

## **Aquatic Macrophyte Ecotoxicology Group (AMEG) Annual/Semi-Annual Report**

### **Proposed new name: Plant Advisory Group**

**Submitted by: Gertie Arts and Mark Hanson, chairs of AMEG**

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2013**

**Council/Board Liaison: World Council**

**Reporting period: 2012 – 2013**

### **Organization**

The organization of AMEG is described in the AMEG SOP of the 1st of July 2009 (uploaded on the AMEG website <http://www.setac.org/group/AGAquaticMacrophyte>). An adapted SOP has been submitted to the SETAC Global Science Committee for approval and will subsequently be sent to the SETAC World Council. Originally, AMEG was established as an advisory group focusing on aquatic macrophytes. In recent years, a lack of scientific knowledge was identified in the field of terrestrial plant ecotoxicology and terrestrial plant risk assessment. A new phenomenon was that over the last years the sessions organized by the Advisory group also included this field of terrestrial plant ecotoxicology and risk assessment. As this field of expertise is closely linked to the focus of the Aquatic Macrophyte Ecotoxicology Group, we propose to extend the scientific field and scope of the Advisory Group to plants in general, thereby extending the name of the Advisory Group into **Plant Advisory Group**.

### **Activities Summary**

In the reporting period (2012 – 2013) the SETAC Aquatic Macrophyte Ecotoxicology Advisory Group (AMEG) has organized sessions and group meetings at the SETAC North America meeting in Long Beach, November 2012, and at the SETAC Europe annual meeting in Glasgow, May 15, 2013. In Glasgow the session was titled "Aquatic and Terrestrial Plant Ecology, Ecotoxicology and Risk Assessment". This session highlighted recent scientific developments in the field of plant ecotoxicology and risk assessment for chemicals. Eighteen platform presentations and over 35 poster presentations covered several topics including toxicity, uptake and bioaccumulation studies in plants, phytoremediation studies and the management of aquatic plants. The number of presentations submitted to this session demonstrates an increased interest in aquatic and terrestrial plant ecotoxicology and risk assessment. The results and outcome of research in this field contribute to a better understanding of plant ecotoxicology and to improved risk assessments for chemicals. A session report has been published in the GLOBE 14(6) of 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2013.

In Long Beach, AMEG contributed to the poster session "Contaminant Transfer Into Plants – Risk, Remediation and Biomonitoring". An AMEG open session for all members was held with special guest speaker Dr. Russell Erickson of the USEPA. Dr. Erickson spoke about his development of a model to determine the acceptable levels of herbicides in surface waters as it relates to impacts on aquatic macrophytes.

The *Myriophyllum* Working Group (chairs Jo Davies and Margit Dollinger) has submitted a ring-tested draft *Myriophyllum* test guideline to the OECD. This draft test guideline for a *Myriophyllum* water-sediment toxicity test has been commented and these comments will be used to update the guideline. The SSD Working Group (chair Stefania Loutseti) has finished its tasks.

### **Coordination with Other Advisory Groups and Committees**

As the Advisory Groups intends to extend its activities to the terrestrial plants, a liaison with the Soil Advisory group is under discussion and actions have been initiated aiming at a meeting with the chair of the SETAC Soil Advisory Group in Nashville in two weeks.

### **Future Plans**

A new working group aiming at ring-testing and fine-tuning a test guideline for *Glyceria* will start its activities in Basel 2014.

The Advisory Group has initiated a new working group on non-target terrestrial plants (NTTP working group). This working group aims at organizing an NTTP workshop in the beginning of April 2014. The proposal for this workshop (a level 3 technical workshop) will be soon submitted to the SETAC Europe Council for approval.

Other future plans include:

- AMEG-sponsored short course on macrophyte risk assessment and ecotoxicology;
- Involve other GU (ongoing);
- Enhance student involvement;
- Identify other research/data interpretation needs from the environmental management and research communities;
- Outreach to other societies involved in macrophyte research, e.g., ecology, biocontrol, phytoremediation, wastewater treatment. In Glasgow contacts were initiated with ecologists from UK working on invasive plants. They have presented their work in our session and open AMEG meeting. Joint sessions and cooperations are within the possibilities for next years, e.g. with the European Weed Research Society (EWRS) in the field of invasive species.

### **Business and Planning Meetings**

The Advisory Group has organized two open meetings during the SETAC annual meetings in Europe and North-America. The Advisory group aims at a session in Basel in 2014. A session proposal is part of the call for abstracts for the SETAC Europe annual meeting in Basel in 2014.

### **Current Steering Committee**

Currently, the AMEG Steering Committee includes 11 members: four from Academia and Business each and three from Government: Government – Katja Knauer (BLW, CH), Silvia Mohr (UBA, DE), Véronique Poulsen (Anses, FR); Business – Jo Davies (Syngenta, UK), Margit Dollinger (Bayer CropScience, DE), Jeff Giddings (CSI, US), Stefania Loutseti (DuPont, GR); Academia – Mark Hanson (University of Manitoba, CA, co-chair), Udo Hommen (Fraunhofer, DE), Chris Wilson (University of Florida, US), Gertie Arts (Alterra, NL, chair).

Chairs are Gertie Arts and Mark Hanson. Mark Hanson is liaison for the SWC. Chris Wilson is contact person for the AMEG website.

In 2014 the Steering Committee member's term expires.

### **Membership Communications**

Membership communications are organized via the SETAC website (<http://www.setac.org/group/AGAquaticMacrophyte>).

**Number of active members:** 30 as a rough estimate (Steering Committee and Two Working Groups). **Total membership:** officially 118 (members registered via the new SETAC Website, November 2013).