

PlantLink Researcher in the spotlight

Allan Rasmusson

June 2015

*This month, we turn the spotlight to **Professor Allan Rasmusson** at the Department of Biology, LU. Prof Rasmusson has mainly investigated plant respiratory redox biology, as a graduate student in Lund and Adelaide, Australia, as PostDoc in Berlin, Germany, and since 1996 as researcher at Lund University. In later years, the research has expanded to also include membrane function during plant-fungal symbiosis.*



- *What is currently on top of your research agenda, Allan?*

- Right now, it is to get a few manuscripts on plant redox regulation and plant-*Trichoderma* interactions published.

- *Please tell us about your latest publication?*

- It was a collaboration with a group at Warsaw University. We investigated an Arabidopsis respiratory mutant that grows better with ammonium than with nitrate as N-source. This contrasts with the normal Arabidopsis, which like many other plants is damaged by ammonium nutrition.

- *What led you into your particular field of research?*

- As an undergraduate I realised the gigantic energy waste in converting plant organic carbon into meat products, and thought I'd better work with plants, which should be needed as main food source in the future. Unfortunately, the world development has not taken the optimal directions since then, leading to an overly waste of resources.

- *What are the implications of your research for the society?*

- Understanding why plants respire enormous amounts of energy for little apparent use, the benefits of it, and how it is controlled, is important for predicting respiration in both global climate and in a package of vegetables in a shop, as well as being a determinant for plant growth rate and stress tolerance. To determine plant genes essential for plant-*Trichoderma* symbiosis has substantial possibilities for improving biocontrol procedures