

Preface to the Proceedings of the 30th European Congress of Arachnology, Nottingham, 2017 August 20-25

The SpiderLab at the University of Nottingham was delighted to host the 30th European Congress of Arachnology in August 2017. Our organising 'team' here at Nottingham comprised Sara Goodacre together with Leah Ashley, Tom Coekin, Ella Deutsch, Rowan Earlam, Sarah Goertz, Alastair Gibbons, David Harvey, Antje Hundertmark, Liaque Latif, Michelle Strickland and Emma Vincent, but we were also supported by a fantastic team of colleagues from elsewhere, without whom the event could not have taken place. Sara was supported by co-organiser Dmitri Logunov, from the Manchester Museum, and by Geoff Oxford and Tony Russell-Smith, who were instrumental in putting together a very enjoyable scientific program. Yuri Marusik was also instrumental in making the event a success, by hosting the Russian party in addition to his scientific contribution to the meeting.

The Congress was attended by more than 100 participants with representatives from Europe (UK, Spain, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Finland, Austria, Netherlands, Sweden, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Russia), and further afield – Asia (Israel, Russia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Pakistan), Oceania (New Zealand), Africa (South Africa, Algeria), Americas (Brazil, USA). A memorable feature of the meeting was that the formal salutations were followed by presentations by Torbjörn Kronestedt and Christian Komposch, who presented photos taken both from old and recent editions of the Congress, starting from the very first congress in 1960 (18 participants, Bonn, Germany) to the most recent one in 2015 (170 participants, Brno). This was a wonderful way to acknowledge that science and friendship often go hand in hand, and to reflect on past meetings.

The plenary talks given throughout the conference illustrated the breadth of research interests contained within our research community. Yael Lubin gave the first talk of the conference, presenting a fascinating talk on the behavioural ecology of colonial spiders. The afternoon saw a session on taxonomy and phylogeny in parallel with a session on database and engagement. ESA President Wolfgang Nentwig introduced this database and engagement session, presenting new ideas about the future development of these important web resources, which are increasingly used by the scientific community. A special symposium on predatory effects of spiders took place in parallel with the taxonomy session, with an introductory talk given by Ferenc Samu on the non-consumptive effects of spiders in biological control.

Subsequent plenary talks included that by Fritz Vollrath, who described the production of intricate silken 'windlasses', where sections of silk fibres spool around each other, thereby creating forces that act as a winch. Alistair McGregor's plenary



Logo by Michelle Strickland

talk focused primarily on arachnid evolution and development, using *Parasteatoda tepidariorum* as a model study system to understand spider evolution. The final plenary talk was on nuptial gift-giving by male *Pisaura mirabilis*, which was given by Cristina Tuni.

These plenary talks were interspersed with contributed talks on a wide range of other subjects, from spider radiations in the Canary islands (Miquel Arnedo), to the study of cryptic *Eratigena atrica* species (Geoff Oxford), and adaptations to extreme environments such as caves (Marco Isaia). Other topics included wolf spiders' risk prone behaviour (Andrew Roberts), characterization of sensory organs found in male palps (Lenka Sentenská) and inventive methods to catch Idiopidae (Victoria Smith).

As was perhaps appropriate given the geographic location of the congress, the very last afternoon of the meeting finished with a session on Spider Recording Schemes in Britain. This was given by Peter Harvey of the British Arachnological Society and was followed by other colleagues speaking about similar schemes in Greece, the French Mid-Pyrenees and Germany (Maria Chatzaki, Samuel Danflous and Theo Blick.)

At the end of the meeting the audience celebrated the best student presentations and posters during an award ceremony. Marlis Dumke (Australia/Germany, First prize for Best Talk), Philip Steinhoff (Germany, Second Best Talk), Jan Raška (Czech Republic, Third Best Talk) and Jana Plíšková (Best Poster) were the winners of this year: congratulations!

We thank everyone who took part in the meeting and we hope to meet many colleagues at next year's congress!

Sara Goodacre and Dmitri Logunov



1 Ibrahim Salman, 2 Shou-Wang Lin, 3 Leah Ashley, 4 Sasanka Ranasinghe, 5 Ilesha Sandunika Ileperuma-Arachchi, 6 Angelika Dawidowicz, 7 Tanya Levy, 8 Igor Armiach, 9 Efrat Gavish-Regev, 10 Michelle Strickland, 11 Eytan Avital, 12 Sara Goodacre, 13 Yael Lubin, 14 André Walter, 15 Jana Plíšková, 16 Nicolas Langenegger, 17 Vladimír Hula, 18 Roman Bucher, 19 Karin Urfer, 20 Miriam Frutiger, 21 János Novák, 22 Hirotsugu Ono, 23 Eva Líznařová, 24 Victoria Smith, 25 Břetislav Novotný, 26 Muhammad Khalid Mukhtar, 27 Torbjörn Kronestedt, 28 Peter van Helsdingen, 29 Maria Chatzaki, 30 Alistair McGregor, 31 Chris Workman, 32 Lawrence Bee, 33 Holger Frick, 34 Kristína Štěpánková, 35 Milan Řezáč, 36 Ejgil Gravesen, 37 Nilani Kanesharaknam, 38 Lenka Sentenská, 39 Jutta Schneider, 40 Marlis Dumke, 41 Gabriele Uhl, 42 Geoff Oxford, 43 Marco Isaia, 44 Richard Gallon, 45 André Giroti, 46 Monica Sheffer, 47 Erica Morley, 48 Steven Williams, 49 Christoph Muster, 50 Ferenc Samu, 51 Ella Deutsch, 52 Jan Beccaloni, 53 Cristina Tuni, 54 Stefano Mammola, 55 Seppo Koponen, 56 Tony Russell-Smith, 57 Konrad Wiśniewski, 58 Samuel Danflous, 59 Jackie Adams, 60 Christian Komposch, 61 Adrià Bellvert, 62 Jagoba Malumbres-Olarte, 63 Onno Preik, 64 Robert Bosmans, 65 Theo Blick, 66 Stano Pekár, 67 Michael Seiter, 68 Ondřej Michálek, 69 Bram Vanthournout, 70 Lena Grinsted, 71 Wolfgang Nentwig, 72 Dmitri Logunov, 73 Lucia Kuhn-Nentwig, 74 Andy Roberts, 75 Fritz Vollrath, 76 Matjaž Kuntner, 77 Miquel Arnedo, 78 Cor Vink, 79 Philip Steinhoff, 80 Ondřej Machač, 81 Arthur Decae, 82 Petr Dolejš, 83 Yuri Marusik, 84 Christian Kropf, 85 Jesús Hernández-Corral, 86 Alastair Gibbons, 87 Jan Raška, 88 Łukasz Trębicki, 89 Grzegorz Krawczyk, 90 Jakob Walter, 91 Peter Koomen – Congress photo, Nottingham August 24th, 2017. Photo courtesy Emma Vincent