

The newsletter of the European Society of Arachnology

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From the President

By Gabriele Uhl

Dear fellow Arachnologists

First a short recap as to ESA elections that took place in 2021 and the new board. Wolfgang Nentwig and Ferenc Samu stepped back from the council after serving the society over many years. Thanks to both for their dedicated service! We thank all members for entrusting the new council with running the ESA. New on board are: Matjaž Gregorič, Vladislav Ivanov and Elena Piano. This is the current ESA council: Gabriele Uhl (President, Germany), Sara Goodacre (Vice-President, UK), Maria Chatzaki (Communication Secretary, Greece), Jason Dunlop (Membership Secretary, Germany), Christian Kropf (Treasurer, Switzerland), Holger Frick (Vice-Treasurer, Switzerland), Marco Isaia (Newsletter Editor, Italy), Matjaž Gregorič (Webmaster, Slovenia), Vladislav Ivanov (Social Media, Finland) and Elena Piano (Newsletter co-editor, Italy). You will see that we restructured the council and duties and now have an outreach team combining the newsletters, email, website and social media.

Please subscribe to our Facebook and Twitter accounts and spread the word that being a member of ESA is rewarding and affordable. The more members we have, the more can we support early career researchers through travel grants and waivers. If you are missing aspects that could help to promote early career researchers, or have ideas as to how we can attract new members or develop new ways to support members, please contact a member of the Council. During our general assembly, Sara Goodacre proposed an ESA mentoring scheme at all early career stages. Those of you who like to get in contact with one of the senior members of the Society please do not hesitate to approach this person and ask for advice and scientific exchange. There might even be institutional

funds that may allow visits and internships. Such a mentoring scheme can be very rewarding for both parties involved.

As to our European congresses, we had little chance to meet over the last years. Due to the pandemic we had to postpone the congress that was planned to take place in Greifswald in 2020. Unfortunately, 2021 was not much better, but we decided to hold the congress in a virtual format with a focus on early career arachnologists. We heard great talks and had fruitful discussions and even virtual meetings at the bar. Finally, this year we got together in Greifswald and it was wonderful to meet so many of you in person. Direct exchange is necessary for all of us but especially for Bachelor's, Master's and PhD students - they need the opportunity to present their research projects "live" and to exchange ideas and to build their own networks. This is obvious, but organizing a conference in times when you do not know whether it can take place in person or has to be cancelled at the last minute due to a novel virus mutant, is indeed challenging. On behalf of the council and the organizing team in Greifswald, I would like to sincerely thank all of you who registered early and attended in person. A big thank you goes to my group in Greifswald (Peter Michalik, Monika Eberhard, Christoph Muster, Jonas Wolf, Heidi Land and Kerstin Wulf) for making it happen. Thanks also to the big help of the scientific committee (Trine Bilde, Jutta Schneider, Klaus Birkhofer and Miquel Arnedo) for deciding on the student travel grants and organizing the student award committee. Last but not least, big thanks go to the Greifswald students that helped in many ways, at the reception and in the lecture halls and behind the scene.

Now what is on our agenda for the coming year? Due to the ICA in Uruguay in March 2023, we will have the next ESA meeting in 2024. The venue will be in Brittany/Bretagne (France) organized by Julien



Pétillon from Université de Rennes. Thank you, Julien, for taking on this task! The congress in Dublin, organized by Myles Nolan, will be postponed and will hopefully take place in the near future.

Please remember that there will be a call for contributions to our “new” special issue of the regular Newsletter: the second edition of the **Early Career Newsletter** of the European Arachnologists, shortly “EarlCNews”. EarlCNews is a platform where to post abstracts of bachelor/master/PhD theses that have been defended in 2022. Thanks to this support, young arachnologists can disseminate their research among all members of the society and become more visible as an early career scientist. Elena Piano will send out the call soon and there is time to submit the abstract until the end of January 2023.

The council would like to intensify communication between members and the Board. Please consider how we can actively integrate different scientific interests and personal needs into the society and its conference formats. Let us know your ideas!

