

## Editorial

### We need chironomid symposia!

Time flies and another year has passed. This time, however, not without a Chironomidae Symposium! Many of us were looking forward to finally meet in Tsukuba last summer, maybe saving up a little to see some sights while visiting Japan. Unfortunately, a physical meeting became impossible due to travel restrictions, and the organizers faced a difficult choice: another delay or a digital conference?

I am glad the choice was to hold the symposium despite the many drawbacks of not meeting physically. It was good to see colleagues again (even if only on a screen) and to hear about exciting new research on Chironomidae. We need a venue to present and discuss our science, and if we can't meet in person, then online certainly is a decent alternative!

The symposium program was as diverse as it always is at our meetings, ranging from descriptions of new taxa, fossils and molecular systematics to ecology, physiology, genomics and the use of artificial intelligence to identify chironomid larva. The Honorary Thienemann Lecture was held by Valeria Lencioni on the topic of chironomids' responses to climate change, where she presented evidence of cold-, heat- and chemical tolerance in cold-adapted species. This was an interesting presentation, summarizing results and achievements in the field, with focus on work done by Lencioni and co-workers in the Italian Alps.

The symposium took the time to remember the chironomid workers that had passed since the last meeting. Two of them were very active participants in the symposia for decades, and Len Ferrington and Paddy Ashe were thoroughly missed and honored in several presentations. Read more about their achievements in this and last years' issue of CHIRONOMUS (Bouchard et al. 2021; Murray 2022).

The organizers did a fantastic job for the conference to run smoothly and there were few technical hiccups. With a program adjusted to the many different time zones of the participants, it was also possible for us on the other side of the planet to follow most of the meeting without overturning our days. Congratulations to Richard Cornette, Sachiko Shimura, Takahiro Kikawada, Kimio Hirabayashi, Natsuko Kondo and Kenzi Takamura from the Organizing Committee for a well-delivered symposium and wonderful job in keeping the community together. We look forward to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Chironomidae Symposium at the University of Niš, Serbia already in 2024, this time hopefully in person.

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**PS!** All presenters are invited to submit manuscripts to the Symposium Proceedings that will be published in this very journal with guest editors from the conference organizing committee. Contributions to the Special Issue can be submitted at any time [through our website](#) before the deadline on February 15, 2023.

## References

- Bouchard, R., Kranzfelder, P., and Anderson, A. 2021. Leonard C. Ferrington, Jr. (1948-2021): Chironomid cognoscente and modern-day Renaissance man. CHIRONOMUS Journal of Chironomidae Research 34: 51-66. <https://doi.org/10.5324/cjcr.v0i34.4598>
- Murray, D.A. 2022. Patrick (Paddy) Ashe 18.03.1954 – 19.06.2022. - CHIRONOMUS Journal of Chironomidae Research 35: 60-62. <https://doi.org/10.5324/cjcr.v0i35.5034>