

Sigma Xi Annual Field Trip

The Institut de recherche en biologie végétale
at the Montreal Botanical Gardens

Montreal, 4 Mai 2007



Brief summary

Dr. Luc Brouillet, acting administrator and scientist at the Institut de recherche en biologie végétale, gave us an instructive and enriching tour of the research facilities located at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. The institute is part of the Université de Montréal and has 17 scientists, 11 research professionals and over 50 graduate students. The tour covered the library and the research laboratories and facilities. These are oriented towards three research areas: cellular mechanisms of development and plant interactions, biodiversity and evolution and ecology and management of ecosystems in populated areas. The Institute also has the third largest herbarium in Canada, the Maire-Victorin herbarium, with over 700,000 specimens, some dating back to the 1800's. The institute also collaborates with the Montreal Botanical Gardens and we had the opportunity to visit the greenhouses where the Botanical Gardens grow their specimens and work on research projects involving plant growth. They have access to ten growth chambers for experiments that need to be held under strict controlled environmental conditions. One of their research projects with a very practical orientation is the purification of waste water using algae.

The Group and our guide, Dr. Luc Brouillet





Growing plant samples under controlled lighting conditions



Plants growing in the Greenhouses of the Botanical Gardens



Some cactus specimens being grown by the Botanical Gardens

The group moves on to the research greenhouses of the Institute





Research on potato and tobacco plants under controlled temperature and lighting conditions.

You will note that the roof of the greenhouses is painted white to prevent the summer sun to increase the temperature during the day.



The End

***We hope you
will join for our
next field trip !***