: James S. Beaver (Acting Chair), Matthew W. Blair, Paul Gepts, Phil McClean, Phil Miklas, Tim Porch, Molly Welsh (ex officio).

2006: Tim Porch (Chair), James S. Beaver, Matthew W. Blair, Paul Gepts, Phil McClean, Phil Miklas, Carlos Urrea, Molly Welsh (ex officio).

REPORT OF THE BIC GENETICS COMMITTEE

(Minutes submitted by Tim Porch – abstracted)

The Genetic Committee met in Newark, DE on November 2, 2005 at 3:30pm. Decisions were made on six of the 10 topics discussed. Only decision items are shown below. A full version of the minutes can be found at www.css.msu.edu/bic

Topic: New anthracnose locus, *Co-11*

Decision

1. Accepted symbol of *Co-11* for new anthracnose resistance gene from ‘Michelite’. Celeste Vidigal presented allelism testing results from the manuscript “Characterization of anthracnose resistance in Michelite” that shows that the gene from ‘Michelite’ represents a new locus, accepted by the committee as *Co-11*.

Topic: New anthracnose allele in ‘Widusa’, *Co-1*⁵

Decision

2. Jim Kelly and Celeste Vidigal presented allelism testing results for ‘Widusa’ showing that anthracnose resistance from ‘Widusa’ is conferred by a new allele of *Co-1*⁵. The committee accepted the designation of *Co-1*⁵.

Topic: Designation of *Co-7*

Decision

3. Decision that the 1998 paper, “Marker-assisted dissection of the oligogenic anthracnose resistance in the common bean cultivar, G2333,” (Theor. Appl. Genet. 96:87-94) has precedence for the naming of the *Co-7* locus. A note will be sent on behalf of the Genetics Committee to the French group indicating that the 1998 paper has precedence over their later publication.

Topic: Phaseolin variants

Decision

4. Manuscript describing and naming new phaseolin variants in manuscript “Genetic diversity and origin of Slovene common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) germplasm as revealed by AFLP markers and phaseolin analysis” will be sent to Daniel Debouck for review. His recommendations will then be sent to the Genetics Committee for final decision regarding the naming presented in the manuscript.

Topic: New membership in Genetics Committee

Decision

5. Carlos Urrea was nominated and accepted as a new member of the Genetics Committee.

Topic: Chairmanship of Genetics Committee

Decision

6. Tim Porsch was nominated and accepted as the new chairman of the Genetics Committee to replace Jim Beaver.

Questions or comments should be addressed to the chairman of the committee: **Dr. Tim Porsch, USDA ARS SAA TARS, 2200 P.A. Campos Ave., Suite 201, Mayaguez PR 00680: ph. (787) 831-3435, ext. 254; fax. (787) 831-3386; and e-mail; maytp@ars-grin.gov**

Coordination of Genes and Gene Symbol Nomenclature - BIC Genetics Committee

The Genetics Committee is a sub-committee of the Bean Improvement Cooperative that organizes and coordinates activities that deal with *Phaseolus* genetics. The committee has served as a clearinghouse for the assignment and use of gene symbols. The committee also maintains the **Guidelines for Gene Nomenclature (last published in the Annual Report of the Bean Improvement Cooperative in 1988, 31:16-19 and supplemented in 1999, 42:vi)**. The committee also evaluates materials submitted for inclusion in the Genetics Stocks Collection of the Plant Introduction System (for those rules see 1995 Annu. Rpt. Bean Improvement Coop. 38:iv-v).

