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Report on the 7th European Hemiptera Congress (EHC 7)

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Abstract: A brief report on the 7th European Hemiptera Congress, organised by the Austrian Entomological Society (ÖEG), the OEKOTEAM and the University of Graz, held in July 2015 in Seggau Castle near Graz (Austria), is presented. 100 participants from 25 countries gave 55 talks and presented 26 posters, making the congress a very interesting and successful event.

Key words: European Hemiptera Congress, Styria, report

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Introduction

The "European Hemiptera Congress" series, successor of the „International Congresses concerning the Rhynchota Fauna of Balkan and adjacent Regions", started in 1998, when the Greek Hemiptera researcher Sakis Drosopoulos (1944–2014; Hoch et al. 2015) organised the first EHC congress in Amaliapolis (Thessalia, Greece). Subsequent meetings were held in Fiesa (Slovenia), St. Petersburg (Russia), Ivrea (Italy), Velence (Hungary), Blagoevgrad (Bulgaria) and now in Seggau Castle near Graz (Austria).

The "7th European Hemiptera Congress (EHC 7) and 9th International Workshop on Leafhoppers and Planthoppers of Economic Importance" was organized by the Austrian Entomological Society (ÖEG) in co-operation with the OEKOTEAM - Institute for Animal Ecology and Landscape planning and the University of Graz, Institute of Zoology. It took place from July, 19th–24th, 2015, at Seggau Castle 40 km south of Graz.

The Congress

100 participants from 25 countries gave 55 talks and presented 26 posters, making the congress a very interesting and successful event. It started on Sunday, July 19th 2015, with the registration and in the evening with a kind of BYO welcome party, where all participants brought and shared liquid and solid culinary treasures of their home countries.

The first part of the first session on Monday morning was dedicated to the memory of our late colleagues and friends Sakis Drosopoulos, Hani Abdoul-Nour and Carl Schaefer. The keynote talk of this day was given by Pavel Štys on "Gynotraumatic insemination in Heteroptera: Review, origins, and function".

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Fig. 1: The Congress logo, created by Ingrid Holzinger.

The evening programme began with an excellent folk music concert by Aniada a Noar and Reinhard Ziegerhofer (resp. Polka Potente) in the backyard of Seggau Castle, followed by some wine tasting in the Castle's cellar.

On Tuesday morning, Peter Bräunig gave his keynote talk titled "Froghoppers and planthoppers – a neurobiological perspective", followed by 11 more talks. In the afternoon, the poster session happened. Stefan M. Küchler, Siegfried Kehl and Konrad Dettner won the "best poster" award for their presentation concerning the "Diversity of symbiotic organs and bacterial endosymbionts of lygaeoid bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Lygaeoidea)". The day ended with the Congress Dinner in the restaurant "Schlossberg" in the very center of Graz.

On Wednesday we made a field trip to lake "Spechtensee". Some of us went on a hiking trail from Wörschach via the gorge "Wörschachklamm", some on a trail from Stainach via montane forests and pastures, passing lake "Leistensee" and crossing the "Leistensattel", and the others went simply by bus directly to the final destination.

The keynote talk on Thursday was given by Herbert Zettel, he presented "an introduction to the Helotrephidae". In the evening, Thierry Bourgoin chaired a meeting of the International Auchenorrhyncha Society (IAS) executive committee and the Board of Administrators.

Friday started with the keynote talk "Detectability and palatability of flat bugs (Heteroptera: Aradidae) for avian predators", presented by Alice Exernova, Katerina Machalkova and Pavel Štys. Further 13 talks later the official programme ended with the closing ceremony, followed by the farewell dinner in Seggau Castle.

The "post congress tour" was guided by Gernot Kunz. About a dozen participants went to riverine habitats along the Mur river in Southern Styria (Gosdorf near Mureck) and to dry meadows in the Poßruck area (Glanz an der Weinstraße).

The field trips as well as some collecting in the surroundings of Seggau Castle led to records of 302 Hemiptera species; they are published in another contribution of this Entomologica Austriaca volume (Holzinger et al. 2017).

Congresses are time-consuming and, at least for the majority of participants, more or less expensive events. But meeting other scientists, getting in touch with others who are sharing similar interests, making friends, being able to exchange ideas, create new hypotheses and joint projects, stimulated by a nice ambience, good food and perhaps a glass of wine is – especially for scientific work and networking – of inestimable value. So I hope to see many of the participants again at the next European Hemiptera Congress (EHC 8), which will be organised by the University of Silesia and held in Katowice (Poland) in 2018.