With my very best wishes

Gabriele Uhl, President of the European Society of Arachnology, on behalf of the council

Congress Report

By Marco Isaia

The 33rd European Congress of Arachnology was organized by Gabriele Uhl, Peter Michalik and their team. After a long period of social restrictions, the arachnological community could finally come together in person again. It was really good to see how much everyone was appreciating the warm atmosphere of this long desired “real” congress, and social interactions within the conference were even more friendly than the usual standards between arachnologists. It was so good to see you all again!



Peter Michalik designed the logo of the 33rd European Congress of Arachnology: a six-eyed spider with green chelicera inspired by *Segestria florentina*

The Congress venue was the University of Greifswald, one of the oldest universities in Europe, founded in

1456. The Hanseatic city of Greifswald is small town characterized by a very old tradition but also by a very young and lively presence of a big student community coming from all over the world. The whole group of arachnologists enjoyed very much the nice atmosphere of the bars and the pubs in town and also the sunny and mild weather during the conference (at least during the first days and the field excursions). During her introductory speech, Gabriele reminded us about the importance of Zoological research in this University - which has been performed here for more than 200 years - and research on Arachnids, starting with the late Gerd Alberti more than 30 years ago.

The conference venue was a newly built lecture hall complex located in the city centre of Greifswald. The organizing team made sure that everything was working properly both in the Conference halls (the talks were also broadcasted online via a Streaming platform - and it all worked well) and in the spaces dedicated to coffee breaks and meals (excellent food!) The Congress was attended by 157 participants in person, from 39 countries. The virtual meeting was followed by 33 out of the total of 190 arachnologists participating in the Congress. Due to illness on site, or difficulties in travelling, several talks were given online. Unfortunately, some of them were cancelled. Overall, four keynote talks, 99 oral contributions and 39 posters were presented, most of which were authored or co-authored by students. The scientific program itself was split into 12 Sessions, 2 Symposia and 1 Workshop, over four days of talks held in the mornings and the afternoons, from Monday 5th to Friday 9th September. One more Symposium was held on Sunday 4th, the traditional “Welcome day” of the Conference.



The newly built lecture hall complex of Greifswald University was the main venue of this year's Congress

As to outdoor activities, during the three days of pre-congress excursion the participants explored the German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The traditional mid-congress excursions brought the group



to some of the most picturesque places around Greifswald like the islands of Rügen and Usedom, the town of Stralsund and the beautiful fen complex of the Peene River.

Arachnological Science

The conference was opened by Gabriele Uhl, who welcomed the arachnological community in Greifswald. Co-host Peter Michalik was able to join for some talks and social events despite his accident just a few days before the congress. Best wishes for a full recovery, Peter!

Each day of the conference contained a keynote presentation and a wide range of contributed talks. The talks of this edition of our Congress featured Behavioural Sciences, Ecology, Biogeography, Morphology, Physiology, Systematics and Phylogeny, encompassing all groups of Arachnids.

Arie van der Meijden (University of Porto, Portugal) was the first plenary speaker. In his talk he looked into the validity of scorpion ectomorphs by comparing functioning and performance of their different body parts. He presented the results of several comparative studies showing that the clinging performance of the claws varied between species and ecomorphs and that species differ in the performance of the metasoma during defensive strikes. Arie concluded that despite their highly conserved body plan, scorpions have adapted their different functional complexes to allow for differences in performance fitting the ecological demands that may differ between species and ecomorphs.



Peter Michalik and Gabriele Uhl were the Organizers of the ECA 2022

The first round of talks of the congress was split in two parallel sessions, Behavior and Faunistic & Biodiversity. The Behaviour session opened with Beydizada & Pekár with a talk on spider personality, followed by ter Haar et al. (male vibratory courtship in *Pisaura mirabilis*), Parthasarathy et al. (hunger vs. personality in determining social interactions), Joel et

al. (use of cribellate silk), Bartos (deflective patterns in Salticids) and De Agrò (visual inputs and biological motion in Salticids). The parallel session on Faunistics & Biodiversity focused on the spider fauna of Armenia (Zarikian & Dilbaryan, online), Czechia (Řezáč), alien Arachnids in subterranean habitats across the world (Nicolosi), Moldova (Vasiliev) and Sweden (Arvidsson & Birkhofer).

