IAVS Meetings Committee
Report for the IAVS Council meeting, June 2022

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Present and forthcoming IAVS Symposia:

2022
Madrid (Spain)

64th Annual Symposium of the IAVS, presented by Daniel Sánchez-Mata, Dept. of Plant Biology, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain.

Venue: Facultad de Farmacia, Complutense University, Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid, Spain.

The Symposium will be held in Madrid, the current capital city of Spain. The historical origin of Madrid goes back to the IX century when the emir Muhammad I (852-886) ordered a fortress to be built on the river bank of the Manzanares river. This settlement was known as Mayrit (corrupted to Magerit by the Castilians) and was built over earlier ruins of the Visigoth period (VII century). The fortress was erected in the place currently occupied by the Royal Palace to control the mountain passes of the neighboring Guadarrama range. In the IX century, Madrid was incorporated into the Kingdom of Castile by king Alphonse VI (1083) and in 1561 is established as the permanent capital of the Spanish Monarchy by Philip II.

Madrid and its metropolitan area has a population of over 6 million inhabitants and has a very efficient public transportation network and many international flight connections. The cultural offerings are very rich, with an important number of outstanding museums, such as Museo del Prado, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Reina Sofia, Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza or the Museo Arqueológico Nacional. A couple of emblematic historic cities are near to the capital city, such as Toledo, Segovia, Ávila, La Granja de San Ildefonso, Aranjuez or El Escorial, making possible for one-day visits to those places to
be taken. The city has a large accommodation capacity that allows a large population of visitors to be hosted.

The symposium will take place in the Campus Moncloa (International Excellence Campus) of the Complutense University of Madrid, which provides all the facilities needed for such an event. The connection between the campus with the city is very easy and is provided by bus and by subway (only one station). The halls existing in the Faculty of Pharmacy will be available for the Symposium and there will be bar, coffee shop and restaurant facilities too.

The symposium will include an abstracts book, program, and excursions guides specially detailed for the pre- and post-symposium excursions. A conference website will be ready with basic information at least one year before the symposium.

**Dates:** The Symposium will take place between the 27th of June and the 2nd July 2022

**Excursions:**

**-Pre-symposium excursion: June 19-26, 2021.** Objective: central and southern Iberian high landscape diversity including inland marsh and saltmarsh vegetation, Sierra Morena mountain range and the Subbetic-Betic mountain ranges (with several remarkable landscapes such as limestone/dolomite and serpentinitized peridotite forests of the endemic *Abies pinsapo*, the Sierra Nevada National Park (with the Iberian highest point at Mulhacén Peak (3478 m asl), Sierra de Cazorla Natural Park, among others, all of them genuine biodiversity hotspots. Various easy hiking stretches are planned during the excursion.

*Preliminary itinerary:* Madrid-Alcázar de San Juan-Daimiel (Tablas de Daimiel National Park)-Córdoba (Sierra Morena Nature Reserve)-Seville-Grazalema (Sierra de Grazalema Nature Reserve)-Ronda (Sierra de las Nieves Nature Reserve)-Marbella/Estepona (Sierra Bermeja Nature Reserve-Granada (Sierra Nevada National Park)-Cazorla (Sierra de Cazorla Nature Reserve)-Madrid.

**-Post-symposium excursion: July 3rd to 10th.** Objective: landscape diversity throughout the Iberian Central System (Spain/Portugal), including various easy hiking stretches and one full-day hike. Objective: landscape diversity throughout the Iberian Central System (Spain/Portugal).

*Preliminary itinerary:* Madrid-Navacerrada-Cotos Pass (Sierra de Guadarrama National Park)-Segovia-Ávila-Hoyos del Espino (Sierra de Gredos Mountains Regional Park)-Béjar-Candelario-Peña de Francia-Serra da Estrêla (Portugal).

**-Mid-symposium excursions:** There will be several one-day mid-symposium excursions (Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, Montejo de la Sierra beech forests, Somosierra birch forests, El Lobo Peak area, El Escorial area, Central Spain inland salt-marsh habitats, limestone landscapes south of Madrid and Toledo Mountain ranges).
Scientific program

The symposium will focus on the urgent need to preserve the diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats. The development and implementation of the Natura 2000 network is Europe’s foremost strategy for biodiversity conservation, and includes both the continent and its biological content. The scientific comparison between the strategies and protocols applied in other countries will undoubtedly serve to promote major advances in the conservation of the territory.

