



NEWSLETTER
International Society of Hymenopterists
March 2006

President's Report

I regret that I have not been able to accomplish more for the Society so far, but my time has been extremely stretched by other obligations. Nevertheless, I am very happy to have been able to organise (with Gerhard Prinsloo's considerable help) what turned out to be a very successful 6th International Conference. The thanks for that which we have received from the delegates have been profuse and much appreciated. One went so far as to tell me, "This was the best conference I've ever attended – and what could be better than to end with a safari!" I sincerely hope that the interactions and contacts made at the conference will prove important in furthering the study of Hymenoptera.

The Executive Committee will tackle various initiatives within the near future, one being the organisation of an election for the next President-Elect (see accompanying ballot). As soon as we know who that person will be, we will discuss how best to organise the transfer of powers. We will also be proposing a few constitutional amendments to streamline the running of the Society, looking into ways of increasing membership and increasing the use of electronic media (see accompanying ballot).

I would particularly like to encourage you and even any non-member colleagues who have relevant work to publish, to make the *Journal of Hymenoptera Research* your first choice. It is becoming internationally recognised as a journal of quality, and we must ensure that this is built upon.

Denis Brothers
February 1, 2006

ISH Awards

The Executive Board and the Awards Selection Committee have met and selected two awardees this year, for the **ISH Distinguished Research Medal** and **ISH Service Award**. The selection criteria for the research medal were for the individual who has contributed the most to our community over their lifetime. This year the committee selected **Richard Bohart** for his outstanding contributions to the study of Hymenoptera both in terms of his own research program and in his support and training of other Hymenopterists. Richard Bohart published his

first paper on Hymenoptera in 1936 and since that time has written well over 200 papers, mostly treating aspects of Hymenoptera taxonomy and biology. He has contributed substantially to the world literature of the order, including two landmark books, *Sphecid Wasps of the World* (with A. S. Menke) and *The Chrysidid Wasps of the World* (with L. S. Kimsey). The plan is to personally present the award to Dr. Bohart in Davis, California. Lynn Kimsey is organizing the local arrangements there and certainly former students and colleagues currently living in the vicinity will be attending.

The recipient of the ISH Service Award is **Andrew Austin**. Andy served as President-Elect (1998-1999) and then President (1999-2000) of the Society, and has remained an active member of a wider executive team - offering advice and corporate memory on a great many Society matters. As President, he initiated many of the new ideas in the Society, including the founding of the Endowment Fund, and the instigation of the Distinguished Research Award and Service Award. He was instrumental in the organization of the 1999 ISH meeting in Australia. This was one of the best ISH meetings, and was one of the few (if any) that actually made a substantial profit, which was donated to the Society. Andy also edited a proceedings volume that arose from that Conference - again, this is probably the only ISH Conference whose proceedings were published.

ISH Annual Business Meeting Ft. Lauderdale, FL, December 2005

7:30 “Introductory Remarks”, Michael Gates, USDA-SEL, Washington, D.C.

7:35 “Hypotheses, Theories, and Phylogenetic Analysis”, John Wenzel, Ohio State University, Kinnear Dr., OH.

8:15 Break

8:20 Annual Business Meeting

Summary: The reports of the Executive officers were presented (Gates & Schmidt present, apologies from Brothers, Broad, and Schauff) to minimal comment. These reports, as well as all of the topics discussed, were duplicated at the Congress and are reported below in the minutes from the 6th Congress below. For the sake of brevity and avoiding redundancy, they are offered only once below.

Report from Sun City, South Africa: 6th International Conference of Hymenopterists

Minutes of ISH business meeting, Sun City 26th January 2006

Members of executive present:

President: Denis Brothers (DB)

President-elect: Mike Schauff (MS)

Treasurer: Justin Schmidt (JS)

Editor: Gavin Broad (GB)

Other members present:

Àcs, Zoltàn

Brandão, C. Roberto

Clark, Max

Brabant, Craig

Carpenter, James

Deans, Andy

Forshage, Mattias
Gess, Sarah
Gokhman, Vladimir
Jennings, John
Manley, Don
Matsumoto, Rikio
Mikó, Istvan
Noyes, John
Prinsloo, Gerhard
Rasnitsyn, Alexandr
Schulmeister, Susanne
Shaw, Scott
Vilhelmsen, Lars
Woolley, Jim
Yoder, Matthew

Gess, Friedrich
Gibson, Gary
Huber, John
Johnson, Norman
Masner, Lubomir
Melika, George
Musetti, Luciana
Pénzes, Zsolt
Quicke, Donald
Ronquist, Fred
Sharkey, Michael
van Achterberg, Kees
Wharton, Bob
Yefremova, Zoya

Apologies:

Mike Gates
Andy Austin

1) Introductory remarks

DB thanked everybody for their input into the conference, including the session chairs who had been notified with little choice.

