

from the society

The forthcoming 5th IBS International Meeting (Irakleion, Crete, Greece 7–11 January 2011) is almost here

Two years after a successful meeting in Mérida, Mexico, the 5th biennial meeting of the Society is going to be held in Irakleion, Crete, Greece, from 7th to 11th January 2011. Registration will open by the end of August, so start preparing your abstracts and your luggage for this journey to the southeastern corner of Europe. The meeting venue seems custom-made for biogeography, with its thousands of islands, the fragmented landscape, a geographic position on the borderline of three continents, and the long history of human activities. In addition, the historical significance and natural attractions of Greece, and Crete in particular, will be waiting for you, so there is no excuse to miss this meeting.

The scientific part, as in all previous meetings, is more than appealing, with four main symposia taking place during two days of the meeting, and six sessions with contributed papers during the third day. The four symposia are:

1. *Mediterranean biogeography: where history meets ecology across scales* (organizers: Spyros Sfenthourakis & Rémy Petit). The Mediterranean is a highly species-rich and complex biogeographic region. It has a complex tectonic and environmental history, hosts numerous islands, exhibits strong topographic diversity, and has experienced the impacts of human civilization for more than 8 millennia. This symposium explores novel perspectives on Mediterranean biogeography across spatial and temporal scales.

2. *Comparative phylogeography: new perspectives, integrative approaches & challenges* (organizers: Ana Carnaval & Mike Hickerson). This symposium will explore how innovative, integrative studies are expanding the boundaries of classic comparative phylogeography, while discussing novel methodological alternatives to circumvent

current and foreseen challenges in the field. Among the topics covered are new insights into suture zones and island community assembly and novel approaches employing genomics, spatial information systems, climate modeling, community-scale DNA barcoding, etc.

3. *Biogeography and ecology: two lenses in one telescope* (organizers: Dave Jenkins & Bob Ricklefs). Biogeography focuses on large scales, while much of ecology uses the opposite end of the telescope to focus on many of the same patterns and processes at small scales. Despite historical separation, each discipline is now expanding its spatial and temporal scales towards the other: this symposium will match a biogeographer and an ecologist on each of four key topics of shared interest (niche, comparative/macro-ecology, community assembly, and diversity) to seek alignment of the two perspectives.

4. *Analytical advancements in macroecology and biogeography* (organizers: Alexandre Diniz-Filho & 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 new advancements in spatial analyses, phylogenetic reconstruction, and computer simulation modelling.

The contributed papers' sessions will cover subjects like island biogeography, conservation biogeography, marine biogeography, climate change biogeography, palaeoecology, and other hot topics.

Another important event will take place on the last day of the congress, when Bob Ricklefs

You can find information about the **International Biogeography Society** at <http://www.biogeography.org/>, and contact with other biogeographers at the **IBS blog** (<http://biogeography.blogspot.com/>), the **IBS facebook group** (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6908354463>) and the **IBS twitter channel** (<https://twitter.com/biogeography>).

will receive the Wallace Award and give his keynote lecture, in what will be one of the main highlights of the meeting.

On the day before the meeting starts officially, three workshops will be offered, on *Spatial Analysis in Macroecology* (see <http://www.ecoevol.ufg.br/sam/>), *Phylogenetic Analysis in Macroecology* (up to 40 participants each), and *Communicating biogeography* (up to 20 participants).

For those not attending the workshops, and for those staying one day after the meeting, there are exciting possible destinations to choose for full day or half-day excursions around Crete. Of course, accompanying persons will have additional opportunities to visit interesting places during the meeting.

A brief presentation of possible excursions may provide some general idea of what to expect:

a) *Lassithi Plateau - "Dikteon" Cave - Kera Monastery*. The Lassithi Plateau is one of the few areas in the Mediterranean with permanent inhabitants at an altitude >800 m. "Dikteon cave", where Zeus was born, is also located there. The place is described as 'the plateau of 10,000 windmills'. Originally, the locally constructed windmills made their appearance in the valley at the end of the 1800s. During the 1950s, about 4,000 of the structures offered invaluable assistance to local farmers. Exiting the Lassithi Plateau and heading towards Irakleion, there's an area by the village of Kera, where 24 stone flour mills, dating back to the 1800s, once stood. They operated until the end of WW II, but today most are in various stages of ruin, with only three restored so far. Just beyond this area is the "Kera" Monastery, famous for its beautiful frescoes.

b) *Knossos Archaeological site and "Archanes" traditional village*. Knossos, also known as the Labyrinth or Knossos Palace, is the largest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete and probably the

ceremonial and political centre of the Minoan civilization and culture. It is also a tourist destination today, as it is near the main city of Irakleion and has been substantially restored by archaeologist Arthur Evans. Archanes also hosts an archaeological site of ancient Minoan settlement in central Crete. The discovery of ancient roads leading from Archanes to a variety of nearby and more distant locations, indicate that Archanes was an important hub in the region during Minoan times. Archanes was probably a summer palace for the Knossos kings.

c) *"Anogia" Traditional village - Ideon cave*. Anogia is a municipality in the Rethymno Prefecture. The original settlement was probably founded by villagers from Axos, at the location where the Minoan city Axos was situated. It is located at an altitude of 740m up the north face of the mountain Psiloreitis, very close to the stunning Nida Plateau and the Ideon cave, where Zeus grew up, according to mythology.

The social events during the meeting will offer a strong taste of Crete and Greece.

Information on both the scientific and the social parts of the meeting is available at the website of IBS (www.biogeography.org), and will be regularly updated, so please return to this website every now and then.

Spyros Sfenthourakis

Local Organizing Committee of the 2011 IBS meeting

Jens-Christian Svenning

V. P. for Conferences

Your participation in **frontiers of biogeography** is encouraged. Please send us your articles, comments and/or reviews, as well as pictures, drawings and/or cartoons. We are also open to suggestions on content and/or structure.

Please check <http://www.biogeography.org/html/fb.html> for more information, or contact us at ibs@mncn.csic.es and frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com.