



European Aerobiology Society

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Newsletter

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In this Issue:

- News from 12th Basic Course on Aerobiology
- Diary of Impressions after 8th Advanced Course on Aerobiology
- Invitation to 6th European Symposium on Aerobiology



The 12th European Course on Basic Aerobiology was held in Rzeszów, Poland from 20th till 26th July 2015. The main organizer was the Department of Environmental Biology, University of Rzeszow. The course was held under auspices of the International Association for Aerobiology and the European Aerobiology Society. Rector of University of Rzeszów and the Marshal of the Podkarpacie Province were honorary patronages of this event.

There were 22 trainees from 12 countries. The course was attended by students, young scientists with different experience in aerobiology and also people who had no previous contact with the subject area- plant ecologists, atmospheric physicists. The trainees had the possibility to attend the lectures provided by leading European experts in aerobiology, agriculture and health. University of Rzeszów also hosted the special guests and sponsors. In total, in the entire course, there were approximately 40 persons.

The important topics of the lectures were: morphology of pollen grains and fungal spores, seasonal and short term forecasting, meteorological aspect of pollen dispersal, statistics and quality control in aerobiological study, allergy to pollen. Practical exercises included operating the pollen trap, identification of fungal spores and pollen grains, scanning and counting of microscope slides. The participants took part in the computer workshops devoted back trajectory analysis and aerobiology in internet. The course was aided by the supporting information included in the "Manual for Aerobiology" book and CD-ROM that was published with financial support from SMARTER especially for this course.

The organizers arranged the excursion to the nicest places in the region. The participants visited the Bolestraszyce Arboretum which belongs to the gems of natural and cultural heritage of the south-east Poland. In the park there are over 4000 of species, varieties and form of plants. The biggest attractions are ponds with beautiful water lilies. Then they went to Castle Museum in Łańcut which is one of the most beautiful aristocratic residences in Poland, famous for its excellent interiors and interesting collection of horse-drawn carriages.

The course ended with theoretical and practical examinations. The last one concerned morphology of pollen grains and fungal spores and counting. All trainees pass the exams successfully and received the certificates. Among those who passed the exam Eoin McGillicuddy from Ireland and Karen Rasmussen from Denmark were awarded.

Sponsors: Lanzoni; COST SMARTER; a.e.r.o.m.e.d.i; Bertin AIRTEST; RNSA; Precoptic Nikon; Olympus; Zeiss; Fundacja Tauron; A&A Biotechnology; Nadleśnictwo Głogów

Text prepared by Idalia Kasprzyk

Diary of Impressions



Sunday, 16th of August 2015

After a walk through the city of Šiauliai and a lesson about its history we came together to the first of many delicious meals and a local, dark beer in ČinČin. I. Šaulienė surprised us and topped the Icebreaking Day with a present to all of us: a cup with a different Lithuanian phrase for everyone.



Monday, 17th of August 2015 “Mycology Day”

M. Thibaudon and J. Charbonnier showed us three methods to assess the presence of airborne molds indoor. Not enough to see the diversity of molds, they let us put hands on the devices ourselves. That way we learned that Šiauliai University is a clean place. The Hill of Crosses made us understand why Lithuania is called the “country of crosses”.

Tuesday, 18th of August 2015 “Botany Day”

C. Galán updated and summarized the novel developments in the field of phenology. Å. Dahl continued with a concise presentation on invasive plants. Those lectures were completed by the study in the field in the “Kurtuvenai” natural park with a close inspection of its flora. A walk through the forest and the Kurtuvenai Manor brought us on the attic of a barn and finally to our dinner, which has been prepared since five days conforming to a traditional, Lithuanian recipe and tasted more refined as we could dream of.



Wednesday, 19th of August 2015 “Vegetation Day”

C. Skjøth gave an introduction in Modeling, its application in Aerobiology and practical lessons in order to let us see how easy and difficult it is to work on a part of the modeling procedure, the ecosystem analysis. Guiseppe Frenguelli talked about the effects of pollution on pollen. We completed the scientific program with a visit to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Laboratory of Atmospheric Research to get an insight in air quality measurements and monitoring.



