

Minutes of the Assembly of the Société Européenne d'Arachnologie

18th European Colloquium of Arachnology, High Tatras, Slovakia,

Friday 16th July 1999

Samuel Zschokke elected acting chairman

Jason Dunlop elected acting secretary

Marek Zabka opened the meeting with an informal welcome and apologies for the absence of the chairman (Alain Canard) and secretary (Christine Rollard). Alain Canard forwarded three points:

1. A request for membership dues, since only 14 members have paid.
2. A request to select the venue for the next European Colloquium of Arachnology.
3. A note that the European checklist is in progress and will be published in *Revue Arachnologique*.

Marek Zabka then asked the conference to stand for a moments silence in memory of our Russian colleague, Dr Chingis Tarabaev, who died recently.

Marek Zabka proposed Samuel Zschokke as acting chairman for the meeting and Samuel Zschokke proposed Jason Dunlop as acting secretary. Both were accepted on a show of hands.

19th European Colloquium

Invitations to host the next colloquium in 2000 were made and two candidates were proposed.

Soren Toft (Aarhus, Denmark) noted that he had made a preliminary invitation during the Siedlce colloquium in 1996. He offered accommodation in student rooms at a reasonable price of \$30-40 per day, with the possibility of cheaper youth hostels. A student canteen offers food priced at around \$3-4. The colloquium would be held on the Aarhus University campus, information on which was provided in the form of leaflets during the present meeting, and included full lecture hall facilities. Aarhus is a city campus and during July there is a local festival which could be visited as part of the meeting. The colloquium proceedings could be published by Aarhus University Press and an example of their work was offered. There were no questions from members about the Aarhus proposal.

Carola Meierrose (Èvora, Portugal) stated that she was ready to host future meetings, but that it did not have to be held there next year and it was not her intention to compete with Denmark. The prospective venue is a 400 year old university where there is a two year old arachnological section. The prospective venue has interesting historical and archaeological sites nearby. Some 10 cheaper rooms are available in the university hostel and there is hotel accommodation up to around \$50 per night.

The floor was open to questions and it was noted that both Hungary and Belgium would be willing to host the colloquium in future.

Questions about the extremely hot summer weather in Portugal were raised and Joachim Haupt noted that the dates of the colloquium are not fixed. Carola Meierrose stated that May was the best month for weather in Portugal.

Sergei Danilov asked about the possibility of financial support for east european arachnologists and Carola Meierrose answered that there is the possibility for cheap accommodation in Portugal, but was unsure if there was a means of supporting travel costs, adding that it would be helpful to know how many people may need such support.

Yael Lubin noted that July and August are the best times for most arachnologists with university positions. Carola Meierrose answered that there is a better chance of accomodating more people in July, but that the weather is very hot. Soren Toft noted that the Denmark proposal must be held in July.

The chairman then proposed a vote by show of hands. Denmark received 31 votes and Portugal 19. The 19th European Colloquium of Arachnology in 2000 will therefore be held in Aarhus, Denmark, organised by Soren Toft.

Election of council

The next topic for discussion was the council of the Soci t ; the main problem being the fact that some council members do not regularly attend the european meetings. Retirements mean that four new members can be elected and this will be done by a postal vote in the autumn. The proposed list for candidates, all of whom attend meetings regularly, is:

Theo Blick (Germany), Christo Deltshv (Bulgaria), Peter Van Helsdingen (Netherlands), Torbj rn Kronstedt (Sweden), Christian Kropf (Switzerland), Ferenc Samu (Hungary), Soren Toft (Denmark) and Samuel Zschokke (Switzerland).

In addition, during the meeting Vygandas Relys proposed Jason Dunlop (Germany), Karin Schütt proposed Yael Lubin (Israel) and Yael Lubin proposed Carola Meierrose (Portugal) as candidates.

The chairman noted that further suggestions can be sent to Christine Rollard. The chairman was uncertain which four of the present council were retiring, but noted that they would also be eligible for re-election.

A vote to accept this list of candidates was accepted with a large majority.

Membership fees

A resolution on membership fees was suggested. Previously there was no invitation to pay fees and Samuel Zschokke proposed that there should be an annual written reminder to pay fees as well as the production of a certificate of membership; the latter being especially important for some east european members.

Carola Meierrose asked if it was possible to pay for a number of years in advance to reduce money transfer costs. Samuel Zschokke replied that this may be possible, and noted that payment will soon be in Euros for most people. Maria Chatzaki asked if it was possible to pay by credit card and Samuel Zschokke replied that this was more of a problem for the receivers (i.e. the Société), to which Maria Chatzaki proposed that it would be better for individual members to pay slightly more in a credit charge transaction to offset costs of changing money.

Rowley Snazell asked what members are actually getting for their money from the Société. Theo Blick responded that the Société supports the colloquia and Samuel Zschokke added that he had proposals for the council such as bi-annual mailings of the council's work.

At the request of the meeting Samuel Zschokke read Alain Canard's faxed information, including a financial report, a request for money, apologies for the delay in publishing the checklist, a note that a web page is well advanced and that requests for members email addresses can be sent to Christine Rollard.

The chairman then asked members to vote on the issuing of both reminders and membership certificates and this was accepted with a large majority.

Other business

Yael Lubin announced that there was a possibility of EU funding through the Large Scale Facilities program to undertake projects at the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben Gurion

University in Israel. Projects would be expected to be 2-3 months and costs include travel, accommodation and research funds. Invitations are sought for a one page proposal and further information is available on the Internet.

Peter Van Helsdingen reported on the previous evening's discussion on 'Spiders in Wetlands' and announced the formation of two working groups: peat bogs (Seppo Koponen / Yuri Marusik) and salt marshes (Pietro Alicata / Ferenc Samu).

There was no further business and the chairman closed the meeting.

Jason Dunlop, Berlin 22.07.99