

February 2014

## 1) Walls : The Return

Our «Urban wall biodiversity» competition is over since 2010 but the results collected during this event got a second life thanks to our Neuchâtel colleagues. Although Geneva won with 149 species identified, Neuchâtel scores big with a full publication dedicated to the results they obtained while inventorying the diversity of their City Castle wall.



These results are reported in : Grant, J. & Mulhauser, B. 2013. Biocénose d'un mur d'enceinte du château de Neuchâtel. *Bulletin de la société neuchâteloise des sciences naturelles* 133 : 93-103.

Abstract: During an inventory of the organisms living on the outer wall of the Castle of Neuchâtel in 2010, 117 species of different groups were identified. This study revealed an unexpected richness in the flora and fauna of a small area (< 200 m<sup>2</sup>) of an anthropogenic environment. The identification of very different groups of animals, plants, lichens, and protists also helped to outline the organization of this unique ecosystem.

## 2) SSS-Day in Geneva, 13-14<sup>th</sup> November 2014

The **6th SSS-Day**, organized by our colleague Marco Bernasconi last November in Lucerne was a success with about 40 members attending and a very pleasant opportunity to exchange.



The **7th SSS-Day** will be a 2 days event organized in Geneva on 13-14 November 2014. It will include on the first day a workshop on the use of **R** in phylogenetics. More information on the programme and registration will be provided in the next SSS newsletter.

### 3) SSS prize for the best Master thesis

The SSS wants to encourage brilliant young scientists in their early career and therefore set up a yearly **prize** that will reward an excellent contribution in the field of systematics at the level of a Master thesis. See all the details in the included document, to distribute widely!



### 4) New web site

We know that our web site is in serious need of refurbishing. This is now in progress in partnership with the ScNA who is revamping its complete web portal. The SSS will continue to be hosted by the Academy although our site will soon have a complete new look, both more pleasant and more modern. Meanwhile don't forget to have a look at the present site from time to time, even if only to check for the agenda of Swiss conferences and seminars in systematics at <http://www.swiss-systematics.ch/e/news/seminars/>.

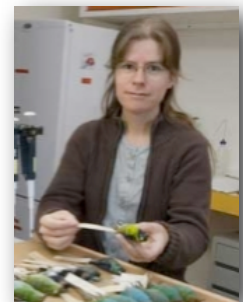
### 5) ICZN

In a previous issue we mentioned the problems that the **International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature** had to face. We were happy to learn that these were at least provisionally resolved as its secretariat will be supported by the the National University of Singapore for a period of 3 years.

### 6) News from the board

After three years of fruitful activities as president, Reto Nyffeler expressed the wish to step down, although he stays in the board and continues to participate to all SSS activities. We gratefully thank him for his implication and his work!

During our last extraordinary assembly in Lucerne, **Alice Cibois** (former treasurer) was proposed as **new president**, and Mathieu Perret as new treasurer. We thank them for their involvement in the society's life and future.



### 7) Membership fee for 2014...



**The SSS finances are healthy but depend on your continuous support ! Please renew your membership so that we can pursue our work in support of systematics.**

This SSS-News contains a payment order for your membership fee for 2014. The annual fee remains at a modest 30 CHF (10 CHF for students registered at a university or public school).

The account information is: Swiss Society of Systematics (SSS), Avenue de la Praille 40, 1227 Carouge (GE); Banque Cantonale Genève - SWIFT: BCGE CH GG XXX - IBAN: CH63 0078 8000 E328 4521 3

*(For your convenience we have added a payment order).*