Thursday, 20th of August 2015 “Vilnius”

Labas rytas (Good morning)! – we got up early to have more time to enjoy Lithuania’s capital city. Vilnius amazed and showed us why it is a UNESCO Heritage Site. We admired the monuments made of brick as St. Anne’s Church, explored the catacombs of the Cathedral, looked up to the Gedimini Tower, stared at the country’s treasures of amber (“gintaro”) and strolled by streets that made us feel the glory of the past – just to name a few highlights.

Friday, 21st of August 2015 “Climate Day”

G. Frenguelli and C. Galán continued with their lecture on the effects of pollution on pollen. We made the experience of a viability test and saw enough non-viable pollen to get an impression of the consequences of pollution. R. Gehrig first gave a glimpse on climatology and the relation of climate and weather patterns with pollination. Together with L. Šukienė we made our first successful steps in “R” and enjoyed the feeling of forecasting the pollen season start in the next 50 years on MeteoSwiss data.

The social part brought us to the Pakruoji Manor, where we were invited to an informative tour about the Manor, its history, the perfume world and even into a Museum of torture. Unusually, our guide explicitly told us to touch and use everything. We followed this instruction nonetheless only in some cases. We were enchanted by tasty food, original beer, the brewer’s wife vocal talent and the brewer himself in a traditional brewery.





Saturday, 22nd of August 2015 “Data Handling Day”

M. Thibaudon and C. Galán informed us about recent developments in Aerobiology and conferences ahead. A short exam of 22 questions (of which the last two and most creative questions were not taken into account) was taken. D. Kainov spoke about the genetic susceptibility of allergenic pollen. This talk was followed by a lecture and practical exercise lead by M. Kmenta about the European Aeroallergen Network (EAN). The afternoon started with a lecture about the Pollen Diary (Patient’s Hayfever Diary, PHD) presented by K. Bastl. F. Zemmer reported on her communication strategy of the PHD in Turkey. Then, all participants and I. Šaulienė reported on their respective pollen information networks or their aerobiological research.

Especially the participants enjoyed the Award Ceremony - receiving framed certificates and a chocolate bar of Lithuania’s finest Chocolaterie. The course was closed with the last come together with cheese and wine.

Farewell

After one week of intense learning and great experiences in Lithuania it will be hard for us to leave. Our sole comfort is that we will not continue our path alone, but stay connected. We will not forget all the teachers for their help and scientific organization.

Text prepared by Katharina Bastl

6th European Aerobiology Symposium



For more information:
<http://www.alphavisa.com/esa/2016>

The 6th ESA, the second under the aegis of the European Aerobiology Society EAS, will welcome you from 2016 July 18th to 22nd in Lyon, France.

This Symposium will be organized by the RNSA and the AFEDA with the support of different associations dedicated to Air quality. The organizing Committee wishes that many of you will join the Symposium. The main themes will be:

- General aerobiology
- Phenology
- Health impact (including an allergy day)
- Moulds outdoors and indoor

Ragweed satellite symposium in partnership with the IRS (International Ragweed Society) and a satellite symposium organized by the COST SMARTER.

A scientific committee will be in charge of the review of the different proposals and of the program. We will organize also the different institutional meeting of EAS (Executive committee meeting and General Assembly) and other meetings on request.

The Symposium will take place in the nice facilities of the Lyon University, and we will make our best to ensure you an enjoyable stay. For a perfect organisation, Alpha Visa will take care of all the logistics. A specific website is now open where you can find all the information you need. RNSA (rnsa@rnsa.fr) is ready to answer your specific questions.

Lyon is the second largest town in France, not far (less than 2 hours) from Paris, Mediterranean, the Alps, Burgundy, etc. and we hope that you will have the opportunity to prolong your stay in Lyon or in France for some holidays.

Looking forward to seeing you in Lyon in July 2016 for this 6th ESA.

EAS President Michel Thibaudon