The session on Faunistics & Biodiversity continued in the afternoon, with six more talks focusing on biodiversity research in a German-Ecuadorian Consortium (Harms et al.), in Australia (Framenau & Metzner) and in urban environments (Vanthournout et al.). In the same session, Gloriková et al. presented a case study on an established species of atypid, Hörweg presented a study on dangerous Arachnids initiated in collaboration with the Austrian Army and finally. Later in the afternoon six more talks were presented in the third part of the same session, with Johnson, Ji et al. (pseudoscorpions from Western Ghats), Hlebec & Harms (pseudoscorpions from the Dinaric Karst), Ambalaparambil & Neisseril (spiders of the Indian Thar desert, online), Machač (spiders from two grazing reserves in Czechia) and Mowery et al. (endosymbiont diversity in brown widow spiders).



The poster session was accompanied by a nice selection of wines and food provided by the Organizers

In parallel, the Evolutionary Biology session contained twelve talks split in two sessions, featuring sexual size dimorphism (Kralj-Fišer et al.), masculinizing supergenes in linyphiid spiders of the genus *Oedothorax* (Hendrickx et al.), “love bites” in sparassids (Jäger) visual traits in nocturnal arachnids (Lee), monogyny and introgression in *Dolomedes* (Connolly), developmental genetics (Sharma et al.), diversity and evolution of spider spinning organs (Ramírez et al.), extreme locomotor performance in Austral brown spiders (Wolff et al.), low-coverage genome sequencing in evolutionary studies (Adrián-



Serrano et al.), evolution of genome size in entelegyne spiders (Lizandrova et al.), museomics in zodariids (Ortiz et al.).

The poster session took place on the first day of the Congress in the reception hall of the lecture complex. The Poster session was accompanied by a nice selection of food and wines provided by the Organizers. As usual, an engaged group of senior scientists selected by the Organizers and some of the plenary speakers spent a good effort in selecting the best Student Posters and talks, which were awarded during the general assembly on Friday.

The second day started with a keynote talk given by Kasey Fowler-Finn, who led us into the fascinating sex life of Opiliones, made of intermittent sex organs and nuptial gifts, alternative reproductive tactics and bizarre behavioural adaptations. Kasey worked on Brazilian and North American species, documenting the evolution and the environmental sensitivity of alternative reproductive tactics, male polymorphisms, mating systems, parental care and extraordinary morphological, physiological, and behavioural diversity reflecting multiple evolutionary transitions from cooperative-based mating to conflict-based mating. Indeed, she was successful in convincing the audience that Opiliones are suitable evolutionary models to study the environmental sensitivity of reproduction from different perspectives and research approaches.

During the second day we heard several contributed talks focusing on spider ecology, starting with Milano et al. (conservation of water spiders), followed by Samu et al. (decline of spiders in arable ecosystems), myself (cave spiders and global warming), Huang (stabilization of spider web decorations), Hopfe et al. (relation between habitat and spider silk properties), Philip & Sam (top-down control of spiders in forested ecosystems), Zvik et al. (myrmecophile scorpions), Kandampully et al. (lynx spiders, online), Schnerch et al. (spiders in integrated pest management), Cotoras et al. (invasive harvestmen in Oceanic islands), Wiśniewsky et al. (effect of prescribed fires on spiders and harvestmen in heathlands). Given that a few talks were cancelled, Yuri Marusik gave a last-minute talk about the ties between Ukraine and German arachnology in XVIII and XX centuries. The last part of the afternoon was dedicated to the eDNA and Metabarcoding Symposium, organized by Henrik Krehenwinkel and Susan Kennedy. The Symposium consisted in an introductory talk given by the Organizers, followed by eight contributed talks providing inputs for an insightful final discussion at the

end of the day. The topics were featuring research using metabarcoding as an effective tool to gather information on the spider diet from gut content (Gajski et al., Anđelić Dmitrović, Gravesen et al., Melcher), HTS and Nanopore sequencing (Kennedy et al.), assessment of biodiversity patterns (Domènec et al.) and application of eDNA in ecological research (Šet et al., Weber).

