

XIII International Congress of Forum Herbulot 29 June – 2 July 2026, Finland

Dear Herbulotians,

We are pleased to inform the community that registration for the XIII International Congress of Forum Herbulot is now officially open. In the present issue, readers will find comprehensive information on the congress

location, the registration procedure and fees, as well as guidelines and deadlines for abstract submission.

Forum Herbulot congresses are biennial meetings dedicated to advancing research on the superfamily Geometroidea. They bring together specialists from around the world to present recent scientific results, discuss ideas, and foster collaborations in an informal and collegial setting. Traditionally, these meetings also integrate opportunities for field activities and specimen collecting, and the venue alternates between European and overseas locations.

Following the successful congress held in South Africa in January 2025, the next meeting will be hosted in Finland from 29 June to 2 July 2026. The congress will take place at Hotel Lepolampi in southern Finland, a countryside location situated by a small lake and surrounded by conifer-rich mixed forests. The venue is easily reachable via public transport, with convenient connections to Helsinki Airport and the greater capital region.

Finland offers particularly favorable conditions for entomological fieldwork. Collecting is permitted without special authorization outside protected areas, export permits are not required, and access to genetic resources for scientific research is open under the Nagoya Protocol, meaning that molecular studies can be conducted without additional permits.

The scientific program will be complemented by a visit to the Finnish Museum of Natural History in Helsinki and an excursion to Haltia Nature Centre in Nuukio National Park in Espoo.

Further details regarding registration, costs, the venue, and abstract submission can be found in this issue.

Organisation committee, Pasi Sihvonen, Maria Heikkilä, Mikael Englund, Kyung Min Lee, Hossein Rajaei and Elena Kochanova, warmly invite you to join us in Finland!

Enquiries and info: pasi.sihvonen@helsinki.fi

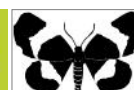


Forum Herbulot congress in Finland will be organized in cooperation with Finnish Museum of Natural History (University of Helsinki), Natural History Museum Stuttgart-Germany, Lepidopterological Society of Finland, and Entomology Store Tibiale in Helsinki. Other organisations and societies may support the congress (discussions are ongoing).



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM
STUTTGART



Lepidopterological
Society of Finland

Abstract submission and Registration

Abstract. Submit your abstract by 20 February to pasi.sihvonon@helsinki.fi and hossein.rajaei@smns-bw.de using the template attached. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed and may be edited for clarity. The organizing committee has the intention to accept all relevant abstracts. If the first version does not meet the required quality, peer-support will be available. The decision (accepted, not accepted) will be communicated via e-mail by 27 March 2026.

The abstracts will be published in a peer-reviewed congress booklet, which will be open access online document with DOI.

Registration and accommodation

All participants are required to register to the conference by sending the attached registration form to: myynti@lepolampi.fi Write "Forum Herbulot meeting 2026" in the subject line. The hotel will share the registration information with the FH2026 Organizing Committee, and it will be used to plan the meeting and other activities in the most effective way. The registration is open now and the last official day to register is 30 April 2026. Registration is possible after this date, but we cannot guarantee your information (e.g. abstract, name in the list of participants etc.) will be included in the congress booklet.

Accommodation prices (including breakfast and VAT) are single person room 94 € /night, twin person room 120 € / night (= 60 € / night per person). Cancellation policy

- 30–60 days before the check-in, 25 % will be charged
- 14–30 days before the check-in, 50 % will be charged
- < 14 days before the check-in, 100 % will be charged

Here are the contact details of the hotel <https://www.lepolampi.fi/yhteystiedot/>



Congress fee and Travel information

Congress fee

Congress package is 85 € / day, and it includes lunch, afternoon coffee / tea, dinner and congress room fee. **NOTE:** Congress fee will be paid upon arrival to the hotel. Do not pay the congress fee yet because a grant application is under review. If it gets approved, then the grant will pay a part of the congress fee for all participants. If you wish to skip for instance the dinner(s), and reduce the congress fee, discuss it with the hotel upon arrival.

