



# Newsletter

3. DECEMBER 2011

AUTUMN 2011 (OR SPRING, IF YOU LIVE IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE)

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## EDITORIAL:

## ISIRD-Members Welcome 7 of Newsletter

Earlier this year we introduced a new look and shorter newsletter. As we received no unfavourable comments we take it that the membership had no objections to it! Please remember that the ISIR **is your** society and we welcome items for the newsletter that is published twice a year. Send any items to either Hans Ferenz ([hans.ferenz@zoologie.uni-halle.de](mailto:hans.ferenz@zoologie.uni-halle.de)) or Alan Hodgson ([A.Hodgson@ru.ac.za](mailto:A.Hodgson@ru.ac.za)).

## ISIRD on LinkedIn

We have created a group on LinkedIn for the society. As many of you will know, LinkedIn is at the moment the largest professional networking site. The society's group could become a useful and dynamic means of communication between members of the society, in addition to the newsletter, e-mail list and website. However, for this to happen we do need our members to join this group via:

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=3805209>

Some of you already have a LinkedIn account. For those who do not, it is very easy to get one for free and you can set it up entirely to your needs and preferences.

## THE ISIR-COMMITTEE 2011-2013

President:	<b>Amir Sagi</b> (Ben Gurion University of Negev, Israel)
Vice-Presidents:	<b>Joris Koene</b> (VU University, The Netherlands) <b>Ceri Lewis</b> (Exeter University, UK) <b>Wei-Jun Yan</b> (Zhejiang University, China)
Secretary:	<b>Alan Hodgson</b> (Rhodes University, South Africa)
Treasurer:	<b>Hans J. Ferenz</b> (Martin-Luther-University, Halle, Germany)

Journal Editors: **Matt Bentley** (Newcastle University, U.K.)  
**Alan Hodgson** (Rhodes University, South Africa)  
**Hans Laufer** (University of Connecticut, USA)

Conference Organizer: **Jeff Ram** (Wayne State University, USA)

Regional Representatives: M. Krishnan (India) [krish14156@yahoo.com](mailto:krish14156@yahoo.com); M. Byrne (Australia & New Zealand) [mbyrne@anatomy.usyd.edu.au](mailto:mbyrne@anatomy.usyd.edu.au); P. Swiderski (Poland and Eastern Europe) [z.swider@twarda.pan.pl](mailto:z.swider@twarda.pan.pl); R. Kaufman (Canada & North America) [reuben.kaufman@ualberta.ca](mailto:reuben.kaufman@ualberta.ca); M. Thiel (Chile & South America) [thiel@ucn.cl](mailto:thiel@ucn.cl); V. Zupo (Italy and Mediterranean) [vzupo@szn.it](mailto:vzupo@szn.it); C. Westley (Australia) [Chantal.westley@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Chantal.westley@flinders.edu.au); M. Erkan (Turkey) [merkan@istanbul.edu.tr](mailto:merkan@istanbul.edu.tr)

A story with =appy' - nd - soon?



## ICIRD Logo

The committee is still seeking a new logo for the society. There are been several proposals and these are all posted on the society web site. Whilst this is not an urgent matter, we hope to make a decision on the new logo soon. Currently a logo that does not favour a particular phylum seems to have general support, and therefore it has been suggested that we simply have a logo that uses the society abbreviation (ICIRD or icird) on a background of the continents. The logo that was used on the previous newsletter, although having merit, was perhaps too suggestive of a 'fertilization' society. In short we are making progress here but we would appreciate any feedback on those logos currently posted or indeed the idea of a generic logo that simply uses the society abbreviation. Feedback to Alan Hodgson ([a.hodgson@ru.ac.za](mailto:a.hodgson@ru.ac.za)).

## Obituary

At October 12th 2011 our member and my friend Prof. Dr. Shalom Applebaum passed away at the age of 77. Prof. Applebaum was Professor at the Entomology Department of „The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment” of the Hebrew University in Israel. His research interests included the physiology of reproduction of pest insects, among them locusts. A large number



of published articles, reviews, book chapters and more document his enthusiasm on insect hormones, behavior and nutrition. His coworkers, colleagues and friends greatly appreciated his ability to focus on important and relevant research problems, never losing his temper, being rather quiet and very friendly but determined. However, it should be noted that all this would not have been possible without the support by his wonderful wife Levia. Prof. Applebaum contributed substantially to entomological research in Israel, served in many local, national and international committees and established a number of international research projects. His cooperation with German scientists, several of them became personal friends, was an excellent example of overcoming objections between the two nations. Also his leading role in integrating Palaestians into regional agricultural research was remarkable. That was his way to contribute to a more peaceful world. In 2009 Shalom was awarded the prestigious Rothschild Prize, the Israel "Nobel Prize". *Hans J. Frenz*

## **ICIRD 2013 - Dates, Venue Preliminary Announcement**



**Jeff asks for lists of speakers –  
Detroit Conference preparations  
are perfectly in order**

**Thirteenth International Congress on Invertebrate Reproduction and  
Development**

**Invertebrate Reproduction and Development  
in the Age of Systems Biology and Stem Cell Research  
July 14 – 19, 2013, Detroit, MI, USA**

**Organizer: JEFF RAM**



Detroit and Wayne State University will host the Thirteenth International Congress on Invertebrate Reproduction and Development on July 14 - 19, 2013. The central themes of the Congress will be Systems Biology and Stem Cell Research; however, the conference expects to encompass all aspects, numerous phyla, and a range of technical approaches to understanding and applying knowledge of invertebrate reproduction and development.