After the traditional mid-conference excursion break of Wednesday, the lectures started with a plenary talk given by Elizabeth M. Jakob focusing on visual attention in jumping spiders and on the big challenge of dealing with huge streams of visual information and make appropriate behavioural decisions with a brain of the size of a sesame seed. In her talk, Elizabeth described experiments in which the spider ability was tested to learn to attend to different visual cues in a variety of ecological conditions. By using eye masking and a specially designed eye-tracker she proved that cross-modal cues, such as sound and pheromones, have a strong influence on visual attention. Furthermore, she discussed her current work using neural recording techniques to look more deeply into mechanisms of visual processing, not only in jumping spiders, but also in other families in order to build a phylogenetic perspective of the evolution of the visual system in spiders.

Thursday morning opened with a Systematics & Biogeography session, starting with Eskov & Marusik (phylogenetic position of *Comaroma*) followed by Dupérré & Tapia (an amazing turtle-like spider from the Ecuadorian Amazon region), Gavish-Regev et al. (speciation and eye evolution in two parthenogenetic species of Amblypygi), Armiach Steinpress (*Lycosa piochardi* and its population structure) and finally Ivanov (species delimitation in *Pardosa* using ddRAD sequencing).

The following session took place in the afternoon, with a session of contributed talks on Morphology & Physiology, followed by a Symposium on Arachnid phylogeny.

The session started with a talk by Simone et al. on the physiological and ecological consequences of a functional trade off in scorpion chelae. Müller & Uhl followed, with a talk on sensilla in the pretarsal claws of the wasp spider *Argiope bruennichi*. Talukder et al. contributed on the topic of chemosensing in spiders, followed by Poy et al. (active female participation in the genital coupling of *Aysha proseni* revealed by micro-CT), Lin et al. (gustatory courtship in spiders) and Rivera-Quiroz & Miller (usability of legacy material with a micro-CT approach, online).

The lively Symposium on Arachnid Phylogeny organized by Michalik and Uhl was introduced and



moderated by Gonzalo Giribet. Three speakers from different fields presented their data and recent developments in their field on Arachnid phylogeny followed by an open debate moderated by Gonzalo Giribet.



"Together we are stronger" was the take-home message provided during the Symposium on Arachnid phylogeny

Prashant Sharma reviewed recent paradigm shifts in chelicerate phylogeny, emphasizing conflicting outcomes of different studies over the past decade. He showed arachnid monophyly was consistently rejected through time recovering a derived placement of Merostomata within Arachnida. Prashant argued that adaptations to terrestrial life underlie misleading levels of convergence across the tree of life, driving the idea that terrestrialsation is an uncommon or unlikely phenomenon. The second talk pertained the view of the palaeontologists and the importance of fossil records in phylogenetic reconstructions. With a crystal-clear talk, Russel Garwood led us into a fascinating journey through time starting 500 million years ago and convinced the audience (at least he convinced me!) that fossils provide unique insights into the evolution of the Chelicerata by informing about dates of divergence, character acquisition and including extinct orders that could not be predicted from extant chelicerate diversity. By highlighting implications for major innovations, radiations, and timings in chelicerate evolution, Russel explored potential frameworks for terrestrialsation in the group, providing arguments for the final debate. Finally, Christian Wirkner provided the perspective of an evolutionary morphologist on the phylogeny of chelicerates starting from reviewing recent progress in chelicerate phylogenetics, underlining possible pitfalls during the formulation of different phylogenetic hypothesis. Christian considered recent

advances in animal structure analysis as an important prerequisite for phylogenetic hypothesis and he promoted a common research drive bringing together scientists from as many methodological fields as possible in order to forge a path towards a universally acceptable hypothesis on chelicerate phylogeny.

A very lively, (talk show-like!) debate followed. Gonzalo first moderated the discussion between the three speakers and then opened the discussion to the audience. The discussion was conducted at very high scientific level. We learned a lot and the lively exchange continued into the night!

After the Symposium we could chill out at the Congress dinner, which took place at the STRAZE, a community run place for theatre politics, film and party. The food, the wine and the company were great. We all appreciated the familiar and cosy atmosphere of our beloved arachnological community!



The Congress dinner took place in the ballroom of the STRAZE, a self-governed alternative community.

The last day of the conference opened with the plenary talk on the ecology and the conservation of European salt-marsh spiders given by Julien Pétillon. Julien started from experiments conducted at the local scale (both in the lab and in the field) on avoidance and resistance to submergence and associated high salinities, proving the existence of several distribution ranges along the marsh and the existence of behavioural adaptations displayed by terrestrial arthropods before or during submersion. In the last part, Julien moved to a wider scale, discussing best management practices to promote spider diversity in salt marshes.

