

# *The Simuliid Bulletin*

Number 59

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## SUPPLEMET

Full Symposium Abstracts available in a Supplement online here:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0Bz0txvVk5I3KYnZITG5RbF82TUU?resourcekey=0-S6mNQPT3fAThwAtEhdBrEw>

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**Cover Image:** Chefchaouen - Morocco (photo: Matúš Kúdela)

## **From the Editor**

The current issue of the Simuliid Bulletin is dedicated to the long-awaited IX Simuliidae Symposium. After two years of waiting, Boutaina Belqat and her team hosted a successful meeting in historical Chefchauen, and we finally had the opportunity to meet in person and discuss our ideas and projects.

I want to thank David López-Peña for writing the detailed report from the meeting and brought the atmosphere of Symposium closer to the readers.

You can find the abstracts of presentations and posters in the supplement to the current issue.

Unfortunately, the end of the year 2022 brought us also sad news. Professor Leo Rivosecchi – an outstanding Italian entomologist and black fly specialist passed away at the age of 99.

Tatiana Kúdelová, Editor

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

### **19th Annual North American Black Fly Association (NABFA) Meeting**

**February 9-10, 2023**

**Flemington, New Jersey**

NABFA Members, Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings NABFA Members, Friends, and Colleagues,

For 2023, we are back for an in-person North American Black Fly Association (NABFA) meeting February 9-10<sup>th</sup> in Flemington, New Jersey. The meeting will start Thursday morning, February 9<sup>th</sup> and end around noon on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. An informal social event is planned at the Hampton Inn by Hilton Flemington Wednesday evening February 8<sup>th</sup>.

We invite black fly enthusiasts, researchers, control specialists and students to join us to exchange ideas, information, and camaraderie. Students are especially encouraged to participate in the *Mike Spironello Award* competition presented annually to the student giving the best talk. The award was established to honor the memory of former NABFA Secretary and black fly researcher, Mike Spironello, who passed away unexpectedly in 2006.

Hope to see you all in 2023!

**John Walz – NABFA President**

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## **The IX International Simuliidae Symposium, Cappadocia, Turkey**

**September 23-27, 2024**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that the **10<sup>th</sup> International Simuliidae Symposium** will be held in the richly historic area of Cappadocia, Turkey, in 2024 with tentative dates of 23-27 September. The symposium will be organized by Erciyes University and Turkish Society for Parasitology. Erciyes University is located in Kayseri, a large modern city of about 1.5 million people, with a convenient airport.

Further information and a call for abstracts will be announced through this mailing list near the beginning of 2024. In the meantime, for any questions, please contact the Chair of the Symposium Organizing Committee, Prof. Dr. Alparslan Yildirim: [yildirima@erciyes.edu.tr](mailto:yildirima@erciyes.edu.tr)

We look forward to welcoming the international community of simuliid workers and other interested researchers and public health workers to Turkey in 2024.

Prof. Dr. Alparslan Yildirim  
Department of Parasitology  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
Erciyes University  
Kayseri, TURKEY

## MEETING REPORT

### The IX International Simuliidae Symposium

David López-Peña

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After a two-anguished, anxious, nail-biting and endless year wait, triggered by the indefinite postponement of our loved International Simuliidae Symposium in 2020 and 2021 as a consequence of the irruption of the COVID-19 global pandemic, a disease caused by the so-called coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome CoronaVirus 2), eventually the expected holding date was conveyed by the representative host country, the esteemed Boutaïna Belqat from the University Abdelmalek Essaâdi, located at the Faculty of Sciences of Tétouan, Morocco.

The long-awaited 9<sup>th</sup> symposium was held on 19-22 September 2022 in Chefchaouen (Morocco) under the careful and attentive supervision of the already mentioned chair of the organizing committee.

Worldwide Simuliidae researchers and specialists arranged to meet in Chefchaouen, a Rift mountainous town located at 600 m above sea level in the northwest of Morocco and surrounded by the Natural Park of Bouchachem in the left flank and the National Park of Talassentane in the right one, to share new insights of this family of dipterans carried out in their respective laboratories and universities since the last symposium held in Birmingham four years ago (The United Kingdom, 2018)

It has allowed to meet new colleagues and blackfly stakeholders, forge new links and keep the already existing ones. Oral communications, to present preliminary results of the investigations being in development, took place at the warm and cosy Hotel Parador's assembly hall, while the chosen venue for the poster session was the wide corridor next to the mentioned events room and the Hotel Parador's lobby. Amazing and interesting topics



From left to right: 1 - Soumia Fahd, 2 - Ouafaa Driaouach, 3 - Carolina Eseberri 4 - Doreen Werner, 5 - Varvara Topolenko, 6 - Mohammed Amin El Mouaden 7 - Rasa Bernotienė, 8 - Imane Saidoun, 9 - David López-Peña, 10 - Miguel Ángel Peláez Guerra, 11 - Ignacio Ruiz-Arondo, 12 - Simone Ciadamidaro, 13 - Ignacio de Blas Giral, 14 - Peter Adler, 15 - Alparslan Yildirim, 16 - Boutaina Belqat, 17 - Matúš Kúdela, 18 - Nard Bennis, 19 - Ivona Lužáková, 20 - Helge Kampen, 21 - Sarah Delacour-Estrella, 22 - Samuel Krčmárik, 23 - Abderrahmane Qalmoun, 24 - Sadullah Usluğ, 25 - Khadija Bouzrafi



were treated during the meeting covering areas such as taxonomy, phylogeny, species diversity and geographical distribution, survival strategies adapted to local conditions, genetics, cytogenetics, molecular characteristics, medical and veterinary implications, role as vectors of parasites, and relationship between water quality and blackfly species abundance.



