



December 2016

1) Best master's thesis award 2016



This year best master's thesis award was given to **Lea Waser** for her work entitled "From a lost world: phylogeny of the genus *Ansonia* Stoliczka, 1870 (Lissamphibia: Anura: Bufonidae) and the description of a new species including its morphometric discrimination", conducted at the Naturhistorisches Museum der Burgergemeinde Bern.

During herpetological surveys carried out in the interior of Sarawak, East Malaysia, several individuals of a small species of frogs (genus *Ansonia* Stoliczka 1870) were collected on the Usun Apau plateau and in the Gunung Hose mountain range. An integrative taxonomic approach comprising phylogenetic (2.4 kb mitochondrial rDNA fragment, Bayesian Inference and Maximum Likelihood, >5.1 % to its closest relative) and morphometric analyses (25 measurements, multivariate ratio analysis and linear discriminant analysis), as well as morphological comparisons support the status of a new species, *Ansonia teneritas*.

Lea presented her work during the SSS-Day. Congratulations again!

2) SSS-Day and General Assembly – Sion , 10-11th November 2016

This year's Society annual meeting took place at Sion, hosted by the Musée de la Nature. During both days we greatly appreciated the facilities provided by the Médiathèque du Valais-Sion. On Thursday 10 Nov, Fredrik Ronquist (Swedish Museum of Natural History) and Seraina Klopstein (UniBe and Natural History Museum Bern) led the RevBayes workshop, followed by 20 motivated students and senior researchers. In the evening, Nicolas Kramar, director of the Musée de la Nature, gave us an enjoyable tour of the temporary exhibit "Objectif Terre: Vivre l'Anthropocène", winner of the ScNat "Prix Expo" 2016!



On Friday, more than 30 systematists attended the SSS-Day: plenary lectures, regular and short student talks. During the General assembly, the audience was invited to vote for the first “SSS Species of the year”: be ready for the press release in January!

3) **Biology17 – University of Bern, 2-3 February 2017**

Abstract submission has been extended until 14 December 2016. [Registration](#) will be open until 15 January 2017. On Wednesday 01 February 2017, don't miss the two [pre-conference workshops](#) “Computational biology” (including a presentation of [BEAST2](#), Bayesian evolutionary analysis by sampling trees) and “Transdisciplinary research”, followed in the evening by a Public outreach “[Rendez-vous Forschung](#)”.

4) **NEW! SYST-EDU.CH : SSS Student travel grants**

Starting in 2017, the SSS will award travel grants to students for attending an international meeting. The conditions are:

- being a MS or PhD candidate in a Swiss research institution
- having a research project that includes systematics
- submitting a talk or a poster to the meeting



Please note that the grant might not cover all your expenses. We plan to support several students, and some years we'll favour the attendance to a particular meeting. Projects of applicants who do not have support from their own institution will be favoured.

In 2017, preferences for support will be to students wishing to participate to the Meeting of the European systematics societies, [BioSYS.EU](#) in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 14-18 August 2017. Because deadlines are very short this year (abstract submission : **1 February 2017), we will consider requests from students whose abstract has not yet been accepted by the conference organizers. To apply, please send by email before 15 March 2017:**

- A description of the project, including an abstract of the presentation or poster, the budget requested and your motivations to attend the meeting (maximum 2 pages, in English)
- A short curriculum vitae
- A letter of support of your supervisor, with indications about the unavailability of internal funding for attending the meeting

Grants will be awarded in April 2017.



The SSS Board wishes you happy holidays