

Selection of photos from 8<sup>th</sup> ICRBM, Canberra Rex, 1-5 September 2025.



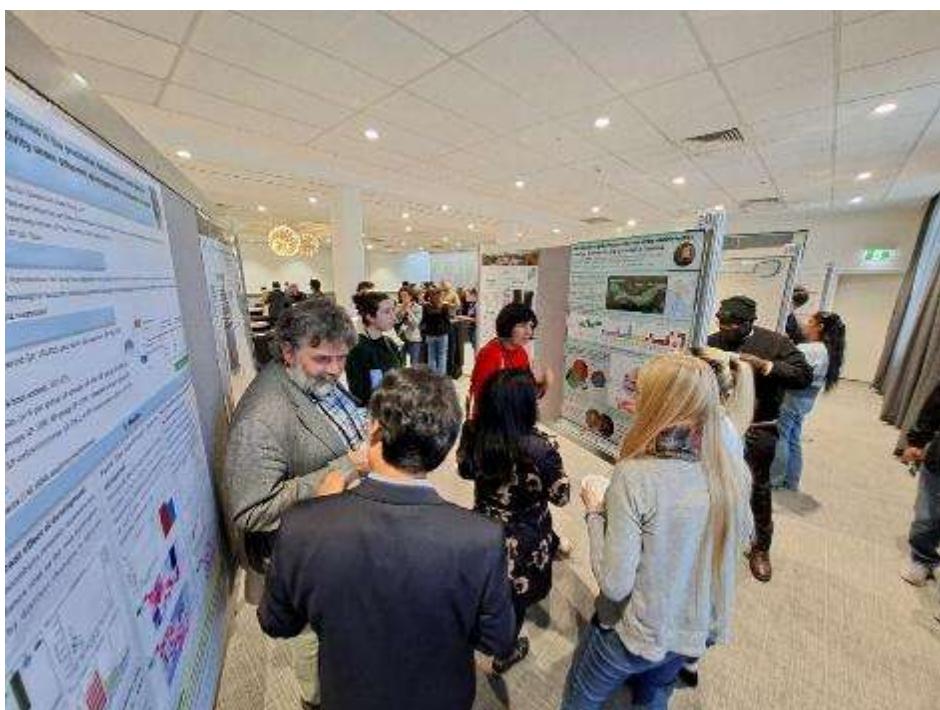
Dr Wendy Umberger, CEO, ACIAR, officially opening the conference on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2025.



Plenary speakers (left to right): Dr Paul Thomas, University of Adelaide, South Australia; Mr Steve Henry, CSIRO Health and Biosecurity, Canberra, ACT; Dr Rica Flor, International Rice Research Institute, Cambodia; Dr Araceli Samaniego, Independent Island Restoration Advisor, Melbourne, Victoria; Dr Chelsea Himsworth, University of British Columbia, Canada; Dr Aaron Geenville, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW; Dr Steven Belmain, University of Greenwich, United Kingdom.



Last but not least of the plenary speakers (left to right): Dr Federico Costa, Federal University of Bahia and Salvador, Brazil; Dr Xavier Lambin, University of Aberdeen, Scotland



Discussions around posters in the exhibition area during breaks.



8<sup>th</sup> ICRBM Group photo



Left to right: Dr Chelsea Himsworth, Canada; Katie August, UK; Dr Grant Singleton, Australia; Dr Steve Belmain, UK



Left to right: Dr Voahangy Soarimalala, Madagascar; Todisoa Radovimiandrinifarany, Early Career Researcher, Madagascar; Dr Lyn Hins, Australia; Dr Soansandrasana Rahelinirina, Madagascar; Dr Minoarisoa Rajerison, Madagascar



Dr Zhibin Zhang, China; Dr Peter Brown, Australia



Dimple Mandla, Early Career Researcher, India; Dr Neena Singla, India; Risnelli, Early Career Researcher, Indonesia



Stalwarts of ICRBM: Grant Singelton, Australia, Dr Herwig Leirs, Belgium; Dr Peter Brown, Australia



26 years on: Grant Singleton, Australia; Lyn Hinds, Australia; Herwig Leirs, Belgium; Zhibin Zhang, China

