Minutes: Wildlife Toxicology Interest Group Annual European Business Meeting

SETAC Europe annual meeting Helsinki, Finland

May 29, 2019

Chair: John Elliott
Notes provided by Miguel Mora with initial input from Kim Fernie
Present: 29 attendees, sign-up sheet attached

Meeting started with general outline of topics to be covered:

1. Introduction to the meeting (Agenda)
   a. WTIG working statement
      i. Improve/communicate scientific outcome of wildlife toxicology research
      ii. Promote non-destructive and non-lethal methods and maybe animal alternatives?
      iii. Organize sessions at SETAC meetings
      iv. Organize workshops and other forums on topical issues
   b. Need succession plan for steering committee
      i. Looking for 3 people to be replaced
      ii. Currently 194 members worldwide, mostly North America and Europe, but many from Latin America, Africa and Asia, some Australia and New Zealand

   - Announced one former member, a friend and colleague and longtime wildlife ecotoxicologist, Tom Custer, passed away in 2018.

2. Scope of WTIG reviewed
   a. All aspects of wildlife toxicology
   b. All vertebrates, but not fish.
   c. Main focus, research in wildlife toxicology

3. Update of how to become involved, via SETAC website, a WTIG member.

4. Recent activities
   a. SETAC Sacramento: 2 WTIG sessions,
      i. Katrina, Leigh, Barnett Rattner and John Elliott
      ii. Jonathan Verreault and Kim Fernie

5. Upcoming events
   a. SETAC LA Cartagena
      i. 2 sessions, 1 short course, 1 plenary
- Wildlife Toxicology in Latin America
- Pesticides and metals use and misuse in Latin America

**Training course:** Wildlife Ecotoxicology with a focus on Latin America

  ii. Miguel Mora, Rafa Mateo, Christine Bishop and John Elliott co-chairing and teaching the course.

b. SETAC NA Toronto

  i. 4 session proposals, general wildlife ecotoxicology and other topics

1. Wildlife Ecotoxicology: Assessing Effects of Chemical Stressors at Multiple Scales  
   (Stacey Robinson, Shane de Solla, Mason King)
2. Integrative Avian Ecotoxicology in a Changing World  
   (Margaret Eng, Thomas Bean, Jonathan Verreault, Christy Morrissey, Kim Fernie)
3. Relationships between the bioaccumulation of organic chemicals in aquatic and air-breathing organisms (with BSIG)  
   (Kate Fremlin, James Armitage, Nico van den Brink)
4. Invasive and Vertebrate Pest Species Control: Hazard and Risk to Non-target Species and Innovations on the Horizon  
   (Katherine Horak, Carolyn Meyer and Barnett Rattne)

c. Looking forward

  i. SETAC Europe Dublin 2020, May 3-7.

6. Database – no update provided

7. UN convention on migratory species: following the special symposium at SETAC Rome, ongoing involvement on lead working group by Rafa Mateo.

8. European Raptor biomonitoring Program – no update

9. **WTIG workshop planning progress:** Steering committee coming together, focus is on improving wildlife risk assessment

   a. Four working groups: exposure, toxicity, risk assessment, risk characterization
   b. Plan is for a by invitation workshop in spring of 2020 at a location on US East coast using a Pellston type format, but not so formal.
   c. Conference call for SC scheduled for June 5

10. Issues raised by members
a. Need a process for regular interactions, WhatsApp? Other media?

b. Gregg Schiefer; SETAC website is somewhat archaic

c. Any objection of group creating a WhatsApp group? Invitation only communication? Student representation? Get involved. John to refer to the SC student rep, Mason King for input.

11. Brief presentation by Rosie Lennon, NERC, University of Lincoln
a. Exposure of farmland birds to neonics
b. Results of experimental studies
c. Birds exposed, seeds consumed, measured residues in plasma
d. Variability among species
e.

12. Other business?
a. Nico raised the issue of individual quality on dose-response. Anybody working on it?
   i. Quality, vague meaning
   ii. Field variation related to quality?
   iii. Genetic and individual variability? Any experience on it?
b. Experiments in Patagonia
   i. 4 different haplotypes, variability?
   ii. These examples might be helpful, info not published yet,
   iii. Genomics connection?
c. Behavioral studies
   i. Handle intra-individual variability?
   ii. Big challenge in wildlife variability thresholds. Something to compare
   iii. Variability, also an issue in lab studies.

Adjourned at 18:42 hrs.
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