In addition to the scientific program, the Congress promises to be an exciting venue for informal interactions and experiencing the cultural and recreational opportunities of southeast Michigan and the Great Lakes region of North America. Receptions are tentatively planned for the Detroit Institute of Art and the Natural History Museum of the University of Michigan. Optional mid-conference excursions will include the Riverwalk and Riverboat Cruise, tour of Ford F-150 green-manufacturing facility and visitor center, and canoeing on the Huron River near Ann Arbor.

With its “middle of the continent” location and international airport, Detroit is convenient for attendance by all international attendees.

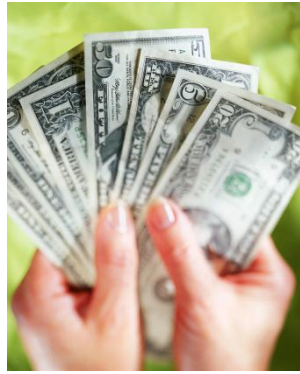
The scientific program includes plenary sessions and keynote addresses on Systems Biology and Stem Cell Research, High-Throughput Technologies and Bioinformatic Approaches to Understanding Reproduction and Development, Stem Cells in Invertebrate Model Systems, and Invertebrate Reproduction and Human Health. Symposia on central nervous system development, arthropod reproduction, impacts of climate change and invertebrate invasive species, evolution of animal body plans, epigenetic mechanisms, gamete and larval biology, and esthetic and agricultural values of invertebrates are planned.

As the program is still in the process of formation, invitations being sent out, and recruitment of additional sponsors, additional suggestions for symposia topics are encouraged and invited. Send proposed topics with lists of speakers (a suggested number in a session is five, with brief outlines of their topics) to the conference organizer, Dr. Jeffrey Ram, at [jeffram@gmail.com](mailto:jeffram@gmail.com), no later than December 15, 2011.

**Do you need a sponsor for attending this congress?**



## ICIRD 2013 Student/Postdoctoral Support



Now is the time to remember that the ISIRD does offer some support for students and post-doctoral workers to attend the ISIRD meetings.

This support comes in the form of financial assistance towards registration and accommodation (not travel). In the past the society has been able to cover the full costs of accommodation (in student accommodation) and registration. To remind you, financial assistance is competitive and applications are screened by an international committee.

In order to qualify for screening the applicants should be:-

1. Presenting at the meeting (either poster paper or spoken).
2. Be a registered student or postdoctoral researcher.
3. Be a member of the ISIRD or joining the ISIRD.

Details of how to apply for funding will be announced closer to the conference. However, decisions to fund applicants are based on the quality of the work to be presented (as judged by a submitted abstract), and financial need (as motivated for by applicant). In addition, preference may be given to applicants from developing nations.

**ISIR 2016  
?????**

## ICIRD 2016 – Calls for Bids

Do you want to host an international meeting? We are still looking for bids for the 2016 ICIRD meeting. Please send all intention to bid for the



next meeting to the society secretary, Alan Hodgson ([A.Hodgson@ru.ac.za](mailto:A.Hodgson@ru.ac.za)). Alan will send you what information will be needed for the society to make a decision on whether to accept the bid. However, please note one requirement would be for a representative of the bidding group(s) to make a presentation at the 2013 general meeting.

## Honorary Membership

We would like to remind everyone of the Honorary Membership status. Any society member can nominate someone for this status. At present we have three Honorary Members. Honorary Membership is given to

someone who has made a sustained significant contribution to a field of invertebrate reproduction, is a member of the society and over the years has contributed to its activities. Nominations should be accompanied by a letter of motivation (preferably with support from others) and abbreviated CV of the nominee. The nominee should not be aware of nomination. Announcements of Honorary Membership status are usually made at the following ICIRD which, this time, will take place at Detroit (USA). For the list of recipients of Honorary Membership please see our web page.

Our journal :

## **Invertebrate Reproduction and Development**

[\(http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/TINV\)](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/TINV)

Three issues of Invertebrate Reproduction & Development have been published this year (Volume 55, issues 1, 2 & 3), the fourth is full and will appear before the end of the year (although electronic versions of papers are already available). We hope that members have noted that since Taylor & Francis have taken over the journal that issues are appearing regularly and on time! The response by authors to the new look journal and the online electronic submission system has been very positive. Author submissions are up (which is keeping the editors very busy), and Taylor & Francis have already agreed to increase the number of articles published (number of pages) per issue from 2012 onwards. What is also positive is the increased impact factor of the journal, and all indications are that it will continue to increase. The team at Taylor & Francis are working hard to promote the journal. However, we still need good submissions as a journal (and its impact factor) is only as good as the papers in it. What can you do as an ISIRD member? Impact factor is of course driven by the quality and importance of the manuscripts published. We therefore strongly encourage ISIRD members to support the journal either directly (by submitting their own best work) or indirectly by encouraging their colleagues to submit excellent work. Remember the journal does have a wide readership through the Taylor & Francis network.