## Conference Awards and Recognition

At each conference recognition is made to early career researchers in the form of an award for the best poster and best-spoken paper. This year the Committee formalised this award and dedicated it to Dr Loth Mulungu, a long-time member of the ICRBM community, who has sadly passed away. in the name of instigated participants

The dedication is as follows:



### **Loth Mulungu Memorial Award for Early Career Researchers**

Dr. Loth S. Mulungu, a Professor of Pest Management at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, had a well-established multidisciplinary portfolio across several research themes on ecology, taxonomy, zoonotic diseases, pest ecology, and pest management. These were related to rodent ecology and management, development of Ecologically-Based Rodent Management (EBRM) strategies, zoonotic disease reservoirs, pest damage and control in agriculture, taxonomy and biodiversity, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). All are topics at the heart of the ICRBM. He conducted many studies on the multi-mammate rat (*Mastomys natalensis*) to understand crop damage and yield loss. He was passionate about the development of young scientists and supervised many students.

This Award reflects Professor Mulungu's desire to support and encourage early career researchers, and he would have been especially proud to have his name associated with the ICRBM and this Award.

Below are the certificates presented to this year's awardees at the end of the conference.



## **Loth Mulungu Memorial Award for Early Career Researchers**

**Best Poster:**

**Spatial ecology of sympatric endemic squirrels in  
Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park,  
Palawan Island, Philippines**

**Desamarie Fernandez,**  
Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France  
University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines



Dr Desamarie Fernandez, University of the Philippines, Philippines, with a small version of her poster and the Loth Mulungu Memorial Certificate she received for the “Best Poster Presentation by an Early Career Researcher”.



## **Loth Mulungu Memorial Award for Early Career Researchers**

**Best Spoken Paper:**

**Vocalisation library development for nine rodent species in Mpumalanga,  
South Africa**

**Georgia Muller,**  
PhD candidate,  
Applied Behavioural Ecology and Ecosystems Research Unit,  
University of South Africa.



PhD candidate, Georgia Muller (University of South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa) and Loth Mulungu Memorial Award certificate she received for the “Best Oral Presentation by an Early Career Researcher”.

Dr Nico Avenant (National Museum, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa) was presented with an ICRBM Lifetime Recognition of Excellence Award (see below).

In another tradition in the ICRBM community are “Lifetime recognition of Excellence” Awards. Two internationally renowned and dedicated rodent research colleagues received these awards at the 8<sup>th</sup> ICRBM – Dr Nico Avenant, National Museum, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, and Dr Jens Jacob, Julius Kühn Institute, Münster, Germany. Nico Avenant was presented in person with his award (see photo previous page). However, due to illness, Jens Jacob was unable to attend the conference and the award was presented to one of his colleagues who undertook to deliver the award plaque.

The engraving for each recipient was as follows:

## **LIFETIME RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE**

### **DR NICO AVENANT**

In recognition of his international scientific leadership in rodent biology and his untiring efforts in promoting the ICRBM around the world, including hosting the 4th ICRBM in Bloemfontein.

Dr Avenant has undertaken research on the biodiversity, ecology and natural history of rodents in South Africa. He has contributed considerably to the scientific knowledge of the role rodents play in ecosystems, especially in grassland biomes, and how observations of rodent communities can be used for ecological impact and habitat integrity assessment, to guide nature conservation and restoration.

He continues through his work as Curator of Mammalogy at the National Museum in Bloemfontein, to inspire young students and the wider public, and to contribute to our understanding of the ecological role of rodents in nature.

# LIFETIME RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

## DR JENS JACOB

In recognition of his international scientific leadership in rodent biology and his untiring efforts in promoting the ICRBM around the world, including co-hosting the 6th ICRBM in Potsdam.

Dr Jacob has studied rodents for many years; their ecology and the damage they cause in agro-ecological systems in different continents. His understanding of rodent population dynamics has allowed him to forecast outbreaks and to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and environmental safety of different techniques for lethal or fertility control of rodents. He continues, through his work at the Julius Kühn Institute in Germany, to develop strategies for the ecologically-based management of rodent problems that mitigate unintended consequences.

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## JENS JACOB: LIFETIME RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE



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