



## Report on the XVI International Bat Research Conference and 43<sup>rd</sup> North American Symposium on Bat Research

Both the XVI International Bat Research Conference and the 43<sup>rd</sup> North American Symposium on Bat Research were held at the Wyndham Herradura Hotel in San José, Costa Rica from August 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 2013. Costa Rica University and Asociación Theria para la Educación e Investigación an NGO directed by Bernal Rodríguez-Herrera served as the local host. **A total of 639 participants attended the meetings from 55 countries in the world and presented 435 papers as a whole, 114 posters and 4 plenary talks.**

This conference was the largest in the history of IBRC (639 participants), with more than 215 students. The majority of XVI IBRC and 43<sup>rd</sup> NASBR attendants were affiliated to academic/scientific institutions, mainly from United States (30%), Germany (7%), Costa Rica (7%) and Mexico (5%). Every continent was represented, and people from nations far away as Egypt, Israel, China, Japan, Kenya and Nigeria were there. Almost all Latin-American countries were present, achieving one of the most important objectives for this meeting: to give Latin-American students (especially Costa Ricans) and researchers the opportunity to talk, ask and discuss with researchers from all over the world.

The Conference was covered for the principal national media (TV, radio and newspaper. Among which the most important are: [Informe 11](http://www.repretel.com/un-para%C3%ADso-de-murciélagos) (<http://www.repretel.com/un-para%C3%ADso-de-murciélagos>), [Teletica](http://www.teletica.com/Noticias/20820-Murcielagos-reunen-a-varios-cientificos-esta-semana-en-San-Jose.note.aspx) (<http://www.teletica.com/Noticias/20820-Murcielagos-reunen-a-varios-cientificos-esta-semana-en-San-Jose.note.aspx>), [La Nación](http://www.nacion.com/vivir/ciencia/Cientificos-exaltaron-servicio-ambiental-murcielagos_0_1360064012.html) ([http://www.nacion.com/vivir/ciencia/Cientificos-exaltaron-servicio-ambiental-murcielagos\\_0\\_1360064012.html](http://www.nacion.com/vivir/ciencia/Cientificos-exaltaron-servicio-ambiental-murcielagos_0_1360064012.html)) and [Tico Times](http://www.ticotimes.net/More-news/News-Briefs/Costa-Rica-hosts-largest-ever-bat-conference_Sunday-August-18-2013) ([http://www.ticotimes.net/More-news/News-Briefs/Costa-Rica-hosts-largest-ever-bat-conference\\_Sunday-August-18-2013](http://www.ticotimes.net/More-news/News-Briefs/Costa-Rica-hosts-largest-ever-bat-conference_Sunday-August-18-2013)).

The new hosts for the XVII International Bat Research Conference were announced to be South Africa on 2016.

### Symposia

Symposia were established by invitation from the Local Committee; from November 2012 to February 2013 a Call for Symposia was opened. 16 proposal were selected and covered a big variety of themes (organizers for every symposium are shown after the titles):

1. *Advances in Bat Phylogeography and Population Genomics*. Amy Russell, Grand Valley State University, USA & Liliana M. Dávalos, SUNY Stony Brook, USA.
2. *Bats and Environmental Change*. Winifred F. Frick, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA & Gareth Jones, University of Bristol, UK.
3. *Bats and Wind Energy: Innovative solutions to monitor and minimize bat impacts at wind energy facilities*. Cris D. Hein, Bat Conservation International, USA & Manuela Huso, U.S. Geological Survey, USA.
4. *Bats flying along – flight path reconstruction methods and their research applications*. Inga Geipel, University of Ulm, Germany & Holger Goerlitz, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Germany.
5. *Behavioral Ecology of Bats*. Gloriana Chaverri, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica & Jorge Ortega, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, México.
6. *Biology and Evolution of the Earliest Bats: New Insights from the Fossil Record*. Nancy B. Simmons, American Museum of Natural History, USA & Gregg Gunnell, Duke University, USA.
7. *Building a Global Network for Bat Conservation*. Dave Waldien, Bat Conservation International, USA & Paul Racey, University of Aberdeen, UK.

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8. *Environmental education and communication: What have you done that works?* Laura Navarro Noriega PCMM/BIOCONCIENCIA, Mexico & Eugenia Cordero Schmidt, Tirimbina Biological Reserve & PCMCR, Costa Rica.
9. *Evolutionary-Developmental Biology of Chiroptera.* Caleb D. Phillips, Texas Tech University, USA.
10. *Ecoimmunology of Bats.* DeeAnn Reeder, Bucknell University, USA & Ken Field, Bucknell University, USA.
11. *Frontiers of Bat Assemblage Ecology: Novel Perspectives from the Old and New World.* Richard Stevens, Louisiana State University, USA & Tigga Kingston, Texas Tech University, USA.
12. *Phylogeny, evolution, and the origin of biological diversity in noctilionoid bats.* Paúl Velazco, American Museum of Natural History, USA & Liliana M. Dávalos, SUNY Stony Brook, USA.
13. Present and future of bat conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Luis F. Aguirre, Centro de Biodiversidad y Genética, UMSS, Bolivia; Rodrigo A. Medellín, UNAM, Mexico & Jafet M. Nassar, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Venezuela.
14. The ecology and evolution of the mutualism between nectar bats and bat-pollinated flowers. Nathan Muchhala, University of Missouri St. Louis, USA & Marc Holderied, University of Bristol, UK.
15. Two curious explorers: the work of Elisabeth Kalko and Björn Siemers. Holger R. Goerlitz, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Germany; Mirjam Knörnschild University of Ulm, Germany; Kirsten Jung, University of Ulm, Germany & Stefan Greif Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Germany.
16. White-Nose Syndrome, a Disease of Hibernating Bats. Jeremy Coleman, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USA; Paul Cryan, US Geological Survey, USA & Jonathan Reichard, US Fish and Wildlife Service, USA.

