



Israel Biodiversity
Curation Center

We invite you to join us for The 1st Annual Meeting



2.9.2026
Volcani Institute

IBCC is a national initiative dedicated to advancing biodiversity research, accessibility, and conservation through collaborative data curation.

This one-day event will bring together scientists, practitioners, and decision-makers to introduce the IBCC as a shared platform and emerging hub for interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the integration of biodiversity data across collections and scales.

Keynote Speakers

Merav Seifan-Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Shahal Abbo- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

09:00 **Reception and coffee**

09:30 Keynote lecture and Opening remarks-**Merav Seifan**. Small Pieces, Big Picture: biodiversity across scales

Keynote lecture- **Shahal Abbo**

10:40 **Coffee break & poster presentations**

11:15 **Ori Fragman Sapir** (The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Hebrew University of Jerusalem) Evaluating Plant Observations

Avi Bar Massada (University of Haifa) Using Joint Species Distribution Models to Assess Spatial Relationships Across Taxonomic Levels

Sariel Hübner (Tel Hai The University of Kiryat Shmona) Adaptive Landscapes in Wild Barleys

Gila Kahila Bar-Gal (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) The Power of DNA Science in Biodiversity Conservation and Ancient DNA

Ruth Kaplan-Levy (The Israel National Culture Collection of Algae) Preserving Israel's Algal Biodiversity: The Israel National Culture Collection of Algae (INCCA)

Dafna Langgut (Tel Aviv University) Fruit Powerhouse: Israel, the Cradle of the World's Orchards

12:45 **Lunch & poster presentations**

13:30 **Einav Mayzlish Gati** (Israel Gene Bank, ARO Volcani Institute) Bridging Scales in Biodiversity Conservation

Asaph Aharoni (Weizmann Institute of Science) The Study of Plant Metabolic Diversity in Wild and Cultivated Species

Efrat Gavish-Regev (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) In the land of the blind: the cryptic diversity of Israel cave arachnids

Assaf Schwartz (Technion Israel Institute of Technology) Biodiversity Data as a Foundation for Sustainable Ecological Planning: Insights from Ecological Research and Landscape Architecture Education

Dror Minz (ARO Volcani Institute) Soil and Plant Roots Microbial Diversity and Community Composition in Israel

Tamar Zandberg (Ben Gurion University of the Negev) From Science to Policy: Translating Biodiversity Knowledge into Impact

15:00 **Coffee break**

15:20 **Roundtable discussion**

From Vision to Infrastructure: Shaping the Future of IBCC.

Panel Speakers: **Avi Levy** (Weizmann Institute of Science) **Orna Matzner** (Ministry of Environmental Protection) **Michal Levi** (Israeli Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security)

Dror Hawlena (INPA) **Sariel Hübner** (Tel Hai The University of Kiryat Shmona) **Einav Mayzlish Gati** (Israel Gene Bank - ARO Volcani Institute) **Merav Seifan** (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

16:20 **Closing remarks**



**Registration
and Abstract
submission
for poster
presentation**



**or
click here**

**Deadline for
Registration
and Abstract
Submission
for poster
presentation
30.7.26**

**Organizing
Committee**

Merav Seifan

Sariel Hübner

Einav Mayzlish Gati

