

Report of the 3rd International Conference "Hirudinea: taxonomy, faunistics, biology" from 14th to 16th March 2008 in Bad Bevensen, Lower Saxony/Germany

Bericht der 3. Internationalen Fachtagung "Hirudinea: Taxonomie, Faunistik, Biologie" vom 14. bis 16. März 2008 in Bad Bevensen, Niedersachsen/Deutschland

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With 1 figure and 1 table

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The 3rd International Conference "Hirudinea: taxonomy, faunistics, biology" took place in Bad Bevensen (Germany, Lower Saxony) in March 2008. Participants from eight countries talked about their current research projects and results.

Im März 2008 fand in Bad Bevensen (Deutschland, Niedersachsen) die dritte Internationale Fachtagung "Hirudinea: Taxonomie, Faunistik, Biologie" statt. Teilnehmer aus acht Ländern stellten ihre aktuellen Forschungsthemen und ihre Arbeitsergebnisse vor.

After five years of successful research the specialists of leeches met at the 3rd International Conference "Hirudinea: taxonomy, faunistics, biology" in Bad Bevensen, Lower Saxony, from 14th March until 16th March 2008. The conference was organized by the "Workgroup Practical Taxonomy" of the German Limnological Society in collaboration with the Gustav-Stresemann-Institute, European educational and conference house in Bad Bevensen, the venue of the conference.

Fortunately, the number of participants has increased at each conference. We welcomed 20 participants from eight countries (Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Switzerland, Ukraine; Fig. 1, Tab. 1). The short time of the conference required intensive work. Nine lectures and five posters about taxonomy, faunistics and bioindications of Hirudinea (Tab. 1) prompted discussions and diverse conversations. Material from many different parts of the world were presented or determined. A trip to the river Ilmenau near the venue of the conference gave insight into the North German faunistics of leeches and gave an opportunity for numerous dis-

cussions. In the evenings, after successful work, the participants convened in the cellar bar for a cold beer and in order to establish and intensify contacts.



Fig. 1: Group photo of the participants of the 3rd International Conference on Hirudinea (Photo: U. Jueg)

From left to right: Uwe Jueg (Germany), Isabel Kaiser (Germany), David Tempelman (Netherlands), Dr. Pawel Koperski (Poland), Clemens Grosser (Germany), Joanna Cichocka (Poland), Dr. Thomas Kalettka (Germany), Dr. Serge Utevsky (Ukraine), Katarzyna Palinska (Poland), Dr. Leima Petrauskiene (Lithuania), Amy Storm (Netherlands), Prof. Saida Tekaya (Tunisia), Prof. Aleksander Bielecki (Poland), Dr. Magdalene Westendorff (Germany), Raja Ben Ahmed (Tunisia), Dr. Erik Mauch (Germany), Dr. Heinrich Vicentini (Switzerland), Jana Schenkova (Czech Republic). Not in the photo: Gerlinde Kruse (Germany)

Tab. 1: Participants and presentations of the 3rd International Conference on Hirudinea

Name	Firstname	Country	Presentations
Ben Ahmed	Raja	Tunisie	Life-cycle and the ecology of some Tunisian freshwater leeches. - Lecture, English Tunisian leeches. - Poster, English
Bielecki, Prof.	Aleksander	Poland	<i>Glossiphonia nebulosa</i> Kalbe, 1964 (Hirudinea: Glossiphoniidae). – Poster, English New data of distribution and anatomy of <i>Italobdella epshteini</i> Bielecki, 1997. – Lecture, English Karyology of chosen leech species (Hirudinea). - Lecture, English
Cichocka	Joanna	Poland	<i>Glossiphonia nebulosa</i> Kalbe, 1964 (Hirudinea: Glossiphoniidae). – Poster, English New data of distribution and anatomy of <i>Italobdella epshteini</i> Bielecki, 1997. – Lecture, English Karyology of chosen leech species (Hirudinea). - Lecture, English
Grosser	Clemens	Germany	Taxonomy and Nomenclature of selected Erpobdellidae. – Lecture, German
Jueg	Uwe	Germany	Contribution to the leech fauna of Spain. – Lecture, German
Kaiser	Isabel	Germany	
Kaletka, Dr.	Thomas	Germany	Occurrence of leeches (Hirudinea) in different types of water bodies in Northeast Germany (State Brandenburg). – Poster, English
Koperski, Dr.	Pawel	Poland	Morphological, ecological and genetic diversity of <i>Erpobdella octoculata</i> in Polish freshwaters. – Poster, English
Kruse	Gerlinde	Germany	
Mauch, Dr.	Erik	Germany	German Limnological Society
Palinska	Katarzyna	Poland	<i>Glossiphonia nebulosa</i> Kalbe, 1964 (Hirudinea: Glossiphoniidae). – Poster, English New data of distribution and anatomy of <i>Italobdella epshteini</i> Bielecki, 1997. – Lecture, English
Petrauskiene, Dr.	Laima	Lithuania	Use of medicinal leech in toxicological and other scientific research. – Lecture, English
Schenkova	Jana	Czech Republic	The freshwater leeches (Clitellata: Hirudinida) of the Czech Republic – list of taxa and remarks on rare and endangered species. – Poster, English
Storm	Amy	Netherlands	
Tekaya, Prof.	Saïda	Tunisie	Life-cycle and the ecology of some Tunisian freshwater leeches. – Lecture, English Tunisian leeches. – Poster, English

Name	Firstname	Country	Presentations
Tempelman	David	Netherlands	Leeches and the European Water Guidlinie. – Lecture, English
Utevsky, Dr.	Serge	Ukraine	New information on the geographic distribution and biology of the medicinal leech spp.. – Lecture, English
van Haaren	Ton	Netherlands	
Vicentini, Dr.	Heinrich	Switzerland	Leeches in Switzerland. – Lecture, German
Westendorff, Dr.	Magdalene	Germany	Occurence of leeches (Hirudinea) in different types of water bodies in Northeast Germany (State Brandenburg). – Poster, English

At the end of the conference the specialists of leeches decided to carry out an international conference every three years. Unfortunately, the participants could not agree on the country and the organizer of the next conference. A further resolution was to publish the contents of lectures and posters and other researches from the specialists in a special volume of the journal LAUTERBOR-NIA.

In addition to the contributions of the participants of the conference further articles on leeches have been included in this special volume.

Thanks

The participants thank the Gustav-Stresemann-Institute for the excellent technical furnishings of the conference room and the good accommodation and care. We also thank for the financial support for several participants by the German Limnological Society.

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