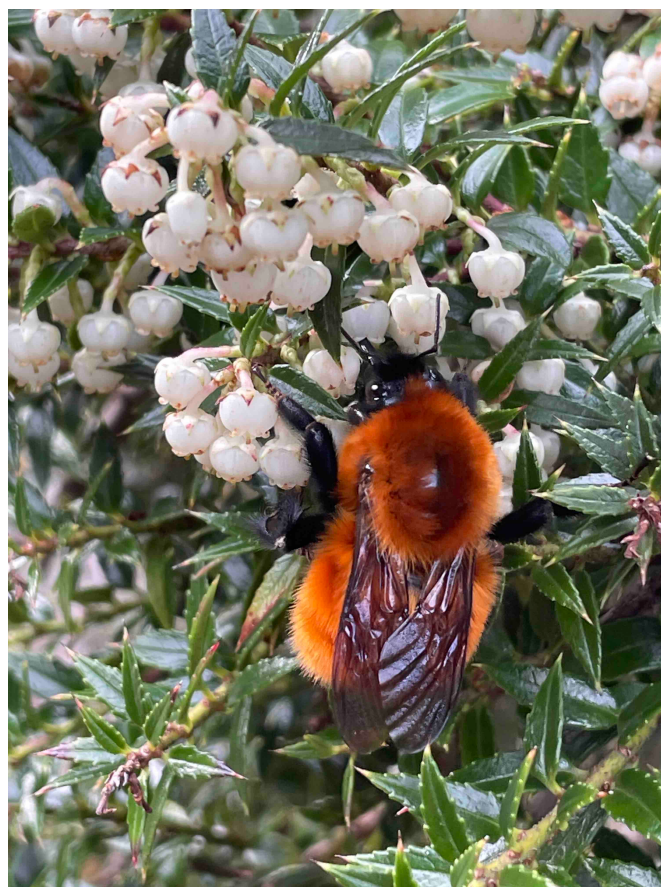




International Union for the Study of Social Insects

Mark Brown, Secretary-General
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I hope that this reaches everyone well – I can't believe that January 2024 is already behind us! It's been a while since my last newsletter, but in that time I was lucky enough to visit Dr Marina Arbetman in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, to work with her and her group on the beautiful giant bumblebee, *Bombus dahlbomii*. This special social insect is significantly endangered, largely due to the spread of *B. terrestris*, which was originally introduced to South America for commercial pollination. I've worked on *B. terrestris* for many years in Europe, but I've never seen it occurring at such a high density as I saw in Argentina. It's a great bee, but sadly in the wrong place as far as *B. dahlbomii* goes. My experiences in Argentina reminded me of how important our work as social insect researchers is in this Anthropocene era, and consequently how important our Society is.



Bombus dahlbomii queen (Argentina)

Our Finances and Our Journal

As you know, the only current source of finances that the IUSSI has are derived from our journal, *Insectes Sociaux*. Essentially, we get a payment from the publisher at a 'per page' basis. In 2023 we received a payment of just over \$20,000, which may seem a lot but is half of what we have received historically. This is a direct result of fewer manuscript submissions to the journal and a subsequent reduction in the number of papers we publish.

The only source of funds we currently have to support grants to attend our International Congress is from these journal payments. With less money coming in, we will be able to support fewer grants for people to attend the International Congress.

So, my message is simple. When you are looking to publish some of your excellent work on social insects, go to *Insectes Sociaux* first, whenever you can.

Supporting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Following on from my last newsletter, all our sections have had the opportunity to discuss the proposals to raise additional funds to support Congress attendance by members from (i) less privileged backgrounds, (ii) minoritized communities, and (iii) low and middle income countries. Every section has responded positively, but what sections can commit to do is obviously driven by their own circumstances. Some sections are still discussing options. I look forward to getting back to you with concrete outputs once these discussions are finalised.

News from *Insectes Sociaux*

Madeleine Beekman, Editor-in-Chief

If you, or anyone you know, works on ant associates, please note an open Special Issue:

[Call For Papers: Special Issue on "The overlooked biodiversity of ant associates"](#)

This special issue welcomes reviews and articles highlighting the important role of ants as a source of biodiversity for a wide range of associated organisms (other than ants), and how nest micro-habitats and/or ant behavior promote this biodiversity.

Submissions open: 1 September 2023

Submissions close: 15 May 2024

News from the XX International Congress

Judith Korb, President of the IUSSI

We have the pleasure to host the next International IUSSI Congress in Aug 2026 in Freiburg, Germany. Due to Volker Nehring's help, the homepage with first information is now online, have a look: <https://iussi2026.org/>.

We aim to make it an open conference in a nice, inspiring and environmentally friendly atmosphere. We would like to welcome all researchers from around the world, working on social insects and related organisms. So, if you expect specific problems with visa issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. In consultation with Mark Brown (our Secretary General), we adjusted the schedules of deadlines for the congress accordingly. We are looking forward to welcome you in Freiburg in 2026.

Freiburg is one of the sunniest cities in Germany with a green ethos, surrounded by the nature of the Black Forest and the Rhine valley with its many vineyards. More information will be circulated later this year.

We are looking forward to welcoming you!

Judith Korb (on behalf of the organizing committee)

News from the next European IUSSI Meeting

Cleo Bertelsmeier, President of the French Section of the IUSSI

Abstract submission is still open for this exciting meeting. So, submit your abstract by 15 February 2024. You can find out everything about the meeting on the website: <https://wp.unil.ch/iussi-europe-2024/>

14th Biennial General Meeting of the Andean-Caribbean Section

This exciting Section meeting will be hosted in Bogotá, Colombia, from 14-16 August 2024. The Andean-Caribbean Section are delighted to invite members from other IUSSI Sections to attend this meeting. While the main working language is Spanish, they welcome presentations in English and Portuguese. For further information, please contact iussi2009@gmail.com