



SECOND CIRCULAR

A meeting of the European Mycological Association (EMA)
and the International Society for Fungal Conservation (ISFC)



FUNGAL CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING EUROPE

The Challenges Ahead

Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia [FYROM]
Sunday 1 to Friday 6 October 2017

This is the second circular announcing a special meeting organized by the EMA (including the ECCF) jointly with the ISFC, and hosted by Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje. The meeting is open to anyone interested in fungal conservation in Europe and beyond. This announcement provides information about the meeting, its preliminary programme, the venue, accommodation, costs, and transport. A registration form is attached, with information about paying the registration fee.

Why a meeting is needed

Fungal conservation is on the move:

- governments are starting to include fungi in their conservation policies;
- the IUCN has prioritized fungi for red-listing at a global level;
- a ground-breaking initiative is making that priority happen;
- new national red-lists for fungi have been published, for example in Austria and Germany;
- a UK-based project is searching for species which are apparently rare and have not recorded for years, to determine if they are truly extinct or merely overlooked;
- molecular techniques are being introduced as tools for fungal conservation;
- biological records databases for fungi are entering their second generation and are now reaching a size which can start to provide meaningful information.

But there are also new challenges. In some countries, political changes have introduced administrations deeply hostile to conservation of any kind. The European Union, which provided a stable environment for conservation is itself now threatened: the UK is already leaving; other countries may follow. Europe is receiving huge numbers of refugees. There are new wars and disputes, such as those in Ukraine. What do such changes mean for fungal conservation? This meeting will review these developments, to make mycologists aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and of the opportunities and threats which fungi face.

Host: Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje.

Background. Fungi are critically important components of all the world's main ecosystems. Without them, life on this planet would be unsustainable. But they are endangered. They face the same threats as animals and plants. Fungi have no special features which make them immune from climate change, exploitation, habitat destruction, persecution and pollution. It is almost incredible that, until the last couple of decades, they were almost totally overlooked by the conservation movement, and their conservation is still almost totally overlooked by governments.

The *European Council for Conservation of Fungi* [ECCF], established in 1988 and now the conservation wing of the EMA, was first to recognize this problem. It has been followed by similar bodies in Africa, Asia, Australasia, North and South America, and the Arab world. In 2010 the *International Society for Fungal Conservation* [ISFC] was formed, and in 2013, the *International Union for Conservation of Nature* [IUCN] (the world's foremost conservation NGO) formally recognized that protection of fungi was just as important as protection of animals and plants.



Local Organizer: Prof. Mitko Karadelev, Institute of Biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Arhimedova 5, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia [e-mail: mitkok@pmf.ukim.mk].

Organizing Committee: Assistant Prof. Katerina Rusevska; Prof. Gerhard Kost; Ms Kristina Zimbakova; Ms Daniela Mitic-Kopanja.

Scientific Support: IUCN Species Survival Commission (Chytrid, Zygomycete, Downy Mildew and Slime Mould Specialist Group; Cup-fungi, Truffles and Allies Specialist Group; Lichen Specialist Group; Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group; Rust and Smut Specialist Group).



British Mycological Society
promoting fungal science



IUCN SSC
Lichen
Specialist
Group



The Venue: Ohrid

Ohrid is a small city (population about 42,000) located on the shore of Lake Ohrid in the extreme southwest of **FYROM**. Being rich in picturesque houses and monuments, the city is a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site, while the adjacent lake is a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. These accolades make the location doubly attractive as a place for meetings.

Preliminary Programme

A vibrant and exciting programme is being prepared with presentation on leading fungal conservation projects in Europe and beyond. These will address scientific, educational, infrastructural and political challenges faced by fungal conservation, particularly in 21st century Europe. Presentations will include:

- **Fungal Conservation in the Genomic Age**, a review of how molecular techniques can inform and be applied to practical fungal conservation;
- **Lost and Found Fungi**, a remarkable UK-based project looking at fungi not observed for more than 50 years and asking whether they are merely overlooked or truly extinct;
- **Infrastructure for Fungal Conservation in Europe**, the past and future rôle of the **ECCF**;
- **Political Challenges to Fungal Conservation in Europe**, the implications of war, refugees, brexit and other destabilizing events;
- **Fungal Conservation in the Netherlands, Challenges and Opportunities**, an update from one of the countries which has traditionally led thought and action in fungal conservation;
- **The Arab Society for Fungal Conservation**, establishing conservation infrastructure in a very different world on Europe's doorstep.

There will also be the following parallel workshops on red-listing for different fungal groups:

- **The Global Fungal Red List Initiative** [Anders Dahlberg, Initiative Co-leader];
- **Red-listing Cup Fungi** [David Minter, Chair of the IUCN Cup Fungi Specialist Group];
- **Red-listing Rust and Smut Fungi** [Cvetomir Denchev, Teodor Denchev, Co-chair of the IUCN Rust and Smut Fungi Specialist Group].

Offered papers and posters on fungal conservation are wanted. Those focusing on Europe or providing a review of fungal conservation within individual European countries will be particularly welcome, though contributions dealing with global issues, or with countries next to or near Europe will also be accepted. They should deal with threats to fungi (habitat loss, climate change, pollution, exploitation, invasive species), political aspects of fungal conservation (activism, "brexit", CBD obligations, infrastructure, refugees, war etc.), and ecology of threatened fungi. Prizes will be awarded for the best student posters.

In addition to lectures, posters, presentations, workshops, social events and an exhibition on fungi in contemporary art, there will be a one-day field excursion to Pelister National Park, visiting *Pinus peuce* forest (led by Prof. Gerhard Kost). The National Park is approximately 50 km from Ohrid. On return, participants will be able to examine collections with microscopes and mount a small exhibition of collected species. On one evening during the week, there will also be a formal meeting of the **ECCF**.

