



March 2017

## 1) Biology17- University of Bern



359 participants, 5 keynote lectures, 20 regular presentations, two parallel sessions, 20 flash talks and 114 posters from students and early-career researchers – biology17 in Bern was the largest biology conference so far. The success of this format probably lies in its wide scope which encompasses all organismic biology in Switzerland. The traditional Darwin party (picture) took place at the Natural History

Museum in Bern and featured a very entertaining keynote address by **Tom Wenseleers** on the evolution of social behaviour. Two of the other keynotes were especially interesting from a Systematics perspective: **Peter Linder** from the Systematic Botany department at the University of Zurich delivered a sweeping lecture on the evolution and biogeography of the austro-temperate grass subfamily Danthonioideae, which perfectly exemplified the height of systematics research. And **Rosemary Gillespie** from the University Of California (Berkeley, USA) used her studies on the biodiversity dynamics of spiders on the Hawaiian archipelago to emphasize the importance of organism-centered research.

We followed the example of biology16 in Lausanne in organizing **three pre-conference events** on Wednesday, 1. February: a workshop on transdisciplinary science (by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences), a workshop in computational biology (by the Swiss Bioinformatics Institute, which joined the biology meeting for the first time this year), and a scientific outreach event in the form of a scientific speed-dating. The latter attracted a lot of media attention, including a half-hour segment in the local radio station Radio RaBe (link for the audio segment on the SSS website/Biology meeting).

And of course our president Alice Cibois chaired the **Systematics session** during the conference where students presented their work on phylogenetic methods, parasitoid wasp fossils, frog diversity on Borneo and the use of polymorphic characters in turtle phylogeny.

All-in-all, we are very happy with the way this conference turned out and are already looking forward to biology18 next February in Neuchâtel!

For the organizing committee, Seraina Klopstein



## 2) SSS Species of the year

The rabbit-eared beetle *Colilodion schulzi*, our species of the year 2017, was in the news for a few days in January: in the magazine *Terre & Nature* (19.01.2017) and on the air during the talk show *CQFD* of the Radio Suisse Romande (17.01.2017; link to the audio segment on the SSS website/New Species Switzerland).



⇒ **Please send us the publication of your new species in 2017!** We scan the literature for new species but the accuracy of this list depends on information sent by the members of the SSS.

## 3) Upcoming meetings

**SSSDay 2017: Friday 10 November, Fribourg** – save the date! More info in the next newsletter.

**Botanica Sudalpina:** 18 November - Natural History Museum of the Cantone Ticino - Lugano. The Botanica Sudalpina Conference aims to bring together all parties active in the scientific research on the flora of the canton and surrounding areas, gain an overview of the current situation, and promote collaborations and outlining priorities and prospects. Website: [Botanicasudalpina.ch](http://Botanicasudalpina.ch)

**7th International Meeting on Mesozoic Fishes:** 7-11 August - Maharakham University, Thailand. The meeting, co-organized with University Claude Bernard Lyon1 and the Natural History Museum of Geneva, is dedicated to reflect the progress in Mesozoic fish research, to discuss old and new methodologies, and to present novel information about the evolution, diversification, and the palaeobiogeography of fishes during the Mesozoic. Website: <https://immf7.msu.ac.th/>



## 4) Membership fee for 2017

Don't forget to renew your membership so that we can pursue our work in support of systematics!

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)*



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