The last sessions of contributed talks were focusing on Systematics & Biogeography and Ecology. Arnedo et al. started the session, focusing on asymmetries in species richness across dysderids, followed by a talk on the use of machine learning on challenging



collections (Miller et al.), one on ecomorphs in dysderids on islands (Bellvert et al.) and the last one focusing on cryptic diversity in Korean endemic harvestmen (Kim et al.).

The final Ecology session was opened by Piano & Isaia with a talk on the response to urbanization in spiders, followed by Cotoras et al. with a talk on an invasive harvestman in an oceanic island, Černecká et al. on parasitism rate of web-building spiders by hymenopteran parasitoids and ended with Birkhofer et al. focusing on scale-dependent drivers of prey composition in spiders.

The final Workshop on Illegal Wildlife Trade organized by Stefan Prost & Sergej Henriques closed the scientific program of this year's arachnological conference, again with a lively discussion.

Arachnologists touring around Greifswald

The pre-congress Excursion took place from 1st to 3rd September just before the congress opened. It was joined by a small number of fellow arachnologists with their accompanying persons who experienced the charming nature and culture offered by the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Day one was dedicated to the cloister of Dargun (12th century), which is the place where the Cistercian monks that founded Greifswald came from and to Müritznational Park and to the visit of the Müritzmuseum, in the Müritz lake district. Day two focused on the visit of Schwerin and its famous castle and a visit to a mediaeval stone mill. On day three the participants hiked in the national park on the island of Darß, where they saw red deer and many sea eagles. The participants stayed overnight in the very charming castles of Basedow and Basthorst.



During the Pre-congress Excursion the participants enjoyed the nature of the federal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

There was also an accompanying persons program organized by Michael Schmitt (Theo) from Greifswald. He guided a group of about 6-8 attendees through the UNESCO city of Stralsund, along the beach of Lubmin, to the island of Usedom including a visit at the historical-technical museum of Peenemünde and – of

course – through Greifswald and the picturesque fishing village of Wieck.



Arachnologists and penguins on the roof top of the Museum Ozeaneum in Stralsund

The traditional mid-congress excursions took place on Wednesday 7th September. The Organizers offered three different programs: the UNESCO city of Stralsund (led by Monika Eberhard), the Island of Rügen (led by Christoph Muster) and the Peene River (led by Jonas Wolff).

The visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Hanseatic City of Stralsund was a unique opportunity to admire the impressive Brick Gothic architecture of the city and the special Museum Ozeaneum, one of the largest public aquaria in Europe located at the historical Stralsund harbour on the Baltic coast. The museum, which was highly appreciated among participants, consists of aquaria displaying sea life of the North and Baltic Sea, different exhibitions, and even a penguin platform on the roof, home of ten Humboldt penguins.

The Island of Rügen was the second option for the mid-conference excursion. The island is renowned for its unique landscape and its cultural history. The participants started in the "White Town" Putbus, founded in 1810 by Prince Wilhelm Malte zu Putbus and then headed for the Jasmund National Park in the northeast of Rügen, where we admired the iconic chalk cliffs and the famous Königsstuhl. Arachnologists had the chance to walk through the lovely beech forests and to experience the interactive exhibitions at the Visitors' Centre (including nice coffee and hot beverages!). The rest of the day was dedicated to the "Lebensgut Frankenthal", an association devoted to the promotion of culture and sustainability in the region, that also served a rich buffet of organic food. The third option for the congress excursion was the fen complex of the Peene valley. It is considered one of the best-preserved valley mire habitats in Germany. The participants could explore this wild and exciting biotope (and also collect some spiders!) thanks to our



member arachnologist Jonas Wolff and to Jens Kulbe of the Peenetal-Landschaft Consortium, who led the group to discover the rich biodiversity of the area, including several interesting species of rare plants and rare breeding bird species such as the white-tailed eagle, the spotted crane and the European curlew.



