Papers from

16th EUROPEAN CARABIDOLOGISTS MEETING

Prague, Czech Republic, September 22–27, 2013

Carabids and man:
Can we live with(out) each other?

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Organised by
Crop Research Institute, Prague
Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague
Administration of the České Středohoří Protected Landscape Area, Litoměřice

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Meetings of European carabidologists represent a well established tradition, which was started by the Dutch ecologist Piet den Boer in 1969. Since then the European carabidologists (and not only them) had irregularly met until 2001 when the biennial interval was decided. The last meeting, already the 16th European Carabidologists Meeting (16 ECM), was held in Prague, Czech Republic, September 22 to 27, 2013. Despite the long tradition of carabidology within Czech entomological society (to name just a few of the important names from the 20th century: Arnošt Jedlička, Karel Kult, Miloš Fassatti or Karel Hůrka), it was the first time when these meeting visited the Czech Republic.

The 16th ECM altogether was attended by 84 participants from 19 countries, including four non-European ones (USA, Canada, Taiwan, and Japan). It was organized by researchers of the three institutions: Pavel Saska, Alois Honěk and Zdenka Martinková from the Crop Research Institute, Prague, and Michal Knapp from the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, were responsible for the scientific part, and Pavel Moravec from the Administration of České Středohoří Protected Landscape Area, Litoměřice, organized the field excursion on the Oblik hill.

The motto of the meeting was “Carabids and man: can we live with(out) each other”. It should point to important ecosystem functions of these fascinating beetles on one hand and the role of humans in protection of and/or threat for carabid beetle populations. This motto resonated substantially in the participants’ contributions. Of the 72 presented, 40 were talks and 31 were posters. The contributions covered wide range of carabid life-history, ecology, molecular phylogeny, population ecology, agroecology, ecosystem services and conservation, including some methodological issues related to carabid beetle study. The participants especially appreciated the three invited talks, given by Jonathan Lundgren (USDA ARS, Brookings, USA) – “Complex interactions among seeds and the carabids that eat them”, John Holland (Game and Wildlife Conservancy Trust, Fordingbridge, UK) – “The spatial dynamics of carabid beetles from field to landscape and the implications for biocontrol of crop pests”, and Andrea Di Giulio (University Roma Tre, Rome, Italy) – “Morpho-functional and behavioural studies on the flanged bombardier beetles (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Paussinae)”. The student poster award went to Csaba Eötvös (University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary) for his contribution entitled “Documenting predator marks on dummy caterpillars”.


The organizers particularly appreciated and would like to thank the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic for the financial support. Highly appreciated is also the help of supportive student team (Eliska Baranovska, Kateřina Zákostelská, Věra Zaplatilková and Miroslav Vlach) whose help assured that the meeting went smoothly. In this place we would like to remember our dear Emmanuelle Dauffy-Richard, regular participant of the last five meetings and a specialist on forest ecology of carabid beetles, who prematurely passed away in June 2014. All of us will miss the modest and friendly character of her during the meetings.

In 2015, the meeting will be organized by Lucija Šerić-Jelaska and her team in Croatia (http://17ecm.biom.hr). I hope we can all meet there.

Pavel Saska
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The group photograph of the participants at the 16th European Carabidologists Meeting, taken on the top of the Oblik hill, České Středohoří Protected Landscape Area. A number of participants are missing either because they did not attend the excursion or because of their irresistible passion for collecting beetles on this site.