### Workshops

We had three workshops, two before and one after the Conference. They obtained their own budget and sponsorships. The official language of the workshops was Spanish, because they were focus on Latin-Americans students.

- Educación y Comunicación para la Conservación de los Murciélagos (Education and Communication for Bat Conservation), organized by PCM and PCMCR.
- Curso Latinoamericano de Acústica en Murciélagos (Latin-American Workshop on Bat Acoustics), organized by RELCOM.
- Bases de Diseños y Estudios en Ecología y Conservación de los Murciélagos (Basis for the Design and Studies on Bat Ecology and Conservation), organized by RELCOM.

### Student Award Competitions

Graduate and undergraduate students were invited to enter their platform or poster papers in the competitions, where a special committee judged the scientific merits of their research. Jorge Ortega was in charge of organized the judged and gets the sponsors and prizes. NASBR awarded eleven prizes to participants from all over the world, as well as the Villa Award, which recognizes outstanding research by a student in a Mexican Institution.

In total 77 oral student platform and 27 poster student papers participating in the competition. The student award winner were given during the closing event:

- **Bernardo Villa Award** – Giovanni Hernández Canchola: Phylogeography of *Sturnira lilium* (Chiroptera: Phyllostomidae) in Mesoamerica.
- **Bat Research News Award** – Joseph Bahlman: Simplifying a Wing: Diversity and Functional Consequences of Reducing Joints in Bat Wings.
- **Speleobooks Award** – Raul Rodriguez: The Distribution of Aerial Insectivorous Bat Species in Panama.
- **Karl F. Koopman Award** - Caroline Schöner: Supply Determines Demand: Influence of Partner Quality and Quantity on the Interactions between Bats and Pitcher Plants.
- **Basically Bats, Wildlife Conservation Society Award** - Shannon Currie: Heart Rates of Subtropical Blossom Bats (Pteropodidae) During Torpor.
- **Bat Conservation International Award** – Juliane Schaer: Bat Malaria: a Focus on Hepatocystis in African Epauletted Fruit Bats.

- **Luis F. Bacardi Bat Conservation Award** – Patricia Jones: When to Approach Novel Prey Cues? Social Learning Strategies in Frog-eating Bats.
- **Titely Electronics Award** – Ostaizka Aizpurua: Comparison of Echolocation and Capture-flight by *Myotis capaccinii* when Hunting Insects and Fishing in the Wild.
- **Avinet Award** – Joe Chun-Chia Huang: Is Bat Coffee a Potential “Wing-Wing” Tool for Biodiversity Conservation in Southwestern Sumatra?
- **Organization for Bat Conservation Award** – Lindsey Clairmont: Pollinator Specialization in Flower-visiting Bats.
- **ECOTONE 1** - François Fabianek: Selection of Roosting Habitats by Male *Myotis* Bats in Balsam Fir-White Birch Forest.
- **ECOTONE 2** - Antton Alberdi: Survey of Alpine Bats by a Novel Mist-netting Technique.

## Awards

Another three new prizes were awarded in these meetings: 1) Spallanzani Award to assist distinguished researchers from outside of North America (Mexico, Canada and the United States) to attend the NASBR, 2) Zotz Award presented by the Local Committee and the Red Latinoamericana para la Conservación de los Murciélagos (RELCOM) to honor an individual or a group of people that have participated on integral actions for Bat Conservation in Latinoamerica, and 3) The Gerrit S. Miller Award is presented occasionally by NASBR to persons in recognition of outstanding service and contribution to the field of chiropteran biology.

The award winners were:

- Spallanzani Award: Ganapathy Marimuthu from India.
- Zotz Award: Don E. Wilson from National Museum of Natural History.
- Miller Award: James A. Simmons

## Social events and tours

During the Conference we had three social events:

1. The Welcome Cocktail with Costa Rican traditional dance and music (mascarada and comparsa).
2. The film *Hotel Heliconia* presented by a Special Guest: Philip Savoie.
3. Manuel Obregón’s piano concert with the play *Rainforest Symbiosis*.

A tourism company (Costa Rica Rainforest Experience) was in charge of organized pre and post tours to 3 different sites in the country: Guanacaste, Limón and Monteverde. The tours and the sites visited were focus on bat mist netting, with all the government permits and with a qualified guide. In some tours participants could observe more than 20 bat species and also other mammal and birds species.

## Acknowledgements

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*Scholarships and Students Awards:* Bat Conservation International, Ecotone, Avinet, Speleobooks Firstwind, Organization for Bat Conservation, Luis F. Bacardi, Bat Research News.

*Vendors:* Wildlife Acoustic, Pettersson, Titley Scientific, Biotrack Lotek, Holohil Systems, Speleobooks, Organization for Bat Conservation, Bat Conservation International, Ecotone, Telenax, RELCOM, Tirimbina Biological Reserve, Biotope, Costa Rica Rainforest Experience.



**GRACIAS!!!!**

