

Universität Osnabrück • Behavioral Biology

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**Central European Section of the IUSI**  
International Union for the Study of Social Insects e.V.

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Dear IUSI members,

In October 2009 we had a very interesting joint meeting of the Central European Section of the IUSI together with the Central European Workshop in Myrmecology (CEWiM) which was excellently organized by Susanne Foitzik and her team. The meeting was held on the beautiful Frauen-island (Chiemsee) close to Munich. In the seclusion of the Abbey Frauenwörth, we had 4 days of inspiring talks and discussions embedded in nice social program. The symposia comprised a broad range of topics from ecology and behaviour to genomics of social insects reflecting the diversity of research on social insects. Two highlights of the meeting were the talks of the plenary speakers: Abraham Hefetz – Chemistry of altruism: reproductive and pheromonal plasticity of workers in social bees; and Tom Wenseleers – The evolution of conflict and cooperation in insect societies: towards a greater realism in inclusive fitness models. Thank you Susanne and your team for organising this stimulating meeting.

In the general assembly of the members of the Central European section a new steering committee was elected for the section. Judith Korb is now President of the Central European section, with Susanne Foitzik as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president and Karl Crailsheim as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president. Secretary and treasurer is now Heike Feldhaar. The extended council comprises Marko Balint, Jürgen Heinze, Wolfgang Kirchner and Robin Moritz.

We would like to thank former members of the steering committee, and especially the former President of the Central European section Jürgen Heinze and former secretary and treasurer Judith Korb, for all their efforts.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Central European section of the IUSI will be hosted by Judith Korb and her team in northern Germany in the vicinity of Osnabrück around September 2011. An invitation to this meeting will be send in due course to all members of the section.

The next major meeting coming up this year will be the International congress of IUSI in Copenhagen, Denmark (Koos Boomsma) from 08.-14.Aug. 2010 (<http://www.iussi.org/iussi2010/>). The registration for the meeting is now open. During this meeting the next assembly of the members of the European Section will be held. All members of the Section are welcome to this assembly. The exact date for the assembly is not yet known. Please gather this information from the official program of the meeting in Kopenhagen.

#### *Capitation fee*

Concerning the capitation fees the conditions remain as announced last year. I have to provide a list of our members to Joan Herbers by 1. April. So if you have not done already, please transfer your capitation fee for 2010. For details of the bank account please contact Heike Feldhaar.

Please transfer the money before the deadline of March 15<sup>th</sup>. After that we will again change the bank account to an online bank that does not have any monthly fees in order to save money.

The capitation fees did not change and are as follows:

- Members from 'Western' European Countries, US 25,- €
- Members from 'Eastern' European Countries 5,- €
- Students, Unemployed 5,- €

*Obituary*

Ross Crozier (1943-2009) passed away on 12. Nov. 2009. He was an outstanding researcher in evolution of social behaviour, ecology and evolutionary genetics of social insects with a strong focus on ants.

*New books*

Lach, Parr and Abbott (2010) Ant ecology. Oxford University Press, ISBN 9780199544639

With best wishes for 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Feldhaar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Heike Feldhaar