2) Minutes of the Fort Lauderdale meeting

JS reported on the Fort Lauderdale meeting, as the only exec. member present at both. The minutes were passed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3) Secretary's Report

MS presented Mike Gates' secretary's report. Membership is rebounding but student membership has declined a bit. An increasing proportion of members are renewing late, which adds to the society's expenses. MS and JS reminded members to please renew their subscriptions on time this year. Student membership will be slightly lower this year. Institutional membership has increased a bit, the society will concentrate on further increasing that membership sector.

4) Treasurer's Report

JS presented the treasurer's report. The bulk of the society's money comes from the membership, although this year we had a windfall from the IRS, in the shape of a \$3,128 refund. The journal is by far the biggest expense, including the high cost of postage. The membership renewal reminders were sent out late last year, which may have contributed to the higher number of members renewing late. The journal is under-used, with a 200-page limit that is not reached.

Journal expense nearly matches membership income. Credit card fees are quite high. Membership dues are basically subsidizing the journal.

5) Editor's Report

GB presented the editor's report. There has been a welcome increase in submissions over the last few months with the April issue (in press) looking fatter than it's been for a while. The subject editors were thanked heartily. It was noted that Mark Shaw would be happy for somebody else to take over as parasitoid biology subject editor if there was a keen volunteer.

New business

6) Research Medal, Service Award

The presentation of the society's distinguished research award will be made to Richard Bohart in California, to be arranged by Lynn Kimsey. Andy Austin had had to pull out of this conference at short notice so alternative arrangements will be made to present him with the society's service award in honour of exceptional service rendered.

7) Proposed Constitutional Changes

Plans were outlined to:

- 1) allow the executive committee to implement dues changes without a membership vote;
- 2) switch from paper to electronic balloting;
- 3) include Past-President on the executive committee.

MS argued that we should cut out balloting and that the executive will not run amok with dues increases. Proposal 2 should be straightforward, with mailings to those members still not electronic. Proposal 3 is proposed so as to retain experience. Donald Quicke commented that if there is electronic balloting there would be no need to cut out voting on dues changes, so Plan 1 would be redundant. John Huber pointed out that dues should be paid by the end of February so that it is easier to get the April issue of JHR out. This was widely approved. Members were reminded again to pay their dues on time.

8) Electronic Publishing

Mike Gates had commissioned a report from Allen Press on electronic publishing. Allen Press is still only one option though. It was noted that this was a necessary route for the journal, but quite expensive. MS asked if we would lose members if the journal was on-line, if it is the journal that a proportion of members join for. Gary Gibson replied with an example from his experience. He thought that it would be a big cost and raised the following issues:

- Who owns the PDFs?
- Can we post the PDFs on the society's website?
- What are the copyright implications?

He suggested that the society will probably lose a few members but the main loss will be in institutional subscriptions as journals are bought in bundles by institutions. The Entomological Society of Canada used to sell 12 subscriptions to Canadian agricultural libraries but that was

now down to one. Jim Woolley pointed out that there will be fringe benefits of increased on-line services, such as the ability to renew dues more conveniently. MS said that these are preliminary investigations at the moment and that MG was working on it. Mike Sharkey asked if it were not possible to dispense with most of the hard copies of the journal. DB pointed out that a certain number were still required for nomenclatural purposes. Susanne Schulmeister asked if we could move publishers as other open access publishers, such as Public Library of Science, may offer better deals as they have different principles toward open-access publishing. DB suggested that we do need some sort of electronic publishing but that it is premature to make big moves yet.

9) ISH Endowment

Jim Woolley reported that we are getting almost no return on our endowment fund (as it is just resting in a savings account) and proposed that it should be possible to keep it growing ahead of the rate of inflation by relinquishing the management of it to the Entomological Society of America whose endowment portfolio is very large. Brad Vinson is president of that foundation that looks after the ESA endowment fund and offered their services, whilst ISH would still retain full control over the fund. The foundation would handle the administration of awards, other allocations, etc. This idea met with a positive response.

Action Point: JW to put a more formal proposal to the membership.

