



LUND
UNIVERSITY

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INVERTEBRATE VISION

BÄCKASKOG CASTLE, SWEDEN
AUGUST 1-8, 2008

December 18th, 2007

Dear Colleague,

We are very pleased that you will be able to attend next year's Conference on Invertebrate Vision and look forward very much to having you with us. Interest in the conference has been much greater than we had expected, and the meeting promises to be a great success. This letter is to inform you of various administrative details (e.g. accommodation and presentations) and to remind you of some important deadlines with respect to abstracts and deposits.

Firstly, we are thrilled by the unexpectedly overwhelming interest in the conference, which is substantially greater than for the conference in 2001. Unfortunately, however, we only have the capacity for a certain maximum number of conference presentations and accommodation places. Bäckaskog can accommodate at maximum 149 delegates, and our timetable only allows for about seventy 20-minute lectures (poster space, on the other hand, is largely unlimited). For 2008, this means that we will be forced to have a "first in, first served" arrangement, for both attendance and accommodation, based on the chronological order in which we receive your faxed Registration Forms (see below).

The newly launched conference website is www.iciv.se. Please bookmark this page and refer to it regularly for updated information.

1. Accommodation and food

To alleviate the strain on accommodation at Bäckaskog, we are currently investigating alternative sources of accommodation (see below).

Accommodation at Bäckaskog

Three price-classes of accommodation are available. The least expensive is the youth hostel accommodation primarily reserved for students and postdocs (200 SEK per night (ca. €21), excluding food costs). The most expensive class of accommodation is located in the castle and King Karl's Tavern (650 SEK (ca. €69) per night per person sharing a double room and 900 SEK (€96) per night for a single room, excluding food costs). Photographs of the various accommodation options, plus a full explanation of prices, can be found at www.iciv.se/accommodation.html.

While accompanying family members are welcome, our tight accommodation situation prevents us from encouraging them to attend. We have a few rooms available for families **that will be handed out in the chronological order in which we receive your Registration Forms (see below)**. Spouses will be charged the same rates as delegates. Accommodation for children (with an extra bed in the same room) will cost 1000 SEK (€106) for the week with breakfasts only, or 1800 SEK (€191) with all meals.

Bäckaskog Castle is known locally for its good food, and we have managed to negotiate reasonable rates for the conference. The price for food per person for the entire conference is 5100 SEK (ca. €543), and this includes all meals (including the conference dinner) as well as morning and afternoon tea. Children will be charged based on their age. As many of you know, alcoholic beverages are rather expensive in Scandinavia and we are currently negotiating generous discounts for these as well, but we will return with more information about this later. We expect that a considerable amount of wine will be included free of charge at each evening meal.

Accommodation and food costs should be paid before leaving Bäckaskog castle, and payment will be possible by cash, cheque, or card (Mastercard, VISA or American Express). If you will experience any trouble with this arrangement, please notify us as soon as possible.

Alternative forms of accommodation

Because of the overwhelming interest in the conference we have been forced to consider other forms of accommodation.

For families, we have the possibility of renting caravans (with shower and toilet facilities) for the week at a reasonable price. These will be parked in the spacious parklands at Bäckaskog. The caravans can be powered, and will have their own (limited) water supply, so the shower facilities of one of the nearby buildings may also need to be used.

In addition, delegates who wish to come by car and wish to organise their own accommodation, have the possibility of renting a small cottage in the countryside nearby (the local area is Immeln and Ivösjön). There are a couple of good web sites that are devoted to cottage bookings:

dlbookit.dlsystems.se/ahus/index.asp?sprak=UK
www.humleslingan.com/kategorier_eng.asp?lang=eng&kategori_accomodation

2. Booking accommodation: Procedures and deadlines

It is now possible for you to book your accommodation electronically by submitting the Accommodation Form at our web site (www.iciv.se/accform.html). **At the time of booking we will also require you to fax us your Registration Form (see below).** On the Accommodation Form you will be asked to select your preferred form of accommodation, and your first and second preference of price category for accommodation at Bäckaskog. Within each category it is possible to choose between different buildings at Bäckaskog. These choices can be written in the “Questions and information for our knowledge” section of the form. We will of course do everything in our power to grant first preferences in terms of price category and building, **but we will have a first in, first served policy: those who fax us their Registration Form earlier have a greater chance of obtaining their first choice. The absolute deadline for booking accommodation and faxing the Registration Form is March 15th 2008.** After this date we cannot guarantee participation in the conference.

