



December 2017

### 1) Natural History Collections Day – 17 November 2018

In 2018 the SSS would like to promote the natural history collections held in Switzerland. We propose to organize a common event in all of Switzerland in the form of an open-door day on natural history collections.

**When:** Saturday 17 Nov 2018

**Where:** in your institution! All over Switzerland, in museums, herbariums, universities or any other research institutes that hold natural history collections.

**How:** visit of the collections, conference on the role of collections, presentation of scientific specimens, presentation of your latest new species (cf. the 2015's poster), etc. Any public-oriented activity on collections can be proposed!

**The message:** based on a booklet (in French-German-Italian) explaining the importance of collections, their role in the future, why we still need to collect, the reasons why we are keeping and working on them etc.

Save the date! Check our website for updates on this project.

### 2) SSS-Day and General Assembly – Fribourg , 10th November 2017

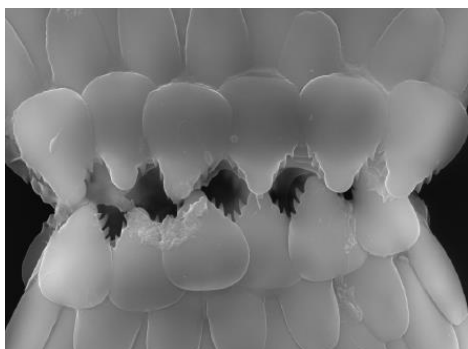


The Society annual meeting took place in Fribourg, hosted by Natural History Museum and the Botanical garden of the University. 40 systematists attended this meeting that included two plenary lectures and ten regular or short talks. Peter Wandeler and his colleague Emanuel Gerber presented the two museum's current exhibitions

"AQUA- michel.roggo.photographie" and "RHINOSTAR".

During the General assembly, the audience was invited to vote for the next "SSS Species of the year": be ready again for the press release in January!

### 3) Best master's thesis award 2017



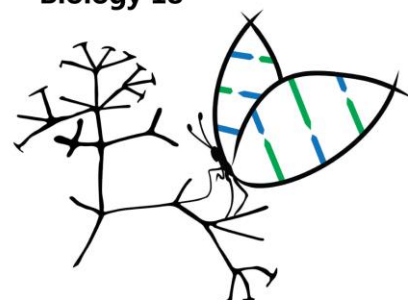
This year's best master's thesis award was given to **Clément Duckert** for his work entitled "Morphological and molecular taxonomy of *Euglypha* – Toward a calibration of the molecular clock", conducted at the Universities of Neuchâtel and Lausanne.

The genus *Euglypha* is composed of testate amoebae that can be found in a broad variety of soil and freshwater environments. Because of their small size, species identification can be reliably achieved only based on good quality light or scanning electron microscopy. Clément and co-workers demonstrated that the species *Euglypha rotunda* (the most common and widespread member of the genus) is not monophyletic based on morphology as well as molecular data. Their molecular clock analysis showed that the genus *Euglypha* appeared during the Jurassic and that some of these species have diverged very recently. This thesis convinced the jury by its thorough application of modern systematic methods to a poorly known taxon. Clément presented his work during the SSS-Day. Congratulations again!

### 4) Biology18 – University of Neuchâtel , 15-16 February 2017

[Abstract submission](#) and registration has been extended until 20 December 2017. Biology18 is preceded by a workshop on Wednesday afternoon organized by the SIB (Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics) and a public outreach event on Wednesday evening "[Scientific speed dating](#)".

#### Biology 18



### 5) News from the CETAF

The Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) is part of an important new European project linked with the collections: [DiSSCo](#) (Distributed Systems of Scientific Collections). DiSSCo is a Research Infrastructure initiative of 21 European countries with a vision to position European natural science collections at the center of data-driven scientific excellence. Michele Price, chair of CETAF, presented this project during the SSS-Day: her presentation can be found [here](#). Donat Agosti also presented a project associated with DiSSCo that has already received an European funding: [ICEDIG](#) (Innovation and Consolidation for large-scale Digitisation of natural heritage). This project will facilitate the DiSSCo preparatory phase by providing additional resources for addressing the technical and organizational challenges, which need to be solved before construction of this new research infrastructure commences.