2005 BIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

2005 FRAZIER - ZAUMEYER DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP AWARD

PERRY B. CREGAN

Dr. Perry Cregan, Research Geneticist, and Research Leader of Soybean Genomics and Improvement Laboratory, USDA-ARS, located at Beltsville, MD. Perry is an outstanding scientist and leader in the area of soybean genetics. Dr. Cregan was trained as a classical wheat breeder at North Dakota State University, but changed crops when he had the opportunity to join USDA-ARS program at Beltsville. Before beginning his research career Dr. Cregan spent two years in the Peace Corps in Nicaragua as a dry bean and corn extension agent. At Beltsville he continued to carry out a traditional program with soybean genetics as it related to nodulation and nitrogen fixation. In the late 1980's and early 1990's, Dr. Cregan became convinced that developing molecular markers could speed up the breeding program. After much experimentation, he started to concentrate on simple sequence repeat (SSR) DNA length polymorphisms and their relationship to quantitative trait loci (QTL). He was the first to demonstrate the heritability of SSR's in a plant species. He organized team of scientist that developed the SSR based Integrated Genetic Linkage Map of Soybean Genome that is consensus map used by essentially all public and private soybean geneticists and breeders. More recently he has targeted DNA markers for genes controlling soybean cyst nematode resistance, used SSR profiling to assist in identity protection of soybean cultivars and developed single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers in more than 1,300 soybean genes. A SSR/SNP-based consensus map is currently under construction in soybean.

Dr. Cregan has authored or co-authored 114 peer reviewed publications. His leadership in the area of soybean genomics was recognized by his peers and he was elected Chair of the Cellular Biology and Molecular Genetics section of the Crop Science Society of America, Fellow of Crop Science Society of America and Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy. His technology transfer ability was also recognized when he received the Beltsville Area Technology Transfer Award for 2000; the ARS National Technology Transfer Award for 2000; and the Federal Laboratory Consortium Technology Transfer Award for 2001.

As a principal or co-principal investigator, Dr. Cregan has brought in over \$3.1 million dollars into his research program from non-ARS sources, and he has led a very diverse research program. Other examples of his leadership are the following: Associate Editor of Crop Science, Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics Division; Representation of the Crop Science Society of America on the "Scientific Forum on Plant Pesticides" (This Forum, with representatives from 12 scientific Professional societies, formulated a response from the scientific community to proposed EPA regulations of genetically engineered plants); member of the joint ARS, CSREES panel to plan and write the draft "USDA Agricultural Genome Initiative; participated in collaborative development with the AMS Plant Variety Protection Office of a legally acceptable DNA profiling protocol for use in Plant Variety Protection; representative to the joint USDA, ARS/INRA (French equivalent to ARS) meeting to develop plans for joint US/French collaborative legume genomics research. Finally, in association with the University of Maryland he has served on graduate committees of 11 students.

A. (BERT) VANDENBERG

Dr. Bert Vandenberg, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada has worked on dry beans for nearly 15 years after obtaining his Ph.D. in the Department of Crop Science and Plant Ecology, Plant Breeding and Genetics. He was appointed Associate Professor and Pulse Crop Research Chair in May of 1998 and has been a full Professor at the University of Saskatchewan since March 2000.

Bert is tireless in his promotion of the Pulse Industry in Saskatchewan and in Canada. Although the lentil and pea crops are much more important to SK agriculture, Bert has also promoted **dry** bean as an option in appropriate growing regions. When he started working on beans in the early 1990s, they were hopelessly unadapted to our short growing season and very few producers were willing to take the risk. An aggressive crossing program coupled with a few seasons of selection with frost in August allowed him to shorten the days to maturity sufficiently to offer producers bean cultivars that would mature and yield well in our climate. CDC Pintium, a short season pinto, saved a few Manitoba (and probably North Dakota) producers last year when they couldn't get into the field to plant until mid June – far too late for their usual varieties.

Bean agronomy is also an important aspect of his research that has helped make the crop a viable option in SK. Bert and his field crew probably have the most experience growing beans in the province and he is called upon regularly for advice. Bert has been involved in the development of over 80 varieties of pulse crops, including more than 20 beans in several different market classes. He has co-authored more than 50 refereed publications, 13 specifically on bean, and has given countless presentations on pulse crop research to students, other researchers and the industry.

Bert shares his enthusiasm for dry bean research with everyone, especially his students. He encourages both his undergraduate and graduate students to actively participate in research activities outside of their thesis project by offering them opportunities to participate in day-to-day aspects of running the breeding program. Dr. Vandenberg has supervised or co-supervised 10 M.Sc. and 3 Ph.D. students and has served on academic committees of 12 graduate students.

