

The Trinity College Dublin Botany Department Newsletter

Accomplishments



We are delighted to welcome **Dr Jessica Knapp**, who will be joining the School of Natural Sciences as a new **Assistant Professor** in **Ecology** starting in early January 2023.

Jessica's teaching and research interests include **pollination biology and ecology and sustainable agricultural practises and landscapes**. See more of her research [here](#).

Welcome to **Roisin Gowen** who moved from Cape Town, South Africa, in 2017 to start a bachelor's degree in **Environmental Science** (TCD), and is now working as a **PhD student** on the **FOREST project** funded by the **Kinsella Challenged-Based E3 Multidisciplinary Project Award**. Her current research focus aims to **assess the impact of solar farm developments in Ireland on biodiversity**, supervised by **Sarah McCormack** and **Jane Stout**.



Open day with the Minister of State and DAFM

Minister of State Martin Heydon TD and a contingent from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (**DAFM**) visited Botany on **15th November** to see the **herbarium** and **research laboratories** and hear about the DAFM-funded **projects** led by **Jane Stout** (*Accounting for Forest Ecosystem Services in Ireland*) and **Trevor Hodkinson** (*Next Steps in Managing the Impact of Ash Dieback*).



Publications

- Soldi, E., Tiley, A., O'Hanlon, R., Murphy, B.R., & Hodkinson, T.R. (2022). [Ash dieback and other pests and pathogens of Fraxinus on the island of Ireland.](#) *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 122(2), 85-122.
- Suwanphakdee, C., Hodkinson, T.R., & Chantaranothai, P. (2022). [New species and a revision of the genus Peperomia \(Piperaceae\) in Thailand.](#) *Thai Forest Bulletin (Botany)*, 50(2), 104–119.

Projects

We are delighted to announce...
the launch of the **CO2PEAT research project website** - [CO2PEAT](#) !

You can also follow the CO2PEAT project on:

- [@CO2PEAT_project | Twitter](#)
- [@CO2PEAT_project | Qoto Mastodon](#).

This is a three-year research project that started in September 2022 (P.I. **Dr Alina Premrov**; Mentor **Dr. Matthew Saunders**). CO2PEAT is working on the development of a research framework that will complement and enhance current approaches in the **reporting of CO₂ emission and removal estimates for peatlands at the national level**. This research aims, among others, to identify the main drivers and establish links between **analysis of greenhouse gas (i.e. CO₂) emissions and removals in Ireland**, as well as to provide beyond the current state-of-the-art research through the utilisation of **advanced modelling approaches to improve our knowledge of peatland ecosystems** and our understanding of how the strength of peatland carbon sink is regulated by various factors at different timescales and climate scenarios. The project is funded under the **EPA Research Programme 2021-2030**.



Mushroom hunting

Mushrooms of all County Wicklow...you'd better watch out for this no-mercy squad! Also this year, led by our amazing mycologist **Dr. Carla Harper**, we went down to the forest looking for wild mushrooms and identify the local species!

Gnam gnam!



