



# IUSI North-west European section

International Union for the Study of Social Insects  
Spring Newsletter 2017

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## Officers

### President



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*Contact him about: Newsletter,  
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### Treasurer



**Dr. Elizabeth Duncan**

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student grants*

**Webmaster**



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*Contact him about: Website queries or suggestions*

## **Announcements**

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The **IUSSI NW Europe section 2017 Winter Meeting** will be a two-day meeting in December, hosted by Elva Robinson in York, with our treasurer Elizabeth Duncan from Leeds as a co-organiser. Further details will follow in the Autumn newsletter, but please also check the website for updates.

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The **XVI National meeting of the Italian IUSSI** will take place at the Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" from 14-15 September 2017. More details and the first circular (in Italian) can be found at the Italian Section web site: <http://www.aisasp.it/?p=1351>

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The **IUSSI Andean-Caribbean Section** (formerly Bolivarian Section) will hold its Eleventh Biennial General Meeting in the city of Tarapoto, Peru, 7-11 August 2017. The meeting is hosted by URKU Estudios Amazónicos ([www.urkuperu.org](http://www.urkuperu.org)) y la Universidad Nacional de San Martín (<http://www.unsm.edu.pe/>). Tarapoto is located on the high-amazonian plateau at about 365 m, with ready access to the Upper Amazon Region. The meeting will include a field trip on the penultimate day.

Those with an interest in neotropical social insects and general problems of social insects are cordially invited to join us. Colleagues from outside the Andean-Caribbean region will participate on the same basis as section members. As always, the languages will be Spanish, English and Portuguese. Wecond announcement will follow shortly. Interested colleagues can place themselves on the mailing list by contacting section president Marilena Marconi [marilena.marconi@gmail.com](mailto:marilena.marconi@gmail.com).

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### **A word from the treasurer**

Our treasurer Elizabeth Duncan reminds all members to be active in recruiting new members, and especially all group leaders to make sure that their students and other junior colleagues join the society. The money we get from the International Unions depends on the membership, so this is very important. The membership form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

The finances of the section are reasonably healthy (£3,893.12 in our account). There will be no travel awards offered in 2017 to allow us to support as many students as possible to attend the IUSSI meeting in Brazil in 2018. In 2017, no travel grants will be awarded, as the demand for travel grants is expected to be high in the year 2018, due to the international IUSSI meeting in Brazil.

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## European Ant Course 28 August - 2 September 2017 / University of Copenhagen, Denmark

This 6-day PhD course is designed to give an appreciation of the evolutionary history and general ecology of the European ant fauna, and to provide a toolkit of skills and resources enabling the identification of any European ant species. The course will be run by the Centre for Social Evolution, and this years' external guest teachers will be Riitta Savolainen and Christos Georgiadis. The course is limited to 20 students, and while designed for PhD students, is also open to MSc students and Postdocs if seats are still available. Participation is free, but students must arrange their own travel and accommodation. For more information, and to enrol, see:

<https://phdcourses.ku.dk/DetailKursus.aspx?id=102546&sitepath=NAT>

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### Other upcoming meetings

The British Ecological Society has two symposia that could be of interest to our membership: "Advances in Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services" 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April in Cardiff, and "Macroecology of Alien Species: Patterns, Drivers and Consequences of Global Biotic Exchange" 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July, in Durham. See <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/> for details

European Society for Evolutionary Biology ESEB will have its bi-annual meeting in Groningen, Netherlands, 20-25<sup>th</sup> August. The abstract submission is closed already, but registration is open, and there are quite a few symposia with our members speaking, and otherwise of interest as well, including Major transitions in Evolution, Sociality and Disease, Evolution across the mutualist-parasite continuum, to name a few. See [www.eseb2017.nl](http://www.eseb2017.nl) for details.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Apimondia Congress will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 29<sup>th</sup> Sep – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. The abstract submission deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> May. See <http://www.apimondia2017.org/> for details.

*More upcoming meetings are advertised on the section's webpage ([www.iussi.org/NWEurope/meetings.htm](http://www.iussi.org/NWEurope/meetings.htm))*

### 2016 Winter Meeting Report

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**The winter meeting of 2016** was organised by our president, Prof. Paul Eggleton and his group at the Natural History Museum. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking this was an excellent meeting both scientifically and socially – so our thanks go to Paul for a wonderful meeting at NHM, once again!

We had the pleasure of hearing an excellent plenary from Kate Parr, Univ. Liverpool on Risk-taking & Ecological Surprises, encouraging all of us to dare to think big in our research. As always, the talks were a nice mixture of topics and study taxa, ranging from ant genomics to pollination by bumblebees to reproductive conflicts in Polistes. From the several high-quality student talks, the jury concluded that the deserving winner was David Treanor, on *Wolbachia* in *Myrmica scabrinodis*.

The Business meeting of the section concluded the winter meeting. The most importantly, the location of the 2017 Winter Meeting was decided (University of York, see above). The business meeting also included the Treasurer's report: The finances of the section are

reasonably healthy. In 2016, we awarded 10 travel grants of £250 for students to attend the IUSSI meeting in Helsinki. However, the membership numbers dropped significantly from 2015 (178 members) to 2016 (127 members). Thus, especially all group leaders were asked to make sure that their students and other junior colleagues join the society. The money we get from the International Unions depends on the membership, so this is very important. The membership form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Section website: <http://www.iussi.org/NWEurope>

## Membership 2017

1. Please complete your name and contact details if you are a new member or if your details have changed from last year:

Title and name .....

E-mail address .....

Address .....

.....

Membership fees for 2017 – due by 31 <sup>st</sup> January	
Ordinary Member	Student Member
£ 15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	£ 7.50 <input type="checkbox"/>

I have paid by:

2a. Standing Order

2b. Bank transfer

2c. Paypal

- Please insert the **date** of the transfer/payment here: .....

2d. Cheque (GBP)

**Payment:** Members with a UK bank account are strongly encouraged to pay by standing order; members not wishing to do this should preferably pay by bank transfer, although cheques will still be accepted. Members without a UK bank account should pay by bank transfer or Paypal, **ensuring that their payment also covers bank or Paypal fees.** All members should include their name as description/reference in their payment.

Bank transfers should be made to:

Account name: Northwest European section IUSSI

Account number: 16100247

Sort code: 602462

IBAN: GB86NWBK60246216100247

Swift/IBAN BIC: NWBKGB2L

Bank Address: NatWest, Main Street, Heslington, York YO10 5ZB

Paypal payments should be made to [NWEuropeanSection.iussi@gmail.com](mailto:NWEuropeanSection.iussi@gmail.com)

Cheques should be made payable to **Northwest European section IUSSI**

Please email Liz Duncan ([e.j.duncan@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.duncan@leeds.ac.uk)) with the completed form or a brief email to notify her of how you have paid, or post the form with a cheque to Dr Elizabeth Duncan, School of Biology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT.

**Section officers:** President: Dr Paul Eggleton ([p.eggleton@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:p.eggleton@nhm.ac.uk)); Secretary: Dr Heikki Helanterä ([heikki.helanterä@helsinki.fi](mailto:heikki.helanterä@helsinki.fi)); Treasurer: Dr Elizabeth Duncan ([e.j.duncan@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.duncan@leeds.ac.uk)).