

4th European Hemiptera Congress

Ivrea (Turin, Italy)
10th - 14th September 2007

Welcome address

Many of you remember that exactly 20 years ago, you took part in the 6th Auchenorrhyncha Meeting in the Turin hills, organized by us and by the late Prof. Carlo Vidano, our master.

Now we are here again, older, but with the same enthusiasm.

Many new people are here, younger, from over 20 countries, and of many more disciplines.

The talks are nearly 50 and the posters nearly 30, altogether 80 scientific contributions in the field of Hemiptera, the order we use to call Rhynchotha.

The talks have been subdivided into 9 sessions, but many more could have been coined, thanks to the diversity of topics, but, for the sake of a logic excursus, we divided the Congress into the following sessions: History, Palaeontology, Taxonomy and Systematics, Faunistics and Zoogeography, Morphophysiology and Bioethology, Bioacoustics, Agricultural pests, Natural enemies, Microbial symbionts and new potential control strategies.

We deal with general and applied entomology of one of the most important insect orders, not only from the taxonomic complexity viewpoint, but above all from the ecological biodiversity, and disease-vectoring viewpoints. However these different viewpoints are strictly correlated and one cannot stay without the others.

The previous editions of the Hemiptera Congresses took place in Greece, Slovenia, and Russia:

The 1st European Hemiptera Congress was held in 1998 in Amaliapolis, where we were hosted by Sakis Drosopoulos.

The 2nd European Hemiptera Congress was held in 2001 in Fiesa, organized by the Slovenian Museum of Natural History of Ljubljana and the Slovenian Entomological Society.

The 3rd European Hemiptera Congress was held in 2004 in St Petersburg, in the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Now we are in Ivrea, hosted by the Industrial Society of the Canavese District. The organizing institution is the University of Turin, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Exploitation and Protection of Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Sector of Entomology.

All this was possible thanks to the local governments Regione Piemonte and Regione Valle d'Aosta, the governments of the provinces of Turin and Biella, and the City of Ivrea.

Further sponsors were Syngenta Crop Protection S.p.A., Bioindustry Park Canavese (aimed at the development of the biotechnology sector), and Cervim (the Centre of Research, Studies and Exploitation of Mountain Viticulture).

This 4th European Hemiptera Congress is held under the patronage of the University of Turin, the Faculty of Agriculture, the Italian Academy of Entomology, the Academy of Agriculture of Turin, and the Italian Entomological Society.

We thank all those who have helped us to lower and optimize the costs of this Congress, permitting many young researchers of Eastern countries to participate, and we thank all those who have taken part in this Congress, some of you coming from very far, and wish you a proficuous scientific activity and a pleasant sojourn in Ivrea.

For the Scientific and Organizing Committees
Alberto ALMA