

## The XXVII<sup>th</sup> Nordic-Baltic Congress of Entomology

As a part of the Linnaeus 300 year celebration Uppsala hosted the XXVII Nordic-Baltic Congress of Entomology during a busy week, July 29 to August 4 in 2007. Organising committee was the Entomological Society of Uppland. The congress was held at the Evolutionary Biology Centre, in the vicinity of both the Botanical Garden and the old Zoology Department, close to the city centre. The Linnaeus celebration was the natural cause of the congress and this was why the Nordic-Baltic Congress of Entomology, which usually is held every third year, was held four years after the Latvia Congress in Skalupes in 2003.

Integrated with the Nordic-Baltic Congress of Entomology was the annual meeting of the Swedish Entomological Society, and the two meetings together summed up to 88 delegates comprising eight different nations. Noticeably, there were several delegates that came all the way from Iran to participate in the congress.

The schedule was filled with oral scientific

presentations and each day had a certain theme. On Monday July 30, the President of the Nordic-Baltic Congress of Entomology, Bengt Ehnström opened the congress and welcomed all delegates. This day the theme was Linnaeus, and in one way or the other the presentations reflected the legacy of Linnaeus. For example Göran Sjöberg held an interesting talk about butterflies and their names given by Linnaeus influenced by the Troy wars. In the afternoon a visit to the nearby museum of Evolution, with a closer look on various type material, was arranged.

Tuesday presentations were dealing with modern insect systematics, and key note speaker was Kjell-Arne Johansen from the Natural History Museum in Stockholm. The traditional and informal congress banquet was held in the evening and accompanied to folk music, food and drinks were pleasing the delegates.

On Wednesday the topic of the day was insect ecology, and Nils Ryrholm held an interesting



*The delegates of the XXVII Nordic-Baltic Congress of Entomology in front of the Evolutionary Biology Centre at Uppsala University, where the congress was held.*



Curator Mats Hjertson showed the collections of Carl Petter Thunberg at the Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University.



The former President of the Nordic Baltic Congress of Entomology, Bengt Ehnström, who stepped down at the meeting in talk with the new President, Antti Pekkarinen during the excursion to Älvkarleby.

key note speech about butterflies and climate change. In the afternoon there was a poster exhibition and a pub with good opportunities to discuss various insect related topics. After the sun set it was time for the first excursion, lamp catch at Tunåsen, on the northern rim of Uppsala. More than ten lamps were set up on the Tunåsen sandy areas, and as expected both moths and entomologists gathered around the sheets. Less expected also the fire brigade was attracted after an alarm from a local farmer. A lot of commotion obviously ensued until the firemen realised nothing was burning. Relieved by that, they gathered with the entomologists to have a look at the sheets before returning to the station.

Thursday was a full day excursion to Marma shooting range, a sandy area 80 km north of Uppsala, well known for its exciting insect fauna maintained by the military activity. Also sandy banks at the River Dalälven was visited, one of them the exact spot where Linneaus crossed the river on his first scientific journey, to Lapland. Even if the weather was a little cold it was a nice day and many interesting insects were spotted.





*At the excursion to Marma and Älvkarleby, lunch was eaten on the brink of river Dalälven. Nils Ryrholm talked about how this, still rather nice site, was even much more nice 30 years ago. Furthermore, it was here Linneaus crossed the river on his first journey - the journey to Lapland.*



*The military shooting range at Marma was visited during the excursion as the combination of sandy soil and disturbance by the military has created a habitat rich in insects that are endangered in Sweden. Mikko Heidema and Marko Proulx take a look on a sunexposed woody microhabitat, which might host several interesting species.*

The topic of Friday's lectures was applied entomology, and several interesting presentations were performed during the session. The congress was informally ended and the initiative for organising the next congress was somewhat preliminarily handed over to the Lithuanian delegation. If they are able they will arrange a congress probably in 2010. After lunch there was an excursion in the footsteps of Linnaeus – *Herbatio Jumkilensis*, where Åke Lindelöw guided and showed several interesting features associated with forest entomology. And even if the environments probably had changed a lot since Linnaeus days it was a very nice ending of the congress.

Many of the delegates travelled home on the Friday, but a few stayed and three small excursions were performed on Saturday; Hässelby hage, Hågadalen and Linnaeus Hammarby.

The organising committee, Entomological Society of Uppland, wants to thank all the peo-

ple that helped with organising the congress.

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Special thanks are directed to our excursion guides: Jan-Olov Björklund, Mats Jonsell, Mikael Lindberg, Åke Lindelöw and Nils Ryrholm.

*Stefan Eriksson, Björn Holm, Sten Jonsson, Klas Lejffelt, Anna-Karin Myrin, Thomas Persson Vinnersten*, organising committee



Night life during the congress included an excursion to Tunåsen on the northern rim of Uppsala. Here with Nils Ryrholm, Kjell Antonsson and Jan-Olov Björklund at the light. Missing on the picture is the fire brigade which also was attracted to the lights.