

## Report

XII Biennial General Meeting, Andean-Caribbean Section of the IUSSI  
Quito, Ecuador 5-8 August 2019

For the first time the Andean-Caribbean Section met in Ecuador. The meeting was held under the auspices of the National Polytechnic School, David A. Donoso presiding. The participants were mainly from northern South America, with the addition of colleagues from North America, Central America and the Southern Cone. As usual, the predominant language was Spanish, with one invited talk in English.

In the research sessions we heard six invited and 36 contributed talks, with the following taxonomic foci: social insects in general 1, termites 3, termites and ants 1, ants 20, social wasps 3, bees 6, and other arthropods 8. These latter included two on social spiders, the first time this group has been treated in any of our meetings. It bears mention that these two talks elicited an especially large amount of discussion. Some of the talks were given during the meeting-ending field trip, also something novel for our section.

The field trip was to the Otongachi Nature Preserve (Reserva Natural Otongachi) outside of the town of Unión del Toachi, Santo Domingo province. This mid-level (elevation mostly 900-1100 m) preserve has a wonderful diversity of plants and animals.

In the business meeting Hermógenes Fernández ([HFernandez@idicasat.org.pa](mailto:HFernandez@idicasat.org.pa)) presented a proposal to hold our next biennial general meeting in Panama, likely during the northern summer of 2021. This was enthusiastically approved, not only because of its inherent organizational virtues but also because Panama will represent yet another first for the section. Up to now we have met in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, and Venezuela, never yet in Central America. The section's natural mandate is the entire neotropics north of the Southern Cone. Colleagues from outside of our section are cordially invited to attend the Panama meeting on the same basis as our members, with presentations welcome in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

The meeting elected officers for the next biennium:

President - chairperson ex officio of the 2021 BGM

International Secretary - David Donoso [david.donosov@gmail.com](mailto:david.donosov@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary - Selene Escobar [escobar.selene@gmail.com](mailto:escobar.selene@gmail.com)

Editors of *Tacayá* - Daniela Mayorga [dmayorgac@unal.edu.co](mailto:dmayorgac@unal.edu.co) & Juan-José Lagos [jjlagos@unal.edu.co](mailto:jjlagos@unal.edu.co)

Committee Member - Yuliana Christopher [ychristopher@indicasat.org.pa](mailto:ychristopher@indicasat.org.pa)

Christopher K. Starr, outgoing International Secretary