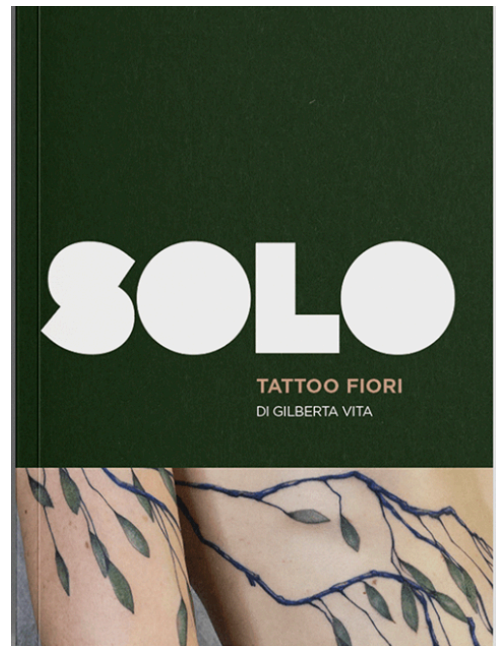
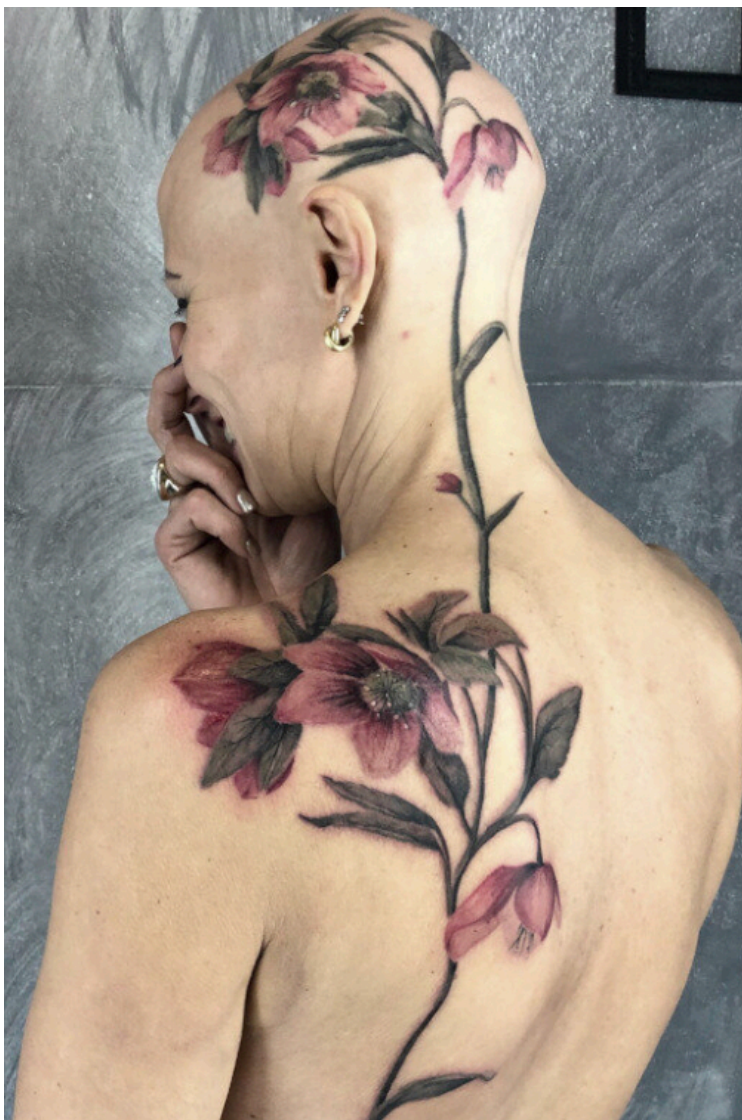
Christmas Party

Sorry folks. After this one, all the other Christmas parties you will have this year are going to be below the expectations. **IT WAS A-M-A-Z-I-N-G!**
And huge thanks to Ed, Cian, Catarina and Ian for all the organization!



Phytobooks

Gilberta Vita is an Italian botanical tattoo artist based in Milan. She has just released her first book (*SOLO - Tattoo fiori*), which is a floral art gallery that retraces some of the most exemplary works that the artist has created during her career. Have yourself a journey within the purity of her unique tattoos on her [Instagram](#).



Conferences - European Geosciences Union (EGU)

Best of luck to **Dr Alina Premrov** et al. who are convening the next **EGU 2023 Session SSS9.4 "Soil organic and inorganic carbon dynamics in agro-ecosystems: mechanisms, measurements and modelling strategies"** ([link](#)), which will take place at the General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, **23–28 April 2023**.

Consider submitting an abstract to the **EGU23-SSS9.4** [here](#).

The **deadline** for abstract submission is **10th January 2023, 13:00 CET**.

Phytoart

Karl Gaff is a scientific photographic artist based at **Technological University Dublin**. His research combines art with science at microscopic scale: his **chemical artworks** are a consequence of the **self-organisation of molecules during crystallisation**. And it's just incredible how often these **crystalline shapes and colours can resemble the botanical world**. Please yourself with a virtual tour of these works on his website (kgaffphotography.com). Note that none of these pictures cannot be designed, as their formations are pure coincidences. The colours that you are see are not artificially added but depends on the interaction that occurs between the structural chemistry of the crystal lattice and the light shining through it.



**BOTANY WISHES YOU ALL
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

! WE ARE ALL PHYTOBYTES !



Thank you for your contributions!

If you think that you have any news that should be posted in our newsletter,

please send an email to the **Editor**,
Diego Dylan Bianchi - dbianchi@tcd.ie