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Fig. 2: Group photo of the EHC 7 meeting (some participants are, unfortunately, missing). 1 - Umut Akyürek, 2 - Andreas Safer, 3 - Vladimir Hemala, 4 - Peter Bräunig, 5 - Mariusz Kanturski, 6 - David Sadílek, 7 - Igor Malenovsky, 8 - Balázs Kiss, 9 - Leonidas Romanos Davranoglou, 10 - Rupert Pfundner, 11 - Dávid Rédei, 12 - Philipp Zimmermann, 13 - Ahmet Dursun, 14 - Wolfgang Moitz, 15 - Sabrina Bertin, 16 - Ernst Heiss, 17 - Ingrid Heiss, 18 - Rimantas Rakauskas, 19 - Nico Nieser, 20 - Pavel Štys, 21 - Karina Wieczorek, 22 - Dominik Chłond, 23 - Cezary Sempruch, 24 - Wolfgang Rabitsch, 25 - Thomas Frieß, 26 - Eckart Fründ, 27 - Reinhard Ziegerhofer, 28 - Shruti Paripatyadar, 29 - Jolanta Brozek, 30 - Eliska Malanikova, 31 - Lydia Schlosser, 32 - Frédéric Chérot, 33 - Carsten Morkel, 34 - Michael R. Wilson, 35 - Hiltrud Moshammer, 36 - Claas Damken, 37 - Alex Ramsay, 38 - Kees den Bieman, 39 - Alice Exernova, 40 - Alex Dittrich, 41 - Berend Aukema, 42 - Werner Holzinger, 43 - Rachel Korn, 44 - Elisabeth Huber, 45 - Dmitry Dmitriev, 46 - Felipe Moreira, 47 - Tim Klaffke, 48 - Petr Baňař, 49 - Malkie Spodek, 50 - Attilio Carapezza, 51 - Marta Goula, 52 - Marcos Roca-Cusachs López-Balcells, 53 - Romain Garrouste, 54 - Stefan Küchler, 55 - Jacek Szwedo, 56 - Herbert Zettel, 57 - Thierry Bourgoin, 58 - Viktor Hartung, 59 - Herbert Nickel, 60 - Mariá del Carmen Coscaron, 61 - Alvin Helden, 62 - Fabio Cianveroni, 63 - Quian Xie, 64 - Gernot Kunz, 65 - Johanna Gunczy, 66 - Gabrijel Seljak, 67 - Ping-Ping Chen, 68 - Rolf Niedringhaus, 69 - Goran Prodanović, 70 - Dušanka Jerinić-Prodanović, 71 - Liliya Serbina, 72 - Petr Kment, 73 - Murat Karavin, 74 - Ünal Zeybekoğlu, 75 - Selçuk Yurtsever, 76 - Mete Yurtsever, 77 - Dariusz Swierczewski, 78 - Sheryl Yap, 79 - Adam Stroiński, 80 - Adeline Soulier, 81 - Milena Brezikova, 82 - Kateřina Hotová, 83 - Franco Faraci, 84 - Yanhui Wang, 85 - Huining Zhang, 86 - Elif Çalişkan, 87 - Başak Akyürek, 88 - Onur Dede. Photo: C. Komposch.

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Fig. 3a: Thierry Bourgoin; **Fig. 3b:** Berend Aukema; **Fig. 3c:** Marta Goula, Malkie Spodek, others resting at the "Spechtenseehütte" after an exhaustive field trip. Photos: W. Holzinger; **Fig. 3d:** Wolfgang Rabitsch, Ernst Heiss, Herbert Zettel, Thomas Friess, Lydia Schlosser, Rachel Korn, Werner Holzinger, Elisabeth Huber (from left to right). Photo: C. Komposch

Fig. 4a: Top: Congress participants listening to the sound of "Aniada a Noar"; **Fig. 3b:** Bertl Pfundner, Andreas Safer, Wolfgang Moitz, Reinhard Ziegerhofer; **Fig. 3c:** Rimantas Rakauskas in the field; **Fig. 3d:** Adeline Soulier, Mike Wilson, Petr Kment and David Redei in the lecture hall. Photos: W. Holzinger

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Zusammenfassung

Der 7. Europäische Hemipteren-Kongress wurde von der Östereichischen Entomologischen Gesellschaft (ÖEG), dem ÖKOTEAM und der Universität Graz organisiert und fand im Juli 2015 im Schloss Seggau südlich von Graz statt. Mit 100 Teilnehmern aus 25 Ländern war es eine ausgesprochen erfolgreiche und inspirierende Tagung.

Acknowledgements

It was a very nice and inspiring meeting, and I want to thank all participants for having been part of it. Furthermore, I am very grateful to the Government of Styria and to the Austrian Entomofaunistic Society (ÖGEF) for the financial support of the meeting, to Astrid Leitner for the perfect organisation and management, to Philipp Zimmermann for maintaining the congress website, to Ingrid Holzinger for the great logo, to Thomas Frieß, Elisabeth Huber, Jördis Kahapka, Rachel Korn, Gernot Kunz, Eliška Malaníková, Wolfgang Rabitsch, Lydia Schlosser and Christian Sturmbauer for supporting the meeting in many different ways, to Wolfgang Rabitsch, Herbert Nickel and Igor Malenovsky for the coordination of the peer reviews, and to Berend Aukema, Thierry Bourgoin, Vladimir Gnezdilov, Matija Gogala, Ernst Heiss, Valentina Kuznetsova, Rimantas Rakauskas, Gabrijel Seljak, Alan Stewart, Pavel Štys, Jacek Szwedo und Mike Wilson for forming the scientific committee of the congress.

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