



# IUSI North-west European section

International Union for the Study of Social Insects

Spring Newsletter 2015

---

**President**



**Prof. Mark Brown**

School of Biological Sciences  
Royal Holloway University of London

[Mark.Brown@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Mark.Brown@rhul.ac.uk)

<http://tinyurl.com/MarkJFBrown>

+44 (0)1784 276443

**Secretary**



**Dr. Elli Leadbeater**

School of Biological Sciences  
Royal Holloway University of London

[Elli.Leadbeater@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Elli.Leadbeater@rhul.ac.uk)

[http://pure.rhul.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/elli-leadbeater\(a2edc845-5d79-4c83-bab4-6c58102f485f\).html](http://pure.rhul.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/elli-leadbeater(a2edc845-5d79-4c83-bab4-6c58102f485f).html)

+44 (0)1784 443547

*Contact her about: Newsletter, meetings, general information*

**Treasurer**



**Prof. William Hughes**

School of Life Sciences  
University of Sussex

[William.Hughes@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:William.Hughes@sussex.ac.uk)

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/hugheslab/>

+44 (0)1273 872751

*Contact him about: Membership, student grants*

**Webmaster**



**Dr. David Nash**

Centre for Social Evolution  
University of Copenhagen

[DRNash@bio.ku.dk](mailto:DRNash@bio.ku.dk)

<http://www.zi.ku.dk/personal/drnash/>

*Contact him about: Website queries or suggestions*

## Announcements

---

**We invite nominations** for section **President, Secretary and Treasurer**. The current team's term will end in December 2015, and so new officers will be elected at the 2015 Winter Meeting. Self-nominations or suggestions for potential candidates are welcome (candidates should be section members who are resident in North West Europe). The term of office is three years. Please direct any enquiries to Mark Brown ([mark.brown@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:mark.brown@rhul.ac.uk)).

The **IUSSI NW Europe section 2015 Winter Meeting** will be a two-day meeting hosted by Dr Seirian Sumner at Bristol University, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Further details will follow in the Autumn newsletter, but please also check the website for updates

The **2016 European Congress in Helsinki**, hosted by Professor Lotta Sundström on behalf of our section, will take place from the 8<sup>th</sup> August (arrival and registration) to the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The call for symposia will be launched in late April/early May 2015, with a final deadline for submission in August 2015. Please put this conference in your diaries, as it's sure to be a great one!

### Other upcoming meetings

---

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

**Behaviour 2015:** <http://www.behaviour2015.org>. The biennial IEC meeting will take place 9<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> August 2015, in Cairns, Australia. Invited speakers of particular interest to those working on social insects include Prof. Mandyam Srinivasan.

### 2014 Winter Meeting Report

---

**Liz Samuelson (Royal Holloway University of London) writes:** This year's IUSSI NW European Section Meeting was a resounding success, with an extremely diverse range of talks from genetics to landscape ecology and a good turnout of around seventy people. The day was particularly well attended by students and early postdocs, many of whom were experiencing the IUSSI meeting for the first time. The beginning was delayed by a slight hitch involving a double booking with some coral specimens, which meant we got off to a cosy start in a small seminar room. However, this goes with the territory of meeting in a museum and we powered ahead by perching on desks and leaning against bookcases. The conference got underway with the first of the morning's student talks, spanning wood ant caste immunity to social parasitism in *Vespula* wasps. Throughout the event there was extremely good audience participation with the talks provoking numerous questions, so that on several occasions the discussion had to be cut off in the interests of time.

While the rest of us were enjoying our coffees during the break, our hosts at the Natural History Museum and IUSSI president Mark Brown were busy rescuing the room situation and managed to shepherd us all into the spacious Flett lecture theatre where we heard the rest of the morning's talks in slightly more comfort. This was followed after lunch by an excellent plenary talk by Professor Andreas Brune of the Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology, who shared his wealth of knowledge on the termite gut microbiota. The last of the student talks were given, then research from post docs, PIs and others was presented on topics ranging from the division of labour in social thrips to the effect of juvenile

hormone in *Lasius niger* queens. We ended the session with the AGM, which had been skilfully rescheduled to the end of the day to make sure the morning's delays didn't have disastrous consequences for lunch. Treasurer Bill Hughes outlined the state of the section's finances and membership, and the dates and venues for the next meeting of the IUSSI European Section in Helsinki in August 2016 were announced by Heikki Helanterä. Dara Stanley and Matthias Fürst then stepped up to the stage to announce the winner of the student talk competition, which after such a high standard of presentations was no easy feat. However, there can only be one winner and Joanna Malagocka from the University of Copenhagen took the prize for her brilliant discussion of wood ant "undertakers". The day was rounded off by an equally good selection of posters, which provided a good opportunity for attendees to network and exchange ideas. The discussion was facilitated by a glass or two of wine - a trend which continued as the conference relocated to the pub.

We would like to thank the IUSSI committee – Mark Brown, Elli Leadbeater and Bill Hughes – for organising another excellent winter meeting, and Paul Eggleton and all at the NHM for hosting us (although unfortunately Paul was unable to attend due to illness). We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2015!

# IUSSI (North-west European Section)

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

## Membership 2015

1. Please complete your name and contact details:

Title and name .....

Address .....

E-mail address .....

2a. Please tick box if you are a new member

2b. Please tick box if your contact details have changed since last year

Membership fees for 2015 – due by 1 <sup>st</sup> March	
Ordinary Member	Student Member
£ 15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	£ 7.50 <input type="checkbox"/>

**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)

I have paid by:

3a. Standing Order

3b. Bank transfer

3c. Paypal

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

3d. I enclose a cheque (GBP) payable to **Northwest European section IUSSI**

Please email completed form to [william.hughes@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:william.hughes@sussex.ac.uk) or post with a cheque to Prof. W Hughes, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QG.

**Section officers:** President: Prof Mark Brown ([mark.brown@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:mark.brown@rhul.ac.uk)); Secretary: Dr Elli Leadbeater ([elli.leadbeater@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:elli.leadbeater@rhul.ac.uk)); Treasurer: Prof Bill Hughes ([william.hughes@sussex.ac](mailto:william.hughes@sussex.ac)).

