

Presidents Business June 2014

Systematics Research Fund

Meeting planned for 18th June with Mark Carine and Elizabeth Rollinson at Linn Soc. to begin discussions on obtaining commercial sponsorship for SRF

NERC short courses panel

I sat on the funding panel for short NERC courses this year (June meeting)

Presidents Lecture 2014

I had some further discussion with Vince Smith re the debate after the AGM and informed him of our decision to extend time to 1.5 hours with 20 minutes each for presentation.

Archive

Sofia Lawrence turned us down and was convinced that the boxed archive from Gilbert Larwood would contain little of any interest. Plan to ask Barry Ledbetter if he would look through it.

Progress for Biennial Oxford 2015

Main item is budget so we can decide on registration rate. (I and Peter have discussed this and a draft budget is circulated with the papers)

Venues: Oxford Zoology, Plant Sciences and University Museum. Ive had further discussion about this and agreed with the Zoology dept that we will charge all members of staff at daily registration rate. They further agreed that split profits would be to a ceiling probably no more than the total cost of the hire which would have been 3k. I have also been liasing with Christchurch re accommodation and they will be shortly providing new accommodation photographs.

Updated info on Ecology Symposia (7 speakers confirmed).

Symposia 1

The value of long term monitoring plots for plant systematics and ecology in the tropics

Toby Pennington, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Tim Baker, University of Leeds

Ecologists have established a large number of permanent inventory plots across the tropics, focussed on understanding the controls of ecosystem structure and function, or maintenance of alpha diversity. These plots offer a great deal to systematists for completing the biotic inventory of the tropics, both in terms of species discovery and understanding distributions. Such links would also benefit ecologists, as once the organisms in these plots are described and identified consistently among sites, a wide range of other questions, such as the controls of beta diversity, can be addressed. Finally, a suite of new,

interdisciplinary questions may emerge from such collaborations: because of the additional data gathered by ecologists at these plots, such as data on the soils, climate, and traits of plants, they represent fertile ground for studies of evolutionary ecology and biogeography

Confirmed Speakers

Cam Webb (the 'plenary'): Harvard University <http://arboretum.harvard.edu/people/campbell-webb/>

Kyle Dexter, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. <http://phylodiversity.net/kdexter/HOME.html>

Tim Baker, University of Leeds <http://www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/people/t.baker>

Toby Pennington, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. <http://www.rbge.org.uk/science/tropical-diversity/toby-pennington>

Stuart Davies - who co-ordinates the CTFs 50Ha plot network (<http://www.ctfs.si.edu/>)

John Kress – Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution.

Chris Baraloto - <http://www.ecofog.gf/en/perso/Baraloto/>

For the website to go live I suggest we need at least the following details

Dates, 26-28th August 2015

Details of Thematic program: descriptions and speakers

Submitted talks and abstracts: 15 minutes, on any topic related to systematics

Submitted posters: sizes??

Venues: Oxford Zoology, Plant Sciences and University Museum

Accommodation Christchurch College: Photos to come and prices we have

Two drinks socials: photo of museum (need), Christchurch (need), Botanic Garden (have)

Conference Dinner: photo of Christchurch hall (we have)

Conference Registration, price to be determined.