Travel information

The venue [hotel Lepolampi](https://www.lepolampi.fi/yhteystiedot/) is 33 km from Helsinki-Vantaa airport and it can be accessed by public transport (train + bus 243 is about 10 €) or by taxi (about 70 €). See <https://www.lepolampi.fi/yhteystiedot/>

If you need an invitation letter for applying VISA, please contact pasi.sihvonen@helsinki.fi detailing requirements, which differ between embassies.

If you need a Certificate of attendance, please talk with the Organising Committee during the congress.

Accompanying persons' program. We do not plan to arrange accompanying persons' program. Hotel Lepolampi is near the capital region, accessible by public transportation. Practical information is available on <https://www.myhelsinki.fi/visit-helsinki/plan-your-trip/guide-to-helsinki/> and at the hotel.



We have chosen *Arichanna melanaria* (Ennominae) as the congress logo species. In Finland, the species occurs in wetlands and its caterpillar feeds on *Rhododendron tomentosum* and *Vaccinium uliginosum*.

The species is active by night but if disturbed, it flies during the day also.

Preliminary program

The program includes a mid-congress excursion to the [Finnish Museum of Natural History](#) in Helsinki, Entomological store [Tibiale](#) in Helsinki, and [Haltia](#) Nature Centre in Nuuksio National Park in Espoo.

Date	Content
28 June, Sunday	Arrival after 3 pm
29 June, Monday	Morning (Breakfast) • Opening session • Keynote talk 1, congress presentations (conservation) Afternoon (Lunch) • Afternoon: congress presentations (ecology) • Evening: dinner, sauna, collecting
30 June, Tuesday	Morning (Breakfast) • Keynote talk 2, congress presentations (systematics + talks from Finnish Lepidopterists' Society and Tibiale) Afternoon (Lunch) • Afternoon: congress presentations (faunistics) • Evening: dinner, sauna, collecting
1 July, Wedn. Mid-congress excursion	Morning (Breakfast) • charter bus transportation • Visit to Haltia Nature Centre in Nuuksio National Park, Espoo >> charter bus transport • Visit to Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki Afternoon (Lunch) • Lunch in Helsinki >> charter bus transport • Visit to the Entomological store Tibiale, Helsinki >> charter bus transport • Keynote talk 3 • Evening: dinner, sauna, collecting
2 July, Thursday	Morning (Breakfast) • Keynote talk 4, congress presentations (database, AI, future of systematics) Afternoon (Lunch) • Afternoon: congress presentations • Evening: farewell dinner, collecting
3 July, Friday	Departure by 11 am



Information on collecting and export permits

Participants can collect specimens at the venue, in the surrounding area, and throughout Finland, because no collecting permits are needed outside protected areas. Additionally, no export permits are needed, and accessing Finnish genetic resources for research purposes under the Nagoya protocol is open, so molecular research does not require a permit either. Finland has several butterflies and moths, which are protected by law. Those cannot be collected, but the congress participants are very unlikely to see any of those. More information [here](#).

Post-congress fieldwork is not provided by the organisers. Those planning to stay in Finland after the congress can collect. Finland implements “[everyman’s rights](#)” and this allows you spend time in nature regardless of who owns the area. In practice this allows everyone the right collect insects even in privately owned land. More information will be provided in the congress. If you wish to get more information, please contact mikael.englund@helsinki.fi

Several post-congress collecting options are available. The most convenient way is to rent a cabin, and you can collect in its vicinity, or make day trips to surrounding places. July is the holiday month and high season for rental cabins in Finland, so rental is recommended well in advance. Popular mothing places include for instance

- Fjell area in northern Lapland including Kilpisjärvi region, Utsjoki region and the nearby fjells. The fauna is Arctic, and the sun stays above the horizon throughout the days in July.
- Kuusamo area in north-eastern Finland. This is spruce and pine dominated taiga at its best, interspersed with wetlands. This is the easternmost place to collect widespread Eurasian species.
- Asikkala in Päijät-Häme region. The area has diverse habitats.
- Saariselkä is a mountain range and wilderness area in “forest Lapland”, partly within the Urho Kekkonen National Park. The holiday resort has good accommodation facilities.
- Savonlinna in eastern Finland in Lake Saimaa region is known for the lush vegetation and rich moth fauna. The town has vivid cultural life in summer including Savonlinna Opera Festival.

