



**SWISS
SYSTEMATICS
SOCIETY**

SSS-News #32

June 2017

1) SSS-Day– Fribourg, 10 November 2017



This year's annual meeting of the Society will be organized with the Natural History Museum of Fribourg and will take place at the Botanical Garden. One of the invited speakers is [Walter Joyce](#) (Uni

Fribourg) who will present his research on fossil vertebrates. As usual, we'll also have regular talks and the SSS general assembly. Registration will start in late September.

2) SANU's Species Knowledge training

The need for specialists who can identify the species found in Switzerland has, if anything, even increased in the last years, in particular for groups considered less attractive (from mosses to many invertebrates). This is shown by an analysis made by [SANU](#) on the offers and training needs related to species knowledge in Switzerland. As a result of this study, SANU and a group of experts proposed a series of actions, including the reorganization of the announcement of offers from the old website "*Knowledge of species*" to Info-Species, and the creation of new training opportunities, mostly in relation with conservation issues in Switzerland as identified by the Federal Office for the Environment. These new offers will certainly involve members of specialized societies as experts. The SSS provided a list of [levels of competence](#) in the knowledge of the flora and fauna (5 levels, from the initiation to becoming a specialist) that will be used to standardize the training courses. The Society also proposes to spread



the information to its members, in order to help finding the experts for the new training courses. If you are a specialist wishing to share your experience, you can contact Christine Gubser (cgubser@sanu.ch) for more details.

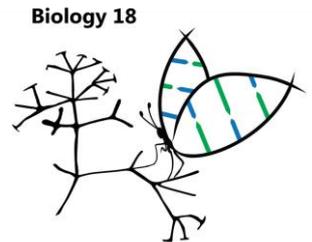


3) Student travel awards

The SSS awarded this year's Student Travel Grants to Roman Alther (EAWAG), Angela Cano (UniGE), Erik Koenen (UZH), Vinciane Mossion (UniNE) and Tamara Spasojevic (UniBE) - congratulations! They will present their work at international conferences in Sweden, Italy and China. See the details [here](#) and follow them this summer on our [Facebook](#) page.

4) biology18 – Neuchâtel

“Biology” meetings take place to celebrate Darwin’s birthday and to share the latest scientific research in ecology and evolution. Next year, the conference will take place at the University of Neuchâtel on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 February. The conference’s [website](#), with an elegant logo based on Darwin’s tree, is already up and running!



5) ScNat and collections

Earlier this year, the Swiss Academy of Science (ScNat) launched a review on Swiss scientific collections, using the recommendations of a group of experts that includes representatives of institutions holding or using collections (museums, universities, etc.) and also of the SSS (R. Nyffeler and A. Cibois). The group highlighted the main issues and challenges for collections (lack of awareness of the importance of collections, funding, digitalization effort etc.). This review will be continued during a workshop organized for the ScNat delegates. We will keep you posted on the results of these discussions, but the fact that the ScNat is interested in the subject can be seen as an encouraging sign for systematics.

6) Things to do before the summer!

- Remind your Master students to apply for the SSS prize

Deadline to submit the master thesis to the SSS President (alice.cibois@ville-ge.ch): **July 31st**. Instructions can be found on the [SSS website](#).

- Send your new species published in 2017

8 species so far for this year.... surely we can do better! See [New Species Switzerland](#)

- Pay your membership if not already done ☺. Thanks!



The rabbit-eared beetle *Colloidion schulzi*, our species of the year 2017, is currently on display at the Natural History Museum of Geneva, in the temporary exhibition on ants (it's a myrmecophilous beetle!)

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