The special Museum Ozeaneum was very appreciated by the participants of the mid-conference excursion to Stralsund

Award Ceremony, social odds and ends

The Organizers offered four ESA Greifswald Student travel Grants (pre-postdoc level) for all research fields. The recipients for these Grants were chosen by the scientific committee and were given to Narmin Beydizada (Masaryk University, Czech Republic), Dongyoung Kim (Ajou University, Republic of Korea), Vladimíra Šoltysová (Masaryk University, Czech Republic) and Giuseppe Nicolosi (Torino University, Italy). Additionally, there was a travel grant sponsored by the AraGes that went to Dora Hlebec (LIB-Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, Museum for Nature, Hamburg, Germany). As is tradition, there were awards for outstanding oral contributions and posters (three each).

The first place for the student talks went to Yuri Simone from University of Porto (Portugal). Filippo Milano from Torino University (Italy) won the Second

Prize and Yoram Zvik from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel) won the third.



The iconic chalk cliffs of the island of Rügen and the "white town" of Putbus were among the possible destinations of the mid-conference excursion



During the excursion at Peene Valley the participants visited one of the most beautiful fen complexes in Europe (and could also collect spiders)

Morgan Oberweiser (University of Greifswald, Germany), Vladimíra Šoltysová (Masaryk University, Czech Republic) and Nela Gloríková (Crop Research Institute, Prague, Czech Republic) won the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for their posters, respectively.

Two additional awards that were sponsored by Damian Laudier (Laudier Histology, N.Y.) for high



standard research in morphology went to Dante Poy (Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires) for his talk and to Emelie Steiger (University of Greifswald, Germany) for her poster.

The very last night of the Congress was devoted to social life, dancing, drinking and having fun at the Mensa Club, the perfect place for the “Peace Party” a semi-organized event, with music, caviar, salmon, various types of vegan spread, vodka and many other beverages. This year we also had a special cocktail invented and mixed by Jeremy Miller for the Arachnological community, the “Greifswald Harvester” (check out the recipe here: <https://threecupblog.wordpress.com/cocktail-gallery/#greifswaldHarvester>).

As the last act before the curtain fell in the Mensa Club, Jeremy Miller and Gabriele Uhl presented an arachnology song they had developed during the conference, based on Irving Berlin’s song “It’s a lovely day today”. The song will hopefully be presented at the next Congress in 2024.



The last night of the Congress the arachnological community joined the “Peace party” at Mensa Club, dancing, drinking and having fun!

Thank you, Greifswald!

Our thanks go to the organizers of the congress – particularly to Gabriele Uhl and Peter Michalik – for having reunited the arachnological community in person again. We are all looking forward to meet again at the next ECA Congress in Brittany in 2024!

News from ESA General Assembly

By Marco Isaia

Our President (Gabriele Uhl) opened the General Assembly by presenting the current composition of the Council, set last year after the new elections.

Vladislav provided a general overview of the “outreach group”, taking care of social media and dissemination activities. The ESA Facebook page is visited mostly by men (69%), aged 25-44. The page reached 1326 “likes” in the last year and is mostly reached by users from US, followed by UK and Italy. Marco and Elena presented the activities of the Editorial Board, with particular emphasis on the “new” EarlCNNews initiative, intended to give an opportunity to young researchers to gain visibility in the scientific community by collecting abstracts of recent arachnological theses of students of all levels (Bachelor, Master, Doctoral theses). The first EarlCNNews was published in March 2022 as a special issue of the ESA newsletter, reporting about 13 abstracts of bachelor/master/PhD theses defended in 2021.



The local Organizing Committee of ECA Greifswald 2022 (almost all of it!) at the closing ceremony on Friday 9th of September

The Audience was informed about the support that the Society gives to Congress Organizers and to different projects, including The Spider of the Year, the website Araneae-Spiders of Europe and the European Spider Biodiversity Research Fund, which was assigned to Donard Geci (University of Pristina, Kosovo) for 2022 and 2023 including financial support for his project on the spider fauna of Kosovo.

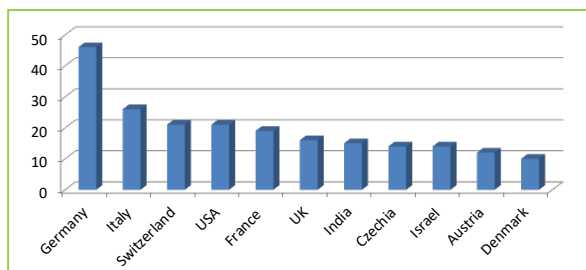
Sara invited us to reflect about the future of our Society, and in particular about the role of the Society for young students. Mentorship (at all career stages), attracting new members and developing new ways to support members were the most crucial points underlined by Sara in her speech.