We hope to be able to make an announcement in the very near future of the preferential subscription rates for society members.

*Insects are sexy*

## **Invertebrate Reproduction In The News**

Whilst discoveries on invertebrate reproduction may not be reported in newspapers very often, or make the TV news bulletins, they are reported on news web sites (e.g. BBC, Science Daily). Hopefully such reports are enlightening the general public as to how exciting working on invertebrate reproduction can be. Here are four studies that have recently made prominent news web sites.

**Male Insect Mating Behaviour** - Dr Anne Lize (University of Liverpool) and her colleagues recently published work on a species of fruit fly in which the female only mate once. So once a male has mated with a female there is little chance that she will mate with another male. Nevertheless, those males that had been in contact with another male prior to mating, subsequently increased mating duration with females by 93%. Thus it has been suggested that this is the evolutionary equivalent of male 'paranoia'.

Lize, A., Doff, R.J., Smaller, E.A., Lewis, Z., Hurst, G.D.D. 2011. Perception of male-male competition influences *Drosophila* copulation behavior even in species where females rarely mate. *Biology Letters*, DOI 10.1098/rsbl.2011.0544

**Bacterial Protection In Bed Bug Sperm** – bed bugs have been found to produce antibacterial agents in their ejaculate that protect their sperm against bacteria on the bed bug's bodies. These harmful bacteria are transmitted during mating (which is by hypodermic insemination). These interesting findings were recently presented by Dr Oliver Otti (University of Sheffield) at the recent Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology. The study will hopefully be published soon.

**Why are Females Promiscuous?** - It is well known that females often mate with different males, even though a female usually receives enough sperm from one male, and mating can also be harmful to the female. In a study of flour beetles, Dr Matt Gage (University of East Anglia) and his colleagues found that inbred females changed their mating behavior and were more promiscuous thus avoiding the negative effects of inbreeding. Michalczyk, L., Millard, A.L., Martin, O.Y., Lumley, A.J., Emerson, B.C., Chapman, T., Gage, M.G.J. 2011. Inbreeding promotes female promiscuity. *Science*, 333 no. 6050, 1739-1742.

**Small Males, Big Sperm** – In the squid *Loligo bleekeri* the male deposits his sperm in the female's oviduct and then remains with the female in an attempt to ensure that only his sperm fertilize the eggs once released by the female. However during spawning, smaller male squid sneak in and also deposit sperm (but not inside the oviduct) in the hope of fertilizing some eggs. Dr Yoyo Iwata (University of Tokyo) and colleagues found that the sneaker males produced larger sperm than the larger consort males. Dr Iwata and co-workers concluded that sperm size is an adaptation to fertilization environment (either inside the female or external).

Iwata, Y., Shaw, P., Fujiwara, E., Shiba, K., Kakiuchi, Y., Hirohashi, N. 2011. Why small males have big sperm: dimorphic squid sperm linked to alternative mating behaviours. *BMC Evolutionary Biology*. doi:10.1186/1471-2148-11-236

2012

You found similar interesting or amazing stories? Let us know.

## Conference Diary

### 2012

January 3 to 7 – Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Charleston, USA. <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2012/>

Note that this meeting has symposia that will be of great interest to society members – e.g. Dispersal of Marine Organisms; Poecilogony as a window on larval evolution.

April 20 to 21 – Molluscan Life Histories, Portsmouth, UK.

June 3 to 7 -THE CRUSTACEAN SOCIETY SUMMER MEETING - 10th COLLOQUIUM CRUSTACEA DECAPODA MEDITERRANEA, Athens, Greece. <http://www.cssm2012.gr/>

June 16 to 21 – 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the American Malacological Society, New Jersey, USA. <http://www.malacological.org/meetings/index.php>

July 30 to August 3 – 10<sup>th</sup> International Larval Biology Symposium, Berkeley, California. <http://www.larvalbiology.com/>

August 16 to 18 – Invertebrates Associated with Invasive Alien Organisms, Riga, Latvia. <http://www.rpd-conference.org/conf/C001/C001.htm>

September 16 to 21 – European Microscopy Congress 2012, Manchester, England. <http://www.rms.org.uk/events/EMC2012>

September 2012 – 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Zoology, Haifa, Israel. [izc2012@sci.haifa.ac.il](http://izc2012@sci.haifa.ac.il)

### ISIRD-NEWSLETTER

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We have a website!  
<http://www.isird.org>

## ISIRD-Web Site

To keep up to date with society activities, remember to visit our web site (<http://www.isird.org>).

Please feel free to submit information for the web site. Information should be submitted to either

Joris Koene ( [joris.koene@falw.vu.nl](mailto:joris.koene@falw.vu.nl) )

or

Alan Hodgson ( [A.Hodgson@ru.ac.za](mailto:A.Hodgson@ru.ac.za) )

We wish you  
a happy and successful  
2012!

**Alan & Hans**