



Yellow-legged gull *Larus michahellis*, a common bird with a complex taxonomy (picture L. Vallotton)

Dear members of SSS,

with some delay we send you here our latest SSS-News. We would like to draw your attention in particular to the upcoming SSS-Day in Porrentruy on November 15-16, 2012. We also appreciate your payment of the membership fee as detailed below in order to further represent the science of systematics in the community in order to raise the awareness of its general importance and to contribute to increase exchange and collaboration among us.

#### **5th “SSS-Day” in Porrentruy/Pruntrut, November 2012**

The 5th “SSS-Day” will be in fact a two-day event at the Musée d’Histoire Naturelle in Porrentruy on November 15-16, 2012. Thursday will be devoted to a one-day course on parametric methods in biogeographical investigations taught by Prof. Isabel Sanmartin, Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid. For Friday morning we schedule a visit to the local paleontological exhibition at the museum in combination with two invited presentations by Dr. Christian Meyer (Basel) and Dr. Damien Becker (Porrentruy). After lunch we will have our regular short student communications and invited presentation. Further details on the program and registration to participate in this event will be offered after the summer break in August.

#### **SCNAT summer school on “Plant Systematics” in August 2012 at the University of Zurich**

Fifteen high-school students (i.e., Kantonsschule, Gymnasium, lycée) have registered to participate in the SCNAT summer school on the subject of “Plant Systematics” for one week beginning of August 2012. This course will be run by members of the Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich, and member of SSS. The focus will lay on the diversity of asterids (daisies and relatives) and the course will cover aspects of traditional taxonomy and species description as well as molecular phylogenetics and comparative evolutionary investigations.

## General Assembly of SSS in February 2012

The general assembly was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> in Fribourg during the Biology12 meeting. 13 members attended. Rapport by the President and the Treasurer were presented and accepted by the members. As no election was required, the board of the Society remained unchanged. Planned activities for 2012 were presented and included the SSS-Day in Porrentruy and the summer school (see above). Two other points were discussed: 1) Organization of the Biology meeting and implication of the societies. This year the announcement of the Biology meeting was much delayed and the three organizing societies were not clearly involved in the choice of speakers. We agreed that it was not a satisfactory situation and discussions were made among the three societies' presidents to have a better organization in future years (Basel will be hosting 2013's meeting); 2) Suggestion was made to move the general assembly to the SSS-Day, where usually a larger number of members are present. This would imply some modifications of the society's bylaws that will be submitted to a vote at the next general assembly in Basel.

## Codes and the naming of organisms

The International Committee on Bio-Nomenclature recently published a paper in ZooKeys in which they present a set of terms recommended for facilitating the communication in biological nomenclature. An interesting table shows that many differences exist indeed between the different nomenclatural codes (zoological, botanical, bacteria and the controversial Phylocode!) for notions as essential as, for example, publication, synonyms or registration.

David *et al.* 2012. Biological nomenclature terms for facilitating communication in the naming of organisms. ZooKeys 192: 67-72. doi: 10.3897/zookeys.192.3347

## Meeting announcements

The **French Systematic Society** (SFS) will hold its annual meeting the 8-10 of October at the Institut Écologie et Environnement (Paris 16e). This year thematic will be "Systematics beyond Phylogenetics". See the Society website for further information (<http://sfs.snv.jussieu.fr/>).

The second **BioSyst.EU** meeting with the overarching title "Global Systematics!" is organized by the University and the Natural History Museum of Vienna with contributions from seven European systematics societies. This meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria, 18-22 February 201. Registration is open (<http://biosysteu.univie.ac.at/>) and reduced fees are available until end of October 2012. SSS contributes a symposium on the evolution of parasites and parasitoids convened by Seraina Klopstein, Hannes Baur, and Jean Mariaux.

## Membership fee for 2012

**This SSS-News contains a payment order for your membership fee for 2012.** The annual fee remains at a modest 30 CHF (10 CHF for students registered at a university or public school). The account information is: Swiss Society of Systematics (SSS), Avenue de la Praille 40, 1227 Carouge (GE); Banque Cantonale Genève - SWIFT: BCGE CH GG XXX - IBAN: CH63 0078 8000 E328 4521 3 (For your convenience we have added a payment order).



Reto Nyffeler (President of SSS)