



International Union for the Study of Social Insects

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Greetings from a warm Stellenbosch (South Africa) where we are at risk of running out of water, while apparently Sydney is experiencing extreme rainfall just now. Summer break this year for me means playing with the wonderful Cape honeybee and the rather unpredictable African bee, better known as the Killer bee. In this newsletter you will find Mike Breed's annual report and a call for a new Editor-in-Chief, as Mike will step down as Editor at the end of 2018; a new Editor-in-Chief will need to be elected during IUSSI2018. Our President, Klaus Hartfelder, gives us an update on the IUSSI2018, the conference we are all looking forward to. In this newsletter you will also find my financial report, which has been scrutinised, and approved, by the financial subcommittee. As you know, our income depends on the number of articles (or more precisely, pages) published in *Insectes Sociaux*. Thank you for your contributions and may there be many more in 2018. Also a big thank you to our editors, editorial board members and reviewers. And of course to Mike for holding it all together.

Don't forget that the journal also has a social media presence, thanks to the hard work by Marianne Peso:

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/InsectesSociaux?ref=bookmarks>

Follow the blog

<http://insectessociaux.com/>

and follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/inssociaux>

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2018. I hope to see many of you at IUSSI2018.

Progress report on the organization of the IUSSI2018 congress

We are pleased to inform that until the deadline October 20 we received 31 suggestions for symposia topics, most of these with extensive lists of already confirmed speakers. All these suggestions have since been forwarded for comments to the members of the International Scientific Committee, and once we receive their feedback, the list of approved symposia will be made public and we will start to put together a preliminary program schedule. Some program slots will be sessions open to oral presentations that are not considered in the symposia topics. Also, many of the symposia suggestions include slots that are still open for 15 minute oral presentations.

As the intention is to give as many participants as possible the opportunity to present their work, the Local Organizers and the International Scientific Committee recommend that only one presentation per participant should be submitted for oral presentation. Others can be submitted as posters, but also in this respect we have a limit of available space. So, when deciding to submit your abstract(s) please take this recommendation into consideration. Already when looking through the lists of speakers that the symposia proponents have provided to us, we noted that there are some highly requested speakers. So if you have positively responded to invitations to several of the proposed symposia, please remember this and make your choices. If you have doubts or questions in this regard, please send us an e-mail through the website (contact us) or directly (iussi2018@gmail.com).

Another important notice is that the congress website (<http://www.iussi2018.org>) is now open for registration and abstract submission. So, start making your plans. As you can see on the website, the fees for Early Bird registration will end on April 15, 2018 (midnight Brazilian time – Brasilia).

By the beginning of 2018 we will be able to have a list ready with recommendations for accommodation. For your convenience we have contacted a travel agency that is very experienced with international congresses, and they will set up a link to our website where you can make your reservations. Of course, we recommend that you stay at the congress hotel, which offers a very good deal for single, double or triple apartment occupation, and which includes all meals (breakfast, as well as excellent lunch and dinner buffets. The same travel agency will also organize transfers from the International São Paulo Airport (Guarulhos) to Guarujá for the days immediately before and after the congress. We will inform on the website on how to make the booking as soon as we have all the details down.

Best regards, and we are looking forward to seeing you all next year in Guarujá

Klaus Hartfelder, President of the IUSSI

Brief update on the Social Insects Reference Work

Thanks to the hard work of Christopher Starr of the University of the West Indies, Springer has now approved the proposal for publication of the Encyclopedia of Social Insects. Chris is currently finalising the editorial advisory board.

Insectes Sociaux editor's report by Michael Breed, Editor-in-Chief

1. Submission and acceptance rates

The submission rate for the journal continues to be strong, with over 120 submissions anticipated for this year. Based on our strong performance the publisher has increased our allowance from 64 to 72 published papers a year, starting with the 2018 volume. A reasonable goal would be to reach 150 submissions annually, as this would better support publishing 72 quality papers. During 2016 and 2017 (to date) 231 final decisions were made about manuscripts. Of these 113 (48.9%) were accepted and the balance, slightly over 50%, were rejected.

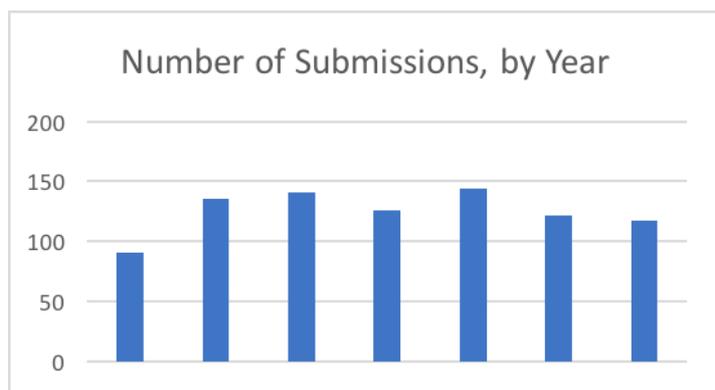


Table 1. Submissions per year for 2011 to 2017.

2. Geographic origin of submissions

In 2016 and 2017, combined, submissions were received from 61 countries, based on corresponding author's addresses. The top sources, in terms of geography, for submissions were:

Brasil	41
United States	41
Japan	22
India	18
Germany	11
Poland	10

Table 2. Number of submissions by country.

