

CHRONICLE

XXIV Nordic congress of entomology

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The XXIV Nordic Congress of Entomology was held in Tartu, Estonia, 8-11 August 1997. It was the first Congress that took place outside the Nordic Countries. Earlier, Scandinavian entomologists had gathered on 23 occasions in different Nordic Countries: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark. At the previous, XXIII Nordic Meeting of Entomology, held in Turku, Finland, in 1994, it was decided to expand the meetings with the inclusion of the Baltic countries and to organise the next congress in Estonia.

The organisers of this congress were the Section of Entomology of the Estonian Naturalists' Society and the Institute of Zoology and Hydrobiology of the University of Tartu. The Organising Committee: Chairman Kaupo Elberg (Tartu), Vice-chairmen Antti Pekkarinen (Helsinki) and Mati Martin (Tartu), members Sten Jonsson (Uppsala), Risto Iivarinen (Espoo), Seppo Koponen (Turku), Kauri Mikkola (Helsinki) and Kaljo Voolma (Tartu). Organisation was supported by the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia, by the Finnish Entomological Society and by Mr. Aleksander Pototski (Tallinn).

The Congress was attended by about 100 persons: entomologists from six Nordic and Baltic countries (Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden) and guests from France and the United Kingdom.

The XXIV Nordic Congress of Entomology was opened in the Assembly Hall of the University of Tartu on Friday, 8 August 1997, by Dr Kaupo Elberg, Chairman of the Organising Committee. Prof. Volli Kalm, dean of the Faculty of Biology and Geography of the University of Tartu welcomed the participants on behalf of the local organisers. Dr Bengt Ehnström (Uppsala) was elected President of the Congress and he delivered a speech. Addresses of greeting were also delivered by Villu Reiljan, Minister of the Environment of Estonia, Dr Urmas Tartes, Director of the Institute of Zoology and Botany (Tartu) and participants from Finland, Norway,

Latvia and Lithuania. The opening lecture was given by Prof. Pekka Nuorteva (Finland): Levels of cadmium and some metals in insects.

The following four symposia, the poster presentation and the closing session were held in the Conference Hall of the Tartu University Library and in the House of the Estonian Naturalists' Society:

- Taxonomy and zoogeography of Nordic European insects;
- Threatened insects in Northern Europe;
- Limnic and coastal insects;
- Ecology and physiology of boreal insects.

The exhibition "Estonian Entomology: Publications 1777-1997" was held in the Tartu University Library.

Considering the specificity of this journal, a few presentations on forest interest as well as of nature conservation and biodiversity research are referred to below:

- Eduardas Budrys (Lithuania) – Biodiversity database: experience in Lithuania and possibilities of applying;
- Bengt Ehnström (Sweden) – Redlisted beetles on Scots pine in Sweden;
- Kaupo Elberg (Estonia) – Entomofaunistic research in Estonia: the past, the present, and the future;
- Mati Martin, Jaan Luig, Mikk Heidemaa (Estonia) – Project of grid mapping of Estonian Insects;
- Kauri Mikkola (Finland) – Does the global climate change affect the population trends in Finnish *Lepidoptera*?
- Jari Niemelä (Finland) – Effects of forestry on insects in Fennoscandia;
- Heino Õunap (Estonia) – Medetera-flies (*Diptera, Dolichopodidae*) as natural enemies of bark beetles (*Coleoptera, Scolytidae*) in Estonia;
- Roger Pettersson (Sweden) – Hoverflies as indicators in boreal forest mosaic;
- Hans Silfverberg (Finland) – A zoogeographical analysis of Northern European *Elateridae* (*Coleoptera*);

- Lauritz Sømme (Norway) – Strategies of overwintering in terrestrial arthropods in cold and arid environments;

- Voldemars Spungis (Latvia) – Investigation, distribution and abundance of free-living gall midges in Northern Europe (*Diptera, Cecidomyiidae, Porri-condylinae*);

- Tõnu Talvi (Estonia) – The distribution of Carabid beetles (*Coleoptera: Carabidae*) in relation to management history in wooded meadows;

- Miia Tanhuanpää (Finland) – Insect-plant interactions during a natural *Epirrita autumnata* outbreak;

- Kaljo Voolma, Ilmar Süda (Estonia) – Rare species of *Cerambycidae* and *Scolytidae* (*Coleoptera*) in Estonia.

On August 7, 1997 a one-day pre-congress tour was organised to South Estonia (Otepää – Sangaste – Võru – Haanja). At the time of the Congress, collecting of night insects was organised in the vicinity of Elva. A four-day post-congress tour to Saaremaa with collecting insects on different sites on the largest island of Estonia took place.

The next Congress of Nordic and Baltic entomologists was proposed to be held in the year 2000 in Sweden.