10) 7th International Conference

George Melika gave an entertaining and persuasive presentation outlining the reasons why the next conference should be held in Kőszeg, Hungary. Obvious points in favour of Kőszeg included:

- The Systematic Parasitoid Laboratory has a proven ability to organise such an event.
- Kőszeg is an attractive venue within convenient distance of Vienna (150 km) and Budapest (250 km)
- It is inexpensive with a double room at the present time costing ~\$30 a night.
- Registration fee would be low (\$300-350) and would include a conference proceedings.
- Larger numbers of European members would be able to attend, compared to the previous two conferences.
- Large collections of Hymenoptera in the museums of Budapest and Vienna.
- There will be good collecting opportunities.
- Widespread availability of inexpensive dentistry.

There was an overwhelmingly favourable response from the membership present.

Action Point: DB to outline the protocol for choosing the venue in a forthcoming ISH newsletter.

11) Upcoming Election

The only office coming up for election is that of President-Elect. A committee of three is needed. Gary Gibson volunteered, MS and DB will find another two volunteers. The President-Elect needs to be of good-standing and willing to serve the Society.

Action Point: MS and DB to fill the nominating committee.

12) Any Other Business

John Heraty pointed out that we are 25 years old as a society so we should express our thanks to Lubo Masner who was essentially our founder. The membership expressed their gratitude. A photograph (donated by Lubo) of the delegates at the first ISH meeting in Toronto in 1982 was displayed and passed on the MS for archiving.

Jim Woolley thanked DB, Gerhard Prinsloo and everybody else involved for a fantastic job of organising the conference.

Fred Ronquist announced that he would like to organise a working group to work towards ontologies of morphological terms for consistency across Hymenoptera. It was agreed that a Society working group would develop a strategy, with six volunteers needed. Andy Deans volunteered to chair the working group and to act as a participant.

MS was keen that the society publishes more special publications that will be for the good of the society. An output from the ontologies project would be eminently suitable.

Note from MG: Thanks to Gavin Broad for recording the minutes in my stead.

Next ISH Meeting will be in Indianapolis, IN, December 10-13, 2006

The next Annual Business Meeting of the Society will be held during the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America. Although the meeting agenda has yet to be published, we anticipate that the slotting would follow precedent and be held on the evening of Tuesday, December 12, 2006, from 7:30-9:00 PM. The room has not yet been set, but it will be listed in the Meeting Program. The agenda for the meeting is:

Welcome

Confirmation of minutes of last meeting held on January 23, 2006 in Sun City, South Africa.

Presentation and Adoption of Reports

Incoming President (Mike Schauff)

Secretary (Mike Gates)

Treasurer (Justin Schmidt)

Editor (Gavin Broad)

Endowment Committee and ESA Foundation (B. Vinson)

General

7th International Congress of Hymenopterists (Csaba Thuróczy)

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and Electronic Publishing

Other Business

Closure

Proposed Constitutional amendments and President-elect

A ballot accompanies this newsletter with proposed ISH Constitutional amendments for voting

by the general membership. Briefly, the first proposed amendment concerns making the Past-President a member of the Executive Committee. The second requests an alteration that will allow the Executive Committee to put issues to be voted upon by the general membership to an electronic ballot.

We are finalizing the nomination committee and seeking nominees that will run for the office of President-Elect. This will also be included in your ballot.

Watch for your ballot!

Electronic Publishing

Those of you who attended either the ISH meetings last December in Ft. Lauderdale or in Sun City know that we are exploring the possibility of moving to a more extensive electronic presence in terms of publishing the Journal of Hymenoptera Research. This will likely involve, in the short term, making the journal available online while simultaneously continuing to send out hard copies of the journal. Our ultimate goal would be to provide the journal in a completely open-access format and eschewing a hard copy publication. There are some major issues that need to be worked out before anything like this could proceed. These would include coping with validly publishing under the ICZN, exploring alterations to the revenue stream and the business model of ISH, streamlining electronic manuscript handling, archiving published manuscripts, linking to abstracting services, to name a few.

We have a quote in hand from Allen Press, but it is fairly expensive given our current revenue stream. There are other lower-cost options available. For those interested in learning more, take a look at the brief overview to the process offered by the Public Library of Science (<http://www.plos.org>).

Proposed Venues for 7th International Conference of Hymenopterists 2010

A presentation by George Melika was made in South Africa concerning the proposed venue for the 7th quadrennial ISH meeting, Kőszeg, Hungary. Attendees of the parasitic Hymenoptera conference in May 2001 spoke favorably of the venue. President Brothers asked for commentary pro or con and there was overwhelming support for it as a venue. No other formal proposal has been received.

The Executive Committee has considered the matter, and has decided to award the Conference to the hymenopterists at the Systematic Parasitoid Laboratory in Kőszeg, Hungary. We are happy that the venue will be suitable and more easily accessible to European and North American hymenopterists than those for the last three conferences.