

22. Symposium internationale entomofaunisticum Europae centralis (SIEEC 22) Varaždin, Croatia

The 22nd Symposium internationale entomofaunisticum Europae centralis was organised by the Croatian entomological society, the Permanent Committee of SIEEC and Varaždin City Museum from June 29 to July 3, 2011. It was held in the Herzer Palace, in the Entomological Department of Varaždin Municipal Museum. This was the first time SIEEC took place in Croatia. It was a great honour for Croatia and Croatian entomologists to be able to host such an important symposium, which is has been held for 40 years (since 1964), one of the oldest meetings of its kind in Europe.

Altogether 82 participants and 5 accompanying persons were present at the Symposium. Approximately one third of participants were colleagues from neighbouring countries (Serbia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and from other parts of Europe (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Macedonia, Slovakia), and the majority was formed by Croatian scientists. It is important to point out that the participants were mainly young entomologists, students or recent graduates. That by itself speaks of the great interest of our young scientists in entomology in general. Also, it makes a good basis for future collaboration on a regional and a European scale.

According to tradition of the SIEEC Symposiums, two members of the Central European entomological community, Professor Franz Ressler and Dr. Josef Jelínek, were honored for their exceptional contribution to entomological faunistics (In Scientia Entomofaunistica Excellenti).

A total of 34 oral presentations and 29 poster presentations were held at the Symposium. They covered most areas in entomology (faunistics, taxonomy, ecology and phylogeny, applied entomology and parasitology). The Symposium was a great opportunity to present the richness of Croatian entomofauna, in all its uniqueness and characteristics. There were 3 plenary lectures where different high level research topics were presented. The opening lecture of the Symposium was given by P. Durbešić: HRVATSKA ENTOMOFAUNA iz sadašnjosti pogled unatrag i planovi za budućnost /CROATIA'S ENTOMOFAUNA Looking back from the present and plans for the future. The second plenary lecture was held by M. Malicky and F. Gusenleitner: Literatur, Biografien, Arten – Die ZOBODAT,

das digitale Archiv des Biologiezentrums in Linz als naturkundliche Informationsquelle / Literature, Biographies, Species – ZOBODAT, the digital archive of the Biology Centre in Linz, an information source for people interested in natural history. And the third plenary lecture was held by S. U. Pauls: Biogeography of European Aquatic Insects – Insights from Molecular Systematic and Phylogeographic Case Studies.

On a third day of the Symposium a one-day trip to Lonjsko polje Nature Park was organized. Participants visited one of the biggest wetlands in Europe together with its interesting flora and fauna. Furthermore, they learned about the traditional way of life and traditional cuisine, the same now as it was 100 years ago, together with the architectural and cultural heritage of the area.

What made the organizers particularly happy is the fact that colleagues from abroad were able to become acquainted with our heritage and history, specifically the work of Franjo Košćec, famed Varaždin entomologist and naturalist. Part of the Symposium was a guided tour of the permanent exhibition “The World of Insects” of the Entomological Department of the Varaždin Municipal Museum, where his work is on show. Participants were astonished by his collection, and they all found it to be both unique and one of the finest collections of its kind in Europe.

Vlatka Mičetić Stanković



A part of participants under the statue of bishop Grgur Ninski