3. Impact factor

After a decline about five years ago, our impact factor rose to 1.7 in the most recent analysis. Preliminary data suggests that this improvement will be sustained. This is an area in

which IUSSI members can materially assist the journal by taking care to cite relevant papers from *Insectes Sociaux* in their publications.

4. Social media

Under Marianne Peso's superb editorship *Insectes Sociaux* continues to grow a strong social media presence, primarily through the blog at www.insectessociaux.com. This year will probably see an overall growth to 6000 blog visits. New posts appear bi-weekly and the blog has featured interviews with social insect scientists, accounts written by authors of papers published in *Insectes Sociaux* in which they discuss the genesis and significance of their work, and articles by the Editor-in-Chief which highlight papers from the journal. The blog contains a lot of fascinating reading and I highly recommend browsing the posts if you haven't been a regular reader.

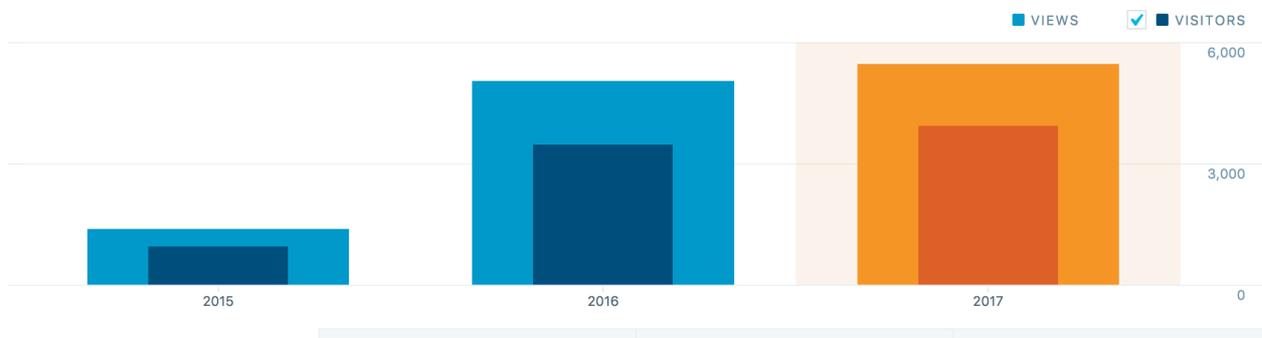


Table 3. Blog reads, by year. The larger rectangle for each year represents views of the individual posts, the inner rectangle is unique visitors.

5. Associate editors

The journal initiated a search for new Associate Editors some months ago, a process that has been much delayed. This search process should reach a conclusion soon. This is an appropriate spot in which to thank Miriam Richards, Yves Roisin, Terry McGlynn, Maggie Couvillon, and Marianne Peso for their outstanding editorial work on behalf of the IUSSI.

Call for nominations: Editor-in-Chief INSECTES SOCIAUX

The International Union for the Study of Social Insects (IUSSI) is soliciting nominations and applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief of its official journal, *Insectes Sociaux*. The Editor-in-Chief will be elected by the International Council of the IUSSI at its the IUSSI Congress in Brazil in August 2018. The Editor-in-Chief serves a four-year term, starting January 2019, and is eligible for re-election.

Insectes Sociaux publishes papers dealing with various aspects of the biology and evolution of social insects and other presocial arthropods; these include ecology, ethology, morphology, population genetics, reproduction, communication, sociobiology, caste differentiation and social parasitism.

The Editor-in-Chief receives all submissions to the journal and makes final decisions about the acceptability of submissions. The submission load is usually approximately 120 manuscripts per year. The Editor-in-Chief assigns many of these manuscripts to Associate Editors, who then handle the review process, and retains responsibility for some submissions. The Editor-in-Chief recruits Associate Editors, a Reviews Editor, a Social Media Editor, and an Editorial Board.

Applications from scientists studying any aspect of social insect biology are welcome. Nominations are also welcome. The Editor-in-Chief is usually a senior scientist who has a strong publication record. Editors are paid a small stipend per manuscript handled.

Insectes Sociaux seeks to have an editorial team that reflects all aspects of the diversity of its membership.

Applications and nominations should be sent to the Secretary-General of the IUSI, Prof. Madeleine Beekman, madeleine.beekman@sydney.edu.au. Inquiries about the duties and workload of this position may be directed to Prof. Michael Breed, Editor-in-Chief, *Insectes Sociaux* at: michael.breed@colorado.edu. Applications should include a current CV and a letter of interest.

Financial report covering the period January 1 – December 4, 2017

The Financial Subcommittee (Joan Herbers, Mark Brown and Heike Feldhaar) has approved my financial report below. Other than the Best Paper Award and Review articles, we have not spend any funds this year, so that we can offer more support to sections to assist their PhD students and postdocs in attending IUSSI2018.

2017 Accounting

	Savings	Checking	Total
Beginning Balance	\$107,381.53	\$2,255.56	\$109,637.09
INCOME			
Review articles			\$2,630.45
Annual income			\$56,017.71
Interest			\$80.88
Total			\$58,729.04
EXPENSES			
Best paper award			-\$1,000.00
Government fees			-\$100.00
Review articles			-\$1,082.53
Reviews editor			-
Office			-\$1,212.32
Service charges			-\$160.00
Total			-\$3,554.85
Ending Balance			\$164,811.28

Respectfully submitted,



Madeleine Beekman, Secretary-General