

Trip Report for

EMBO Workshop – New Model Systems for Early Land Plant Evolution

Laboratory of Plant Molecular Biology, M2

Rui Sun

I am greatly honored to be sponsored by the “English Communication Practicum in Life Science” program and had the opportunity to join the EMBO workshop from June 22th to June 24th of 2016. The workshop was held at the Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology, in the glamorous city of Vienna.

Entitled “New Model Systems for Early Land Plant Evolution”, the workshop focuses on the research of *Marchantia polymorpha*, one of the most basal extant land plants, to help establish a better knowledge of how plants conquered land in evolution and the ancient origins of some flowering plant features. Work on other land plant ancestor species such as charales and other bryophytes were also included. Around 120 professors and students from all over the world joined the workshop, and the three-day schedule was packed with more than 30 talks and 65 poster presentations. It was a great opportunity to communicate with the growing community of *Marchantia* research.

It was my first time to do a poster presentation in international conferences. Thanks to the help of Prof. Hejna and other laboratory members, the presentation went smoothly. By presenting my work about gibberellin signaling pathway in *M. polymorpha*, I was able to have extensive discussion with investigators who worked on similar or related projects, which helped me to improve my methodology and gain further insights into the scientific questions.

Overall, it was a memorable and constructive trip. I would like to thank the program community for giving me the chance, and the help from Prof. Hejna, Prof. Kohchi and other lab members during the preparation for the poster. It was a great help for budding researchers like me.



A statue of Goethe, the great writer and pioneer of plant developmental biology



Peas and fruit flies on the wall of Gregor Mendel Institute