Other places of interest, also from the touristic point of view, include Porvoo, Turku, and Tallinn in Estonia.



Saana fjell and the nearby mountain area in Kilpisjärvi in Lapland hosts rich plant and moth diversity.

Heat, Steam, and Silence: The Living Tradition of the Finnish Sauna

The sauna is one of the most central and enduring elements of Finnish culture, woven deeply into daily life, history, and national identity. In Finland, the sauna is not a luxury or a trend, but a fundamental space for physical cleansing, mental restoration, and social equality.

Historically, the sauna was the cleanest and warmest place in the household. It was used not only for bathing, but also for giving birth, treating illnesses, preparing the dead for burial, and smoking meat. These practices reflect the sauna's role as a sacred and practical space, where important transitions of life took place. The Finnish word *sauna* itself has no true equivalent in other languages, underscoring its cultural uniqueness.



At its core, the sauna is about simplicity and presence. A traditional Finnish sauna uses a wood-burning stove (*kiuas*) to heat stones, onto which water is thrown to create steam known as *löyly*. This steam is considered the “soul” of the sauna and determines its character and intensity. Silence is common, and conversation, if it occurs, is usually calm and unforced. The sauna encourages slowing down and leaving social hierarchies at the door.

Socially, the sauna is a place of equality. Nudity is natural and non-sexual, removing visible markers of status and emphasizing shared humanity. Friends, families, and even colleagues may sauna together, and trust is implicit in the experience. The tradition of alternating heat with cold—by stepping outside into snow or plunging into a lake—further reinforces a close relationship with nature.

In modern Finland, saunas exist everywhere: in private homes, apartment buildings, workplaces, parliament, and even fast-food restaurants. Despite technological changes, the core values of the sauna—respect, calmness, and connection—remain unchanged. In 2020, Finnish sauna culture was recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, affirming its significance beyond national borders.

Ultimately, the Finnish sauna is more than a bath. It is a ritual of balance, a place for reflection, and a living tradition that continues to shape how Finns relate to themselves, each other, and the natural world.

Robyn Crowther

New curator of the superfamily Geometroidea at Natural History Museum of London

Hello! My name is Robyn Crowther. Following Geoff Martin's promotion to Principal Curator of Insects at the Natural History Museum, London, which has limited the time he has to work directly with the collections, I have taken on the role of curator of the groups previously under his care, one of which being Geometroidea. Rest assured though, Geoff works closely with me, passing on his unrivalled knowledge of the NHM's Geometrid collections.

I have a BSc in Zoology and an MSc in Endangered Species Recovery, but my true passion is for entomological collection management. I've worked at the NHM since 2017. I was initially part of the digitisation team, where I led several insect digitisation projects, I moved briefly to work on the Museum's colossal Unlocked programme to move 27 million specimens to a new site, and then finally, in 2022, I joined the Lepidoptera section – landing the role of Geometroidea curator at the end of 2024.

I hope to use my collection management and digitisation experience to significantly increase the accessibility of the world class collections I'm responsible for. As part of this, I will be working with the [DiSSCo UK](#) team to prepare the Geometridae collection for digitisation. We aim to have the whole collection digitised by 2030. This will mean an image of every specimen and its labels will be freely available online on the NHM's [Data portal](#). Preparing the collection has been made significantly easier by the Herbulotians, as I'm using the brilliant world catalogue to clean and update our existing database of names, so thank you!

