



December 2015

1) Best master's thesis award 2015

This year best master's thesis award was given to **Lucie Cauwet** for her work entitled "Morphology, function and evolution of male genitalia (hemispermatoxores and spermatoxores) in the Superfamily Scorpionoidea Latreille, 1802 (Chelicerata, Scorpiones)", conducted at the Université de Genève & Muséum d'histoire naturelle de la Ville de Genève. This thesis presents a thorough examination of scorpion spermatoxores and hemi-spermatoxores: Lucie explored structural homologies across the order and proposed a revised nomenclature for scorpion spermatoxores and hemi-spermatoxores. She also used a maximum parsimony reconstruction of their evolution by mapping characters on an existing phylogeny, and retrieved synapomorphies for taxa at different phylogenetic levels.



This year, we also rewarded a second Master student, **Anahita Aebli**, for her work entitled "Assembly of the Madagascan biota by replicated adaptive radiations: Case studies in Leguminosae-Mimosoideae", conducted at the Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zürich. Anahita investigated geotemporal trajectories of diversification in Madagascan mimosoid legumes via a comparative study of two species-rich Madagascan clades, the informal *Dichrostachys* group and *Mimosa*. She used genome-wide RADseq data to reconstruct densely sampled phylogenies for these two clades, and inferred for both groups a contemporaneous late Miocene colonization of Madagascan followed by an early burst of diversification.

Lucie and Anahita presented their work during the SSS-Day. Congratulations again!

2) SSS-Day and General Assembly – Bern , 6 November 2015

This year's Society annual meeting took place in Bern: we thank the Naturhistorisches Museum der Burgergemeinde Bern for hosting us. We had a full and diverse [program](#) with two invited speakers and 11 talks, and plenty of time for discussions among members at lunch and coffee breaks. During the GA, the president and treasurer presented their report for 2014; we discussed the ScNat anniversary and our [correspondence](#) with the President of the academy regarding grants. The board also made a **call for new board members**: don't hesitate to join us and to give your ideas (and a little of your time) to the society!

3) Biology16 – University of Lausanne, Génopode 11-12 February 2016

Abstract submission is now closed, and there are already more than 250 registrations, so they expect more than 300 participants at the congress. See the conference's [website](#) for program and registration. Two pre-conference Workshops "Women in Science" and "Recherche-Pratique" will be held on Wednesday 10 February 2016.

For those in Lausanne, note that the [LS2 meeting](#) (experimental biology consortium) takes place the following week (15-16 Feb).

4) Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle Prize 2016

The Société de Physique et d'Histoire naturelle (SPHN) of Geneva is pleased to announce that it will award the Augustin-Pyramus de Candolle Prize in 2016. This prize recognizes the author or co-authors of the best monograph of a genus or family of plants or fungi (lichens included). The intent of this prize is to encourage and foster the publication of monographic treatments in the field of vegetal taxonomy preferably by scientists still in an early career stage. See details on the [application procedure](#) (in English or French). For more information, please contact the Prize Secretary at prix-candolle.cjb@ville-ge.ch.



5) Courses abroad

[Geometric morphometrics and phylogeny](#) – CRIP Barcelona 12-16 sept. 2016

[Zoological Nomenclature](#) – MNHN Paris 16-20 May 2016



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The SSS Board wishes you happy holidays