Accommodation

Accommodation and all indoor sessions will be in **Hotel Tino Sveti Stefan** [www.hoteltino-svstefan.com], less than 3 years old, and located on the shores of Lake Ohrid, 4 km from Ohrid town centre. The hotel has 43 double rooms and 9 apartments. It offers free WiFi, free parking, and has a swimming pool, sauna and other facilities (see hotel website). There is a well-equipped seminar hall suitable for displaying posters, and a meeting room with video screen. The cost for participants is €45 per night (single room full board). Please organize accommodation directly with the hotel. Tell them you are participating in the meeting.

Alternative simpler accommodation is also available nearby at a price of about €30 per person per night excluding lunch. If you would like such accommodation, please contact Prof. Karadelev [mitkok@pmf.ukim.mk] for further advice.

Travel

For those travelling by air, Skopje Airport, served by various carriers from many major European cities, is likely to be the most practical. Ohrid is about two hours by road from the airport. The organizers hope it will be possible to facilitate transport to and from the hotel (preliminary agreement has been reached with a suitable company, but the price is not yet fixed). Further advice about travel between Skopje Airport and the hotel will therefore only be supplied to those registering for the meeting.

Accompanying Persons

Accompanying persons are welcome at all social events of the meeting, and on the field trip. They will also be provided with a gentle and optional programme including visits to the town of Ohrid.

Registration

Please note, the cut-off date for paying the early bird registration fee has been extended to 31 July. Registration fees for EMA Members and Associates are lower than for non-members, with a lower tier (for those from countries classified by the World Bank as low- or middle-income economies) and a higher tier for all others. The fee provides participation in all sessions, the meeting programme and other meeting documents, coffee and tea break refreshments, and admission to the welcome reception. **Cancellation:** before 1 September, 70% of the fee will be refunded. After 31 August no refunds will be made.

| Registration Fees | Before 1 August | After 31 July |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| • EMA Ordinary Members and Associates, upper tier | €70 | €90 |
| • EMA Student Members, upper tier | €50 | €70 |
| • EMA Ordinary Members and Associates, lower tier | €50 | €70 |
| • EMA Student Members, lower tier | €30 | €50 |
| • Non-Members | €100 | €140 |
| • Accompanying persons | €50 | €70 |

Registration fees should be paid by bank transfer to the account of the Macedonian Mycological Society, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Arhimedova 5, 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia.

Account number: 0270100162684.

IBAN: MK07300701001626851.

SWIFT: KOBSMK2X.

Bank Address: Komercijalna Banka A.D. Skopje, Kej Dimitar Vlahov 4, PO Box 563, 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia.

Ensure your payment can be identified as coming from you! It is also a good idea to alert Prof. Karadelev when you have sent the payment, so that the Organizing Committee is aware your registration fee is coming.

Abstracts

An abstract volume is planned. Abstracts can be accepted in Rich-Text-Format (rtf), MS-Word (doc, docx), and Open Office (odt) formats, and should be readable on a Microsoft Windows platform. Abstracts should have a title, a list of authors with a postal address and an e-mail address for each, and the presenting author indicated. The text should be in Times New Roman font at 12 pts, and should comfortably fit on a page of A4 size. Abstracts will be reviewed. Acceptance will be at the discretion of the abstract volume editor based on the reviewer's advice. Abstracts will be edited and, if too long, be shortened. All editing will be entirely at the discretion of the abstract volume editor. Authors may submit more than one abstract, but should be aware that only the first will receive priority for the conference.

Preliminary agreement has been reached to publish the meeting proceedings as a special issue of *Fungal Conservation*, the on-line publication of the **ISFC**. Participants are therefore also invited to submit full papers to be considered for that issue. Because publication is purely digital, colour images may be used. Beyond reasonableness, there is no limit to length, but if not concise, papers may be rejected. Papers should have a title, a list of authors with a postal and e-mail address for each, and the contact author indicated. There should be an abstract. Text should be Times New Roman at 12 pts. Ensure each reference is fully cited. Submitted papers must be in Rich-Text-Format (rtf), MS-Word (doc, docx), and Open Office (odt) formats, and readable on a Microsoft Windows platform. Do NOT embed images within the text. Instead submit them as separate image files in one of the following formats: BMP, GIF, JPG, PNG or TIFF. Authors may submit more than one paper, but should be aware that only the first will be prioritized for publication.

Send abstracts and papers as e-mail attachments to Dr D.W. Minter [d.minter@cabi.org]. For an abstract to appear in the conference abstracts volume, it must arrive before 1 September 2017. For a paper to be considered through peer review, it must arrive before 15 September 2017, so that there is time before the meeting to identify any issues which may need attention.

Registration Form

To register for this meeting, please complete the form below, and e-mail it to Prof. Mitko Karadelev [mitkok@pmf.ukim.mk], with “Fungal Conservation” and your name as the subject line.

Family name

Given (first) name(s).....

Title (Dr, Mr, Mrs, Ms, Prof. etc.).....

Name for meeting badge Gender.....

Institution / place of work

.....

.....

Address line 1

Address line 2.....

Town / City

County / oblast / region etc.

Postcode Country

Please supply information identifying your paid registration fee

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Are you an EMA Member?.....

Are you an EMA Associate?.....

Are you a student? (you may be asked for proof)

Type of presentation offered: lecture / poster

Title of offered presentation.....

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Mode of travel to & from venue (e.g. air, ‘bus, car, rail)

If by air and wanting to be met, please supply dates of travel, names of departure & arrival airports, flight numbers and flight times:

Coming to Macedonia.....

Departing from Macedonia

Do you have any food preferences / allergies etc.?