Alongside this huge project I'm, of course, still performing my day-to-day curatorial duties, a big part of which involves assisting you with your enquiries, so please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, image requests, loan requests etc. My email address is r.crowther@nhm.ac.uk

I'm still getting to grips with the massive collections now under my care and, as I'm still relatively new to the world of Geometridea taxonomy, I was thrilled to find this forum of experts, which has already been so helpful, and I hope will continue to support me in my role.



A field trip to the Brazil in June 2025

Pasi Sihvonen, Mikael Englund, Simeão de Souza Moraes

The Amazon rainforest in South America is the largest tropical rainforest on Earth, a biodiversity hotspot and home to about 10% of the world's described species, making it the planet's most species-rich ecosystem. It has been estimated to have about 2.5 million insect species (Müller 2020). Unfortunately, its biodiversity is being lost by deforestation and forest fires as humans transform the forest mainly to agricultural land, logging and urban areas, often illegally.

Simeão de Souza Moraes (State University of Campinas, Brazil) and Pasi Sihvonen (Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki, Finland) are collaborating on several research projects, including MSc theses, on moth systematics (Erebidae: Arctiinae and Geometridae) and on bat-moth interactions (e.g. Moraes et al. 2023).

As part of the ongoing projects, a field trip to Brazilian Amazon was carried out 18.–30.6.2025. Our Brazilian collaborators were Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) and Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA). Altogether 13 people participated and collected material during those intensive days and nights. We visited three places in the Amazon state, north of Manaus.

- Manaus-ZF2 tower near ZF2 Ecological Station within the Brazilian National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA) Cuieiras forest reserve. This is pristine forest and we sampled from ground level to 40 meters, using the massive tower that extends into the canopy <https://lfa.if.usp.br/experimental-sites/manaus-zf2>
- North of Presidente Figueiredo near Iracema Falls. The area is a mixture of pristine forest and grasslands with abundant water, including small and big rivers.
- Balbinas, including tropical rainforest, sand dunes and grasslands.

What did we find?

In short, amazing biodiversity! Every biologist should visit a tropical rainforest at least once because it will give perspective what high diversity means. High trees, dense forests, lots of rain and moisture, humidity combined with high temperatures, and exotic food are the adjectives that describe the experience.

The number of moth species was high (alpha diversity), but the number of specimens per species was low, and the species composition changed throughout the night. The distance between our sampling sites was less than 100 km but the species composition was almost entirely different in each site (beta diversity). The sand dunes in Balbinas, inside the rain forest, had the highest number of specimens attracted to light. This could be because the light was visible for a longer distance in an open environment.

The almost complete lack of larentiine moths was striking. During the entire trip we collected only few *Eupithecia* candidates and *Eois*, which were the only representatives of this subfamily.

The moth fauna seems stratified in terms of collecting height. We collected on different heights on ZF2 tower and the ground level fauna and 40 m fauna on the forest canopy were almost completely different. Both included high species richness.

We also collected caddisflies (Trichoptera), which were found in each place. The site near Iracema Falls with abundant water had the highest diversity of caddisflies, about 20 species.



Figure 1. Photos from the Amazonian field trip. **A.** Mikael Englund setting up light trap in ZF2 tower, height about 20 meters from the ground. **B.** Insects attracted to LepiLED light. The number of species was high, but the number of specimens per species was low. **C.** *Leuciris* sp. (Ennominae, Cassymini), a common species in the sampling areas. **D.** Tropical rainforest can be wet and rubber boots would have been better than hiking boots noted by Pasi Sihvonen.

Collecting in Brazil

It is important to have Brazilian experts and organizations involved in the projects, otherwise collecting and export permits are not possible to obtain. The permit process will take several months. The list of required and recommended vaccines is long but worth taking. We took safety seriously and we had a local expert looking after us when we were far from the main roads.

