

# The Systematics Association

Systematic biology is directed towards compiling the global inventory of species (taxonomy) and building the phylogenetic tree of life (phylogenetics). Alongside ecology and evolution, it seeks to understand how biodiversity evolved in space (biogeography), time (palaeontology) and form (morphology and development). Systematics provides a vital framework to all disciplines within evolutionary biology, and makes crucial contributions to applied disciplines such as conservation and climate change studies.

Founded in 1937, the Systematics Association represents the systematic biology community with vigour and clarity of purpose. Its mission is to promote all aspects of systematic (comparative) biology – including microbiology and palaeontology, professional and amateur, theory and practice – through conferences, workshops, publications, grants and the media.

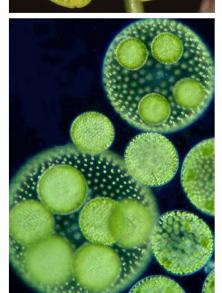
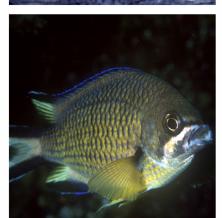
- Organising the SA **Biennial conference**, a dynamic international forum that is coordinated with five other European systematic biology societies, collectively forming the BioSyst EU consortium
- **Sponsoring systematics meetings**, offering generous grants to conference organisers
- Convening the annual SA **Young Systematist's Forum**, a popular meeting that encourages graduate students and post-doctoral researchers worldwide to present their work to an international audience
- Inviting luminaries to present the **annual lecture series**, encompassing the annual biodiversity policy lecture (held jointly with the Linnean Society, in spring), the Sir Julian Huxley summer lecture and the AGM winter lecture
- Publishing **benchmark volumes** covering every aspect of systematic biology and palaeobiology, made available to members at 25% discount
- Producing a highly respected and frequently provocative twice-yearly newsletter, ***The Systematist***, available free to members
- Maintaining the joint Systematics Association–Linnean Society **Systematics Research Fund**, which benefits many systematists every year
- Collaborating with UK Research Councils to develop **larger-scale funding schemes**, most recently the CoSyst and SynTax initiatives
- Offering **bursaries** to subsidise student participation in the Biennial conferences, together with substantially reduced conference registration fees for members
- Providing a credible and well-informed independent voice on **policy issues** in systematic biology, both nationally and internationally

The Systematics Association encourages active participation of members in its programme of activities, welcoming suggestions for future meetings/symposia and nominations for council membership.

Member subscriptions directly contribute to the funding of our activities.

Subscription rates are £20 for full members, £10 for students. Equivalent rates are available in Euros and US dollars (please check our website for current rates).

Payment by standing order is encouraged, preferably in combination with a gift-aid declaration for UK taxpayers. An online payment option is now available for those who prefer to pay annually by credit card, especially non-UK residents.



**[www.systass.org](http://www.systass.org)**

**Images:** cover compilation: Diccon Alexander • diphylloidean tapeworm (*Echinobothrium elegans*): Peter Olson  
• orchid flower (*Ophrys tenthredinifera*): Richard Bateman • colonial green alga (*Volvox aureus*): David John  
• damsel fish (*Chromis limbaughi*), club-tipped sea anemone (*Telmatostylis cricoides*), cnidarian (*Paramiricea clavata*): Lukas Rüber  
• Cramer's eighty-eight butterfly (*Diaethria clymene*), red-shouldered macaw (*Diopsittaca nobilis*): Peter Gasson