Both, the conservational and methodological strategies, the landscape human uses, the habitat restoration, among others, will be different great topics. Specific themes include:

• Diversity and functioning of natural and semi-natural habitats
• Conservation of relictual vegetation as threatened habitats
• Pre-human landscapes
• The human impact as vegetation dynamics driver
• Habitat restoration
• How about the future? Habitat conservation in a climate change scenario

The symposium will include a book of abstracts, a program, and specially prepared detailed excursion guides for the pre-, mid- and post symposium excursions. A special webpage will be prepared with basic information at least one year before the symposium; proposal and announcements were made at Bozeman (2018) and Bremen (2019).

ENVIROVEG (Vegetation and Environment), an approved Research Group from Complutense University led by Daniel Sánchez-Mata and Rosario Gavilán, will guarantee a high level of the symposium both academic and scientific. Also the Spanish Geobotanical Society, led at this moment by Daniel Sánchez-Mata, and the Spanish Botanical Society will officially support the meeting.
2023

Coffs Harbour (New South Wales, Australia)

65th Annual Symposium of the IAVS, presented by John Hunter


Theme: It is proposed the symposium will have the theme Vegetation Science and Management: Sustaining Ecosystems into the 22nd Century.

Local Organizing Committee (LOC): We are currently hoping to include further local assistance but at present our LOC includes:

- Adj. Professor John T. Hunter
- Emeritus Professor Nick Reid
- Dr Eda Addicott
- Dr Rhiannon Smith
- Dr Sarah Luxton
- Dr Donna Lewis

Further additions to the LOC will be added over the next few months.

Travel and Location: Getting to Coffs Harbour is easy as it has several flights per day from Sydney and Brisbane (just over 1 hr) and daily bush and train services. Coffs Harbour is a regional city (population ca. 26,000) located within the North Coast of New South Wales - a sub-tropical coastal region. The city is within easy access of a larger range environments within a few hours’ drive including rainforest (including cool temperate montane *Nothofagus* to sub-tropical), montane environments, wetlands and coastal vegetation to name a few. It is surrounded by National Parks and extensive forests. The North Coast of NSW is a global biodiversity hotspot and includes the McPherson-MacClay phytogeographical overlap where the northern tropical Asian influence flora meets the original southern Gondwanan flora. This region of NSW is known to contains approximately 3,500 vascular taxa of which many are still being named. The city has its own botanic gardens ([https://coffsbotanicgarden.com.au/](https://coffsbotanicgarden.com.au/) ) and extensive walking trails throughout the city taking in many of the natural environments. The city has a wide range of accommodation facilities as it is a tourist city and has backpacker hostels, numerous hotels and motels and AirB&B. The timing of the conference is during the non-tourist season so accommodation should be easy to obtain and at a reasonable price.

Getting to Coffs Harbour is easy as it has several flights per day from Sydney and Brisbane (just over 1 hr) and daily bus and train services.
Suggestions for pre- and post-symposium excursions and mid-symposium excursions.

Final details of these are yet to be determined. However, we do propose excursions that likely will require between 7-10 days. The University of New England and Southern Cross Universities have and large range of expertise available to lead each excursion and Coffs Harbour of NSW has many resident botanical experts.

A. Starting from Brisbane a pre-symposium excursion travelling along coastal and hinterland regions encompassing wetlands, mangroves, salt-marshes, coastal dunes, tall forests and Gondwanan rainforests.

Locations may include:
B. A post-symposium excursion starting from Coffs Harbour and ending in Adelaide the capital city of South Australia. This will involve a transect heading west over the Great Dividing Range initially taking in coastal forests and rainforests crossing over montane environments (cool temperate rainforest, upland marshes, heaths, temperate and sub-alpine woodlands) and through to semi-arid landscapes (woodlands to dry arid shrublands and ephemeral wetlands). This trip will take in the major vegetation types that dominate much of eastern and will pass through aseasonal, summer dominant to winter dominant climate zones with average rainfalls from as much as 2,000 mm to as low as 300 mm. Major sites visited include:


C. **Mid-symposium excursions.** Coffs Harbour is within less than 2 hrs drive of mountain environments up to 1600 m altitude and thus includes an enormous range of vegetation types. Day trips will include: Dorrigo subtropical Gondwanan Rainforest; Montane Snow Gum/Antarctic Beach Cool Temperate Rainforest and montane wetlands; Coastal dunes, heathlands and wetlands; Hinterland forests and heathy woodlands. Examples may include:


