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from the society

News from the January IBS meeting in Crete

The 5th Biennial Meeting of the International Biogeography Society is now less than one year away. The meeting will be held in Irakleion, Crete, on the finally agreed dates of 7-11 January, 2011.

The meeting will be built around four successive symposia (8-9 January) on established key and new cutting-edge topics and approaches in biogeography and macroecology, each with a suite of leading international scientists as well as openings for contributed papers:

(1) Mediterranean Biogeography: Where History Meets Ecology Across Scales, organized by Spyros Sfenthourakis and Remy J. Petit

The Mediterranean is a highly species-rich and complex biogeographic region. It has a composite tectonic history, has experienced the impacts of human civilization for more than 8 millennia, hosts numerous islands, and exhibits remarkable topographic diversity. This symposium explores novel perspectives on Mediterranean biogeography across spatial and temporal scales.

(2) New Perspectives on Comparative Phylogeography – Novel Integrative Approaches and Challenges, organized by Ana Carnaval and Mike Hickerson

The boundaries of classic comparative phylogeography are expanding by increasing connections with new and emerging fields such as genomics, spatial information systems, climate modeling, community-scale DNA barcoding, host-parasite interactions etc. This symposium will explore innovative, integrative studies in the field, while discussing novel methodologies to circumvent current and foreseen challenges.

(3) Biogeography and Ecology: Two Lenses in One Telescope, organized by Dave Jenkins and Bob Ricklefs

Biogeography views nature through a large-scale lens, while ecology views nature through a lens built from local-scale evidence. Yet both disciplines focus on processes causing natural patterns and are approaching each other at intermediate spatial and temporal scales. The symposium brings together biogeographers and ecologists to

discuss the shared key subjects: niche, comparative/macro-ecology, community assembly, and diversity. Different and shared conceptual domains will be addressed within and among eight talks (two per subject), plus a synthesis.

(4) Analytical Advancements in Macroecology and Biogeography, organized by Alexandre Diniz-Filho and Carsten Rahbek

The continuous development of computing capacity and increasing data generation allow ever more sophisticated analyses, enabling novel insights about biodiversity patterns. This development depends upon continuous input from other fields in terms of methods and theory. This symposium presents the new advancements within spatial analyses, phylogenetic reconstruction, and computer simulation modeling.

In addition to the four symposia with invited speakers, on January 10th the meeting will have six sessions of contributed papers on core topics in biogeography: (i) Island biogeography, (ii) Climate change biogeography, (iii) Conservation biogeography, (iv) Palaeoecology, (v) Marine biogeography, and (vii) Hot topics in Biogeography.

On the days just before and after the conference (7 and 11 January), there will be field excursions to a number of Crete's most exciting locations, historically and biologically (and biogeographically). In addition, on January 7th, a series of workshops will be held, covering spatial analysis in macroecology, phylogenetic analysis in macro-ecology, and communicating biogeography.

The registration for the meeting will open in June 2010. For more updated information, please check <http://www.biogeography.org/html/Meetings/2011/index.html>.

Jens-Christian Svenning

V. P. for Conferences

Spyros Sfenthourakis

Local Organizing Committee of the 2011 IBS meeting

Did you know that any member who has retired and who has twenty years of continuous membership in IBS shall be eligible for Emeritus membership?