From left to right and from top to bottom some of the speakers: Peter H. Adler, Matúš Kúdela, David López Peña, Rasa Bernotienė, Alparslan Yildirim.

The historic centre (medina) of Chefchaouen full of buildings painted in lively white and blue colours on both sides of sloping, cobbled narrow streets with innumerable steps welcomed attendees for several days, intoxicating their sense of sight with emblematic and magical sunsets from the top of the hill where the Spanish Mosque is erected, dazzling their pupils with the views of its small streets filled with tiny and familiar establishments that sell souvenirs and local products, and delighting their sense of taste by making them taste the innumerable foods and delicacies representative of its wide gastronomy that were offered in the coffee breaks of the symposium, the lunches at the restaurant Casa



Hassan and in the gala dinner held at a private family house.



Some of the symposium organizers and attendees

An amazing field trip, scheduled by 22 September, was given as a surprise to all the attendees as an unbeatable opportunity to visit the Talassemtane National Park. This organized excursion was a gift for the senses of those present since the journey provided the chance to admire the great diversity of ecosystems ranged from

field crops such as cereals and olive groves (*Olea europaea*), natural formations of cork oak trees (*Quercus suber*), Moroccan firs (*Abies pinsapo* subsp. *marocana*), Atlas cedars (*Cedrus atlantica*), Aleppo pines (*Pinus halepensis*), maritime or cluster pines (*Pinus pinaster*), European black pines (*Pinus nigra*), a rich variety of bush species starting with prickly junipers (*Juniperus oxycedrus*), mastic trees (*Pistacia lentiscus*) and ending with a very long etcetera, as well as the well-known Mediterranean fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) and uncountable species of ferns, mosses, and lichenes. Among the fauna, it should be pointed out the sighting of the so-called Barbary Macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*), Bastard snake (*Malpolon monspessulanus*), lizard (*Podarcis* sp.), scorpion (*Buthus* sp.) or the praying mantis (*Mantis religiosa*) among many others. Moreover, from Chefchaouen, both sheer sides of the river Ras el Ma showed to the visitors the never-ending irrigated terrace crops of hemp (*Cannabis sativa* subsp. *indica*), the plant from which hashish is extracted, and the economy of hundreds of families from the Rif Valley seems to depend on its cultivation, harvest and transformation.

During a stop to admire the breathtaking views of the heart of the forested mountains and its skyline, Imane Saidoun (Boutaïna's PhD student) recorded short videos of every volunteer participant with the condition to give the improvised speech in their mother tongue in order to show the wide nationalities diversity of the courageous participating speakers, who went from Italy, Germany, Lithuania, Morocco, Russia, Spain, Turkey to United States of America.

Finally, during the Simuliid Group Meeting it was decided that the next Symposium will take place on September 2024 in Turkey, particularly at the Erciyes University placed the city of Kayseri, which host will be Professor Alparslan Yildirim and his team.

## Notes for Contributors

To avoid copy-typing, the editor (address above) would prefer to receive contributions on disc or by e-mail, or typewritten. Details as follows:-

1. Via conventional mail on CDROM or IBM PC formatted 1.4Mb 3.5 inch diskettes, as unmodified word processor files (most common DOS or Windows word processor formats are acceptable) or as RTF, PDF, ASCII or DOS text files (We usually have to change pagination and heading format, anyway). Mark the disc with the format, word processor name and file name(s). Complicated tables and figures can be accepted as separate graphics files (not OLE embedded, please!) but we may ask for a hard copy as a check that all detail has been retained. Remember that figures should have legends and small detail drawn large enough to be visible when reduced to 100mm by 70mm. Diskettes will be returned on request.
2. By electronic mail via the Internet. Send your file in MSWord .DOC or .DOCX or in .RTF format or as an ASCII file (also known as DOS or txt File). (if no alternative, PDF can be accepted, but can present formatting problems), and e-mail it either as part of the message or preferably as an attachment to: [simuliidbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:simuliidbulletin@gmail.com)

If none of the above methods are available, then post to me printed copy on A4 paper (210x297 mm), single spaced, ready for scanning. Heading styles as in the Bulletin. Format for References is flexible. Please refer to the Bulletin for the form appropriate to your article. Scientific Communications should quote the full title with year and journal name and page numbers, but Notes and Abstracts may optionally omit titles and show only the year and abbreviated journal name and page numbers.

The Editors expect that contributors will act responsibly and check all references for accuracy. Contributors bear full responsibility for all data and conclusions drawn from them and are careful that any data obtained from other workers has been used with permission and suitably acknowledged.

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Content covers scientific papers, short research notes, notices and accounts of meetings, and articles of anecdotal or general interest that would not normally be found in international journals. Geographical cover is world-wide. Reports of research carried out by graduates, young scientists and newcomers to the subject are particularly encouraged. It is an ideal medium for offering new ideas and stimulating discussion because of the very short interval between acceptance and publication. Contributions may be accepted up to two weeks before the publication dates at the end of January or July.

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