Our Society is now made of 346 members from 58 different countries. The new 45 members are mostly students, which makes us feel even younger!

Germany, Italy and Switzerland are still the most represented countries, followed by USA, France and UK.



Although resuming all incomes and expenses was not easy due to bureaucratic aspects, the financial state of the society is fully in order. The Society is still able to support European projects such as 'Araneae Spiders of Europe', and to give support to Congress Organizers. Our Treasurer (Christian Kropf) presented a financial report attesting a balance of roughly 8,800 Euro.



Current membership of the European Society of Arachnology sorted by country

Our President presented the current list of Honorary members and proposed the honorary membership for Wolfgang Nentwig. The audience was deeply moved by the *laudatio* given by Christian Kropf, which ended with a standing ovation for our former president for his significant services and his accomplishments in promotion arachnology. Congratulations to Wolfgang from all ESA members!

Finally, Konrad Wiśniewski announced that the congress proceedings will be published in *Arachnologische Mitteilungen* / Arachnology Letters in April 2023. Gabriele Uhl and Peter Michalik will serve as guest editors. If you like to submit your contribution, the deadline is Dec. 31st, 2022. Submissions will of course be peer reviewed. For instructions to authors please visit <https://arages.de/en/journal/instructions-to-authors>.

See you soon in France!

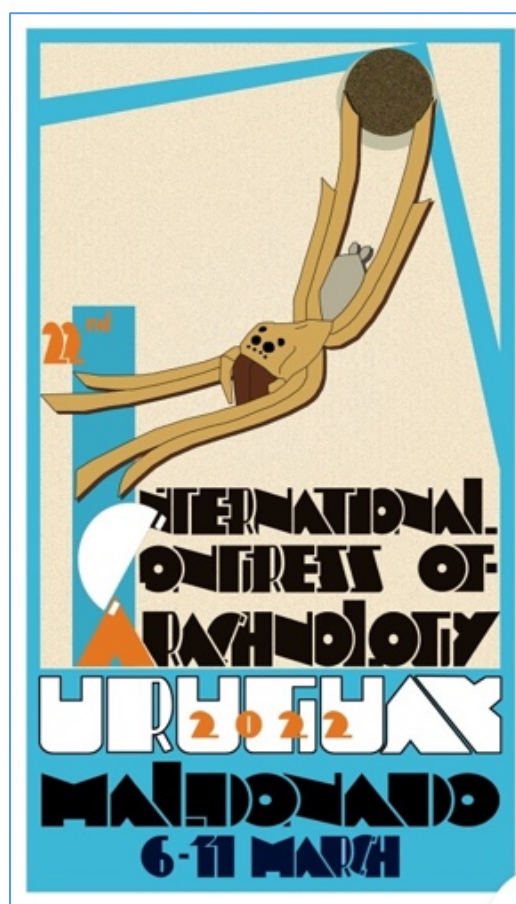
The next European Society meeting will be in August 2024, organized by Julien Pétillon in Brittany (France). Looking forward to see you all there!

Announcements

- The Editorial team of the ESA Newsletter is working on the second issue of the **EaICNews** dedicated to students. The special issue aims at collecting the abstracts of all arachnological theses (bachelor, master and PhD) defended in the previous year. It will be edited by the ESA Council and disseminated once a year, in Spring.

We invite all students and their supervisors to submit the abstracts of the theses disserted in 2022 at the following link: <https://forms.gle/rC1ercXMvovM9fvz5>.