Bert has served on the executive of numerous pulse crop related committees and organizations including the Bean Improvement Committee. He has been on the BIC Coordinating Committee since 1998 and was co-chair of the NAPIA-BIC meetings in Calgary in 1999. He has advised Producer Groups as well as Food Processing Groups on trends in the Pulse Industry and travels regularly to meet with importers of Canadian pulse crops to keep the breeding program in tune with current and emerging market demands.

JORGE ALBERTO ACOSTA GALLEGOS

Dr. Jorge Alberto Acosta Gallegos received his B.S. degree in Plant Breeding from the Escuela Superior de Agricultura Antonio Narro, at Buenavista, Saltillo, Méx., in 1972. He earned his M.S. degree in Plant Breeding from the Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro (UAAAN) in 1978. Dr. Acosta earned a Ph. D. degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics under the supervision of Dr. M. Wayne Adams at Michigan State University in 1988.

Dr. Acosta has achieved many professional awards and technical successes throughout his career, developing more than 21 common bean varieties in Pinto, Bayo, Flor de Mayo, Black and Flor de Junio commercial classes. He released Pinto Villa, the drought-resistant dry bean cultivar, which was grown in 170,000 hectares in 1997 in the Mexican highlands yielding 35% more than traditional pinto cultivars. Since the early 90's Pinto Villa has been sown on thousands of hectares in Mexico, is considered an important gene source for drought and multiple disease resistance, and is widely used as a parent in bean breeding programs in several countries. Dry bean varieties released by Dr. Acosta and his INIFAP's team permitted bean producers to obtain greater economical benefits, contributed to solve several social and production problems and contributed to alleviate the hunger in Mexico and the world in a sustainable and natural way.

Dr. Acosta established and reinforced several collaborative research projects between Mexican and international institutions for germplasm collection and studies in crop evolution, breeding and genetics, physiology, phenology and agronomy. He participated for more than 15 years as the Host Country Principal Investigator in Mexico with the Bean/Cowpea CRSP Collaborative Project between Michigan State University and INIFAP, from which important advances were obtained in nitrogen fixation, plant breeding, phenological plasticity, disease resistance and detecting bean adaptation mechanisms under drought. Dr. Acosta served on the Technical Committee of the CRSP for five years and as Chair in 1998. He has also collaborated with international researchers to collect more than 465 wild, weedy, landraces and bred accessions in *Phaseolus* species and contributed to better representation of bean species in germplasm banks in México and other countries. Wild relatives for common bean has been used by Dr. Acosta and other researchers to detect allele *arc 7* of Arcelin, an insecticidal lectin-like protein present in wild bean seeds that confers resistance to bean bruchids.

Dr. Acosta has published over 170 national and international refereed and non refereed scientific and technical papers, which resulted from inter-institutional collaborative research and represents important advances in common bean knowledge. He also participated in field training and thesis direction for more than 16 undergraduate and postgraduate students from different Mexican universities. Throughout his 30 productive years of research, Dr. Acosta has constantly reinforced INIFAP's dry bean and other legume programs across production areas in the Mexican highlands and the tropics. He is a paragon because of his intimate knowledge of *Phaseolus* species and his creativity and successes on several research fronts. Dr. Acosta's enthusiasm and work ethic continues to inspire his colleagues and friends alike.

PHILLIP N. MIKLAS

Dr. Phil Miklas, USDA-ARS, Prosser, Washington first worked on dry bean in the summer of 1982 at the Colorado State University Agricultural Research Center at Fruita, Colorado. He planted and harvested yield trials for Dr. John Keenan and inspected bean seed fields for Dr. Mark Brick in fulfillment of an externship requirement for his B.S. degree at nearby Mesa State College in Grand Junction. After completion of the Ph.D. in breeding and genetics with Dr. Ken Grafton at North Dakota State University in 1991, Phil worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow with Dr. Jim Kelly at Michigan State University for one year. He accepted a job with the USDA-ARS in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico in 1992 with a mandate for dry bean germplasm enhancement. In 1996, Phil replaced Dr. Matt Silbernagel at Prosser upon his retirement.