We stayed in two field stations and in one holiday resort, and several of us slept in the forest in hammocks. The infrastructure (roads, electricity, accommodation, grocery, gasoline etc. services) are good in the Amazon area we visited. One of us needed medical attention during the trip and to our surprise the health care and the medicines were free! The system is like this for the Brazilians, and they gave the same royal treatment to our non-Brazilian expedition member.

Finally, small ants are always ready to attack the specimens on tables and on setting boards, so bringing back specimens in good shape is not an easy task!



Figure 2. Participants of the field trip in Amazon: Balbinas on 29.6.2025 (from left, backrow): Paola Ancajima Alcade (Peru), Megan Dowdy (USA), Mikael Englund (Finland), Nick Dowdy (USA), Simeão de Souza Moraes (Brazil), Pasi Sihvonen (Finland), Andreia Dantas (Brazil), Aisla da Silva (Brazil), Annika Murrah (USA). From left, front row: Junia Yasmin (Brazil), Thiago de Oliveira (Brazil).

References

- Moraes SS, Söderholm MS, Aguiar TMC, Freitas AVL, Sihvonen P 2023: Micro-CT imaging in species description: exploring beyond sclerotized structures in lichen moths (Lepidoptera: Erebididae, Arctiinae, Lithosiini). PeerJ 11: e15505 <http://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.15505>
- Müller A 2020: Brazil and the Amazon rainforest. Deforestation, biodiversity and cooperation with the EU and international forums. Directorate-General for Internal Policies. 36 p. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/648792/IPOL_IDA\(2020\)648792_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/648792/IPOL_IDA(2020)648792_EN.pdf)