- The **34rd European Congress of Arachnology** will be held in 2024 in Brittany (France), hosted by Julien Pétillon from Rennes.
- The **22nd International Congress of Arachnology** will be held in Piriàpolis Maldonado, Uruguay, March 2023 (Organizer: Anita Aisenberg). The deadline to submit the abstracts is January 31st. We hope many of you will participate! Take a look at the Congress website: <https://arachnology.org/22nd-ica-2023.html>





Congress photo in Greifswald, September 8th, 2022 – 1 Gonzalo Giribet, 2 Dimitar Dimitrov, 3 Narmin Beydizada, 4 Susan Kennedy, 5 Noushig Zarikian, 6 Amelia Joyce Philip, 7 Anui Sanz la Parra, 8 Jutta Schneider, 9 Karin Urfer, 10 Eva Liznarova, 11 Ludmila Černecká, 12 Charlotte Hopfe, 13 Miriam Frutiger, 14 Marc Domènech, 15 Christoph Hörweg, 16 Konrad Wiśniewski, 17 Kardelen Özgün Uludag, 18 Jithin Johnson, 19 Jennifer Apple, 20 Maciej Bartos, 21 Arie van der Meijden, 22 Simon Connolly, 23 Prashant Sharma, 24 Martina Pavlek, 25 Adria Bellvert, 26 Silvia Adrián Serrano, 27 Jeremy Miller, 28 Vardit Makover, 29 Kasey Fowler-Finn, 30 Beth Jakob, 31 Paul Selden, 32 Wolfgang Nentwig, 33 Anja Melcher, 34 Yannis Schöneberg, 35 Peter Jaeger, 36 Yuri Marusik, 37 David Ortiz, 38 Pavol Purgat, 39 Nadine Duperré, 40 Elena Piano, 41 Marco Meyer, 42 Keith Lions, 43 Marco Isaia, 44 Filippo Milano, 45 Dongyoung Kim, 46 Christian Wirkner, 47 Yuri Simone, 48 Stano Pekar, 49 Sven Weber, 50 Alexandr Vasiliev, 51 Peter Gajdos, 52 El Aziz Djoudi, 53 Jan Raska, 54 Peter Koomen, 55 ... 56 Domagoj Gajsko, 57 Igor Armiach Steinpress, 58 Alireza Zamani, 59 Kerstin Wulf und Heidi Land, 60 Jonas Wolff, 61 Philip Steinhoff, 62 Volker Framenau, 63 Klaus Birkhofer, 64 Mohammad Belal Talukder, 65 Christoph Muster, 66 Carsten Müller, 67 Peter Michalik, 68 Paul-Robin Franz, 69 Morgan Oberweiser, 70 Carolina Ortiz Movliav, 71 Gabriele Uhl, 72 Jens Runge, 73 Lara Lopardo, 74 Yael Lubin, 75 Monika Eberhard, 76 Christian Kropf, 84 Vladimira Soltysova, 85 Nathan Viel, 86 Efrat Gavish-Regev, 87 Yoram Zvik, 88 Zeana Ganem, 89 Stefan Prost, 90 Vladislav Ivanov, 91 Grzegorz Krawczuk, 92 Kirill Eskov, 93 Henrik Krehenwinkel, 94 Trine Bilde, 95 Ondřej Machač, 96 Lucas Baumgart, 97 Julien Pétilion, 98 Milan Řezáč, 99 Magret Weißbach, 100 Benjamin Schnerch, 101 Myles Nolan, 102 Nela Gloriková, 103 Maryia Tsiarshyna, 104 Monica Mowery, 105 Ming-yu Lee, 106 Fredrik Arvidsson, 107 Fuga Matsui, 108 Frederik Hendricks, 109 Bram Vanthournout, 110 Simona Kralj-Fiser, 111 Robert Bosmans, 112 Darko Cotoras, 113 Martin Ramirez, 114 Jörg Wunderlich, 115 Danilo Harms, 116 Jochen Martens, 117 Giuseppe Nicolosi, 118 Christian Bartel, 119 Miquel Arnedo, 120 Dora Hlebec, 121 Donard Geci, 122 Holger Frick, 123 Barbara Anđelić Dmitrović, 124 Janko Šet, 125 Rok Golobinek, 126 Emelie Steiger, 127 Carmen Noske, 128 Dante Poy, 129 Michael Schmitt, 130 Lenka Sentenská, Not on the photograph: Henning Clausen, Massimo De Agro*, Arthur Decae, Russell Garwood, Yen-Ting Huang, Anna-Christin Joel, Josefine Kreuz, Katrin Kunz, Shou-Wang Lin, Heiko Metzner, Bharat Parthasarathy, Edgardo Santiago-Rivera.