Dr. Miklas has gained national and international prominence with his outstanding work on generating resistance-linked markers and developing different marker-assisted selection strategies. He had a direct hand in developing and applying markers for *Ur-3*, *Ur-4*, *Ur-5*, and *Ur-11* genes for rust resistance, the *bgm-1* gene and a major QTL conditioning resistance to *Bean golden yellow mosaic virus*, the *bc-1²* gene for *Bean common mosaic virus* resistance, *Bct-1* gene for *Beet curly top virus* resistance, *Pse-1* gene for halo blight resistance, and QTL for resistance to white mold and common bacterial blight. Along the way new marker systems (RAPDs, SCARs, and TRAPs) were adopted for bean, and novel marker-assisted selection strategies including selective mapping of QTL, bulked segregant analysis combined with near-isogenic lines to tag genes, recombination-facilitated marker-assisted selection to overcome gene pool specificity of resistance-linked markers, multiplex PCR for three SCAR markers linked with independent QTL governing resistance to common bacterial blight, and co-dominant interpretation of dominant markers using a real-time quantitative PCR approach.

Dr. Miklas is an excellent universal collaborator with both private and public researchers nationally and internationally. He has been exceptionally productive in developing enhanced bean germplasm and his record is truly admirable by any standards. He has been a lead scientist or major collaborator to more than 100 improved bean germplasm lines and cultivars. His most recent releases include kidney and cranberry with *I + bc-3* genes for resistance to BCMV, pinto USPT-CBB-1, USPT-ANT-1 and USPT-WM-1 with resistance to common bacterial blight, anthracnose, and white mold, respectively, and the dark red kidney USDK-CBB-15 with a high level of resistance to common bacterial blight. Many of the recent releases incorporated MAS as an integral component of the breeding process.

Dr. Miklas is an active member of the BIC Coordinating, Bean Genetics, Phaseolus Crop Germplasm, W-150 regional project, and WSU cultivar release committees. He currently serves as Associate Editor for Crop Science, PI for the Bean/Cowpea Breeding Project for East and Southern Africa, and is an active participant in the National Sclerotinia Initiative, Western Regional Bean Trials, National Cooperative Dry Bean Nursery, and National White Mold Nursery.

DAVID M. WEBSTER

Dr. David Webster developed a long lasting obsession with all things - *Phaseolus* - in early childhood in North Carolina; his earliest memories are of a yellow blow-up beach toy, a sea dragon he named "Captain Kidney Bean". After fifty years and 25 PVP'd dry and garden bean cultivars, David still counts among life's great pleasures looking at the seed, working with the plant, and, above all else, eating beans.

At Kalamazoo College David took a Bachelors degree in chemistry, magna cum laude, in 1973. He then enrolled as a student with Professor Luis Sequeira at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Sequeira saw the degree in chemistry and determined to make a physiological plant pathologist out of him but was broad minded enough to relent when David began to show inclinations toward breeding plants for disease resistance. It so happened that his model species was the *Phaseolus* bean. Thoughts of a real job after his Master's degree were dispelled by an opportunity to do work on his Ph.D. dissertation at CIAT on a project related to breeding for resistance to common bacterial blight. His work at CIAT established the importance of adaptation in the expression of disease resistance. It was at CIAT that he amazed a visiting Dermot Coyne with questions about how the farmers in Nebraska put the bamboo stakes in the ground when they were growing great northern beans!

David's career since graduation from Wisconsin has been all out of the same office at Filer, Idaho, owned variously since he started by Asgrow Seed, in turn owned by Upjohn, then by Seminis Vegetable Seeds, and, likely by the time of this reading, by Monsanto. It was with Asgrow under the tutelage of John Atkin that David learned how to manage a seriously big, streamlined, efficient breeding program. Although a bit of a technophobe regarding things digital, he introduced the first use of a database in the breeding programs at Filer; anything was better than long nights copying over pedigree planting and harvest lists. He has emphasized disease resistance in his breeding programs and has developed cultivars and germplasm with resistance to halo blight, bacterial brown spot, common bacterial blight, anthracnose, rust, BCMV, BYMV, BCTV, and various soil-borne fungi; not always by design but he at least knows when he's been lucky. Many of his cultivars have a blend of horticulture, quality, yield and resistance to diseases. Among the 19 dry bean cultivars developed by David are 'Etna, Avanti, Buster, Cabernet and Pink Panther'. Among the 6 garden beans are 'Opus, Gold Mine, Tema, and Lodi'. They are grown in North America and also have significant market shares in Italy, Spain, Hungary, France, and Greece where he has an extensive collaborative work.