New publications on Geometrid Moths

2025

- Cheng, R., Wen, B. & Han, H. 2025. Six new cryptic species of *Ourapteryx* Leach (Geometridae: Ennominae) from Asia. *Zootaxa*, 5722 (4): 543–554.
- Expósito-Hermosa, A. 2025. New contribution to the Geometridae family of the Philippines and Indonesia, describing one new genus and four new species (Lepidoptera: Geometridae, Ennominae, Larentiinae). *SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología*, 53 (211): 461–467.
- Garzón-Ornuña, I. J. & Brower, A. V. Z. 2025. A new cryptic *Phyllodonta* Warren (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) from Mexico City with documentation of its life history. *Zootaxa*, 5666 (1): 136–144.
- Kamyab, F., Makhov, L. A., Mokhtari, A. 2025. A new species of the genus *Dzhugesia* Wehrli (Lepidoptera: Geometridae, Ennominae) from Iran. *Zootaxa*, 5660 (2): 255–266.
- Khudhur, F. A. & Hausmann, A. 2025. Four new ennomine moths from Iraqi Kurdistan (Lepidoptera: Geometridae). *Zoology in the Middle East*, 71 (3): 339–350. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09397140.2025.2535148>
- Lévêque, P. A. & Tautel, C. 2025. À propos de *Xanthorhoe sardisjuncta* en Corse: description d'une nouvelle sous-espèce (Lepidoptera Geometridae Larentiinae Xanthorhoini). *Alexanor*, 31 (1): 7–23.
- Lee, K.M., Staude, H., Holm, S., Laiho, E., Murillo-Ramos, L., Opedal, Ø.H., Rajaei, H., Terblanche, R.F. & Sihvonen, P. 2025. Genomic insights into species delimitation and evolutionary history of mimetic *Aletis* moths (Geometridae: Sterrhinae) in the Afrotropics. – *Ecology and Evolution*, 15:e72745. doi.org/10.1002/ece3.72745
- Liu, B., Stüning, D. & Han, H. 2025. Further taxonomic studies of the mimetic genus *Eurybeidia* Fletcher, 1979 (Lepidoptera, Geometridae, Ennominae, Baptini), with descriptions of four new taxa and two status changes. *ZooKeys*, 1260: 313–343
- Matson, T. A., Hallwachs, W. & Janzen, D. H. 2025. A new *Chavarriella* species from Costa Rica with first larval biology insights for the genus (Geometridae, Geometrinae). *Tropical Lepidoptera Research*, 35 (1): 34–38.
- Matson, T. A., Hallwachs, W. & Janzen, D. H. 2025. Shadow and Glass: Black vein, hyaline intervein Geometridae of Central America. *Tropical Lepidoptera Research*, 35 (2): 66–74.
- Mi, X., Pubu, Z., Xu, Y., Jiang, N. & Chen, R. (2025) A new species in the genus *Ourapteryx* Leach (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) from Xizang, China. *Entomotaxonomia*, 47(1): 60–64, DOI: 10.11680/entomotax.2025002.
- Nel, J., Grange, J-Ch & Grange, E. 2025. Description d'*Eupithecia graphata camai* ssp. n. du Parc naturel régional de la Sainte-Baume (Var) (Lepidoptera, Geometridae, Larentiinae). *Revue de l'Association Roussillonnaise d'Entomologie*, Perpignan, 115 : 29–3.
- Sihvonen, P., Lee, K.M., Söderholm, M., Rajaei, H., Hausmann, A., Hermann, S. & Staude, H. S. 2025. *Drepanogynis insciata* (Felder & Rogenhofer, 1875), a South African geometrid moth lost to science rediscovered after more than 140 years (Lepidoptera, Geometridae, Ennominae). *Zookeys*, 1261: 261–276.
- Sihvonen, P., Skou, P., Falck, P., Murillo-Ramos, L., Laiho, E., Söderholm, M., Staude, H. & Englund, M. 2025. A phylogenetically isolated and endemic Geometridae discovered from montane forests in the Canary Island of Tenerife (Spain) (Lepidoptera: Geometridae, Larentiinae). *SHILAP Revista de lepidopterología*, 53 (210): 295–314.
- Stadie, D., László, G. M. & Fiebig, R. 2025. Integrative taxonomic revision of the *Xenimpia-Psilocladia-Coenina* generic complex with a review of the genus *Procypha* Warren, 1897 stat. rev. (Lepidoptera, Geometridae, Ennominae, Gonodontini). *Zootaxa*, 5677 (1): 1–67.
- Tautel, C. & Lévêque, A. 2025. *Idaea altivolaria* (Bubacek, 1923), espèce tyrrhénienne, et les taxa associés à *Idaea sericeata* (Hübner, [1813]), avec la description de deux nouvelles espèces (Lepidoptera Geometridae Sterrhinae Sterrhini). *Alexanor* 31 (2): 123–174.
- Tautel, C. 2025. Connaissance des Larentiinae d'Australasie et description de nouvelles espèces (Lepidoptera Geometridae Larentiinae). *Antenor*, 12 (2): 69–86
- Vargas Ortiz, M. & Parra, L. E. 2025. A New Species of *Physocleora* Warren 1897 (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) from Atacama and Puna Provinces, Northernmost Chile
- Viidalepp, J. & Kostjuk, I. 2025. Revision of the genus *Rhipignophos* Wehrli, 1951 (Lepidoptera: Geometridae, Ennominae) with descriptions of five new species. *Annales Zoologici Fennici* 62: 87–108.
- Wen, B. & Cheng, R. 2025. A taxonomic study of *Gandaritis flavomacularia* and related species (Lepidoptera, Geometridae), with description of a new species from western China. *Zookeys*, 1255: 333–341.
- Yu, X., Jiang, X X., Wange, H., Pan, Z. & Han, H. 2025. The genus *Alcis* Curtis, 1826 from Xizang, China, including a new species (Lepidoptera: Geometridae: Ennominae). *Zootaxa* 5711 (3): 444–450.

2026

- Ramos González, M. I., Zamora Manzur, C., Garrido, C. R. & Parra, L. E. 2026. Systematic revision of the tribe Ennadini (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) in southern South America, with descriptions of new genera and species. *Zootaxa*, 5741 (3), 441–481. <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5741.3.2>