Dr. Webster recognizes the collaborations and exchange with members of the BIC as a key ingredient to any success he's enjoyed, as well as the opportunity to contribute to the success of his colleagues. Although training students has not been a major part of his career, he has happily hosted local and foreign students and visitors. He served as chairman of the *Phaseolus* crop advisory committee from 1989 to 1991.

IN MEMORY OF SHIGEMI HONMA

Shigemi Honma, Emeritus Professor of Horticulture at Michigan State University, died in East Lansing, Mich. on May 30, 2005. Prof. Honma was born February 14, 1920 in Haina, Hawaii. He served for 3 ½ years with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team of Nisei soldiers in World War II, and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He earned a B.A. at Cornell University in 1949, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1953. He then took a position as assistant horticulturist at the University of Nebraska, where he made the first successful interspecific hybrid between common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) and tepary bean (*P. acutifolius*). This permitted the transfer of the tepary bean's resistance to common bacterial blight to the hybrid. The work was published in the *Journal of Heredity* 47: 217 (1956). The paper is one of the most cited references in the bean literature, and won Dr. Honma the Meritorious Service Award from the Bean Improvement Cooperative in 1975. The hybrid was subsequently used by Dr. Dermot Coyne of Nebraska and other breeders to incorporate this resistance into *P. vulgaris*. This pioneering work encouraged others to explore the potential of interspecific hybridization in bean improvement.

Dr. Honma moved to Michigan State University as an assistant professor in 1955, and was named full professor in 1966. He retired in 1986 after a distinguished career as a breeder of vegetable crops, during which he released four cauliflower, two celery, three lettuce, nine pepper, and six tomato cultivars. Much of his effort was directed toward improving resistance to fungal, bacterial and viral diseases. Two of the cauliflower cultivars, Self-Blanch and Stovepipe, were designed to reduce the labor required to tie up the leaves to shade the head and avoid greening. He co-authored, with Prof. Sylvan Wittwer, the book *Greenhouse Tomatoes - Guidelines for Successful Production*, as well as over 100 scientific and popular articles on vegetable cultivar improvement.

Dr. Honma received invitations from both U.S. and international institutions to present lectures on his work. The Department of Horticulture at the University of Minnesota invited him to present the Distinguished Alumni Lecture there in April 1981. During 1981-82, he represented the USDA and Michigan State University in establishing cooperative exchanges of scientific information with Bulgarian scientists, and was invited to lecture on vegetables for the Royal Project in Thailand. Dr. Honma is survived by his wife, Isao, and two children Alan and Valerie.

2007 BIENNIAL BIC/USDBC MEETING

The 2007 BIC meeting will take place in Madison, Wisconsin. The tentative date under consideration for the BIC, United States Dry Bean Council (USDBC) and related meetings is Monday Oct 29 - Wednesday Oct 31, 2007. The North American Pulse Improvement Association (NAPIA) meeting date being explored is Thursday and Friday Nov. 1st & 2nd. Several venues for the meeting are being considered. As this is the 50th Anniversary of the BIC we are looking for any suggestions to mark this event in a special way. Please take some time to set aside some of those photos, memories, etc that might be shared. Further information will be forthcoming through the BIC web site (<http://www.css.msu.edu/bic>), the 2006 annual report, and individual mailings to local committee members. For further information contact Jim Nienhuis nienhuis@calshp.cals.wisc.edu or Ken Kmiecik ken.kmiecik@seminis.com



MEMBERS ONLY ACCESS TO 2006 BEAN IMPROVEMENT
COOPERATIVE REPORT

2006 BIC Invoice (US \$) and Membership Information

<u>2006 Dues (Volume 49):</u>	<u>BOOK RATE</u>	<u>CD RATE</u>
	<u>First Class or Air Mail only</u>	
United States	US \$15.00	US \$15.00
Canada	US \$20.00	US \$15.00
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[BIC ISSN # = 0084-7747]

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