We must stress again that accommodation is very tight, and that we are forced to accommodate two delegates per room in most cases, although we have a few single rooms available. The double rooms are spacious, with two single beds and a full bathroom. As requested, many of you have nominated a room partner, and these nominations have been noted (but please register your partners again on the Accommodation Form). Those who have not nominated a room partner should do so when booking accommodation. Please ensure that (1) your intended partner is willing to share a room with you, and (2) approves of the price-class you have chosen.

If you are unable to select a partner we will match you with someone as best we can. A list of all registered delegates can be found on www.iciv.se/participants.html to make finding a room partner easier.

If you are a student and staying in one of the youth hostels, the rooms contain 4 beds, and the bathrooms are shared. Separate rooms will be arranged for males and females. If you have preferences for whom your other 3 room mates will be, please write their names (after checking with them!) in the “Questions and information for our knowledge” section of the Accommodation Form.

3. Registration procedure and registration fee

To register, please download the Registration Form from our website (www.iciv.se/registration.html). Please fill this in and fax it to us at your earliest convenience (fax: + 46 46 2224425). This form asks for your latest contact information, your latest preliminary presentation title, and for the type of presentation you wish to have (talk, poster or attendance only). It also requests your credit card details for the payment of a small registration fee that we will unfortunately again be forced to charge.

The registration fee has been set at 1200 SEK (ca. €128) for established academics, and 600 SEK for students and postdocs (ca. €64). We will use this registration fee as the conference deposit, and this should preferably be paid by card. If paying by credit card is not possible for you for some reason, please contact us and we will arrange for other options. **Please note: the deposit is not refundable, even if you eventually decide not to attend.** This registration fee will be included on the final receipt that will be given to you when checking out after the conference. If for some reason you need a receipt immediately, please let us know.

Important: The chronological order in which we receive the faxed Registration Forms will determine the “pecking order” for both attendance and room preference. You will not be charged the deposit if we receive your Registration Form too late to guarantee conference attendance.

4. Personal invitation letters

Many funding agencies require a “personal letter of invitation” to participate in a conference before they are willing to grant travel funds. If this situation applies to you, please send us an e-mail or letter and we will arrange one for you. Please note that such a letter does not obligate us to contribute to your travel or participation costs.

5. Lectures and posters

The overwhelming interest in the conference has placed a severe strain on the conference timetable. We have space for about seventy 20-minute lectures, but at the time of writing 83 senior academics, 12 postdocs and 5 students have expressed their interest in presenting lectures. We have thus been forced to restrict students and postdocs to poster presentations, unless their group leaders donate their own lecture slot (please inform us of your intention to receive or give a donated lecture slot in the “Other information for our attention” box on the Registration Form). Established academics are thus also encouraged to present posters. If you would like to change your contribution from a lecture to a poster, you can indicate this at the designated location on the Registration Form. Two 2-hour poster sessions are planned. Lectures will be restricted to 20 minutes, including questions.

6. Abstracts

We are planning to produce a small book of abstracts (both lectures and posters) for use during the conference, and to this end we will require you to send us a “photo-ready” version of your abstract (PDF file; A4

format) by e-mail prior to March 15th 2008. Full instructions for preparing abstracts can be found at www.iciv.se/instructions.html. Please note that it is **not** necessary to submit abstracts at the same time that you submit your Registration Form and Accommodation Form, and pay your deposit (registration fee), but of course you may if you wish.

7. Deadline reminders

- Submission of Registration Form and Accommodation Form, and payment of registration fee: March 15th 2008, but please note: first in, first served!
- Submission of “photo-ready” abstract: March 15th 2008

8. Tourist information

The weather in Sweden at the time of the conference is usually lovely, with long sunny days and maximum temperatures around 20 – 25°C. This is also the best time of year to visit Sweden’s many attractions, all of which are open and accessible. Southern Sweden, which encompasses the provinces of Skåne, Blekinge, Halland and Småland, is an area of expansive forests and tranquil lakes. This region also hosts the county’s best beaches, many of which are wide, sandy and relatively unpopulated. Water temperatures are usually around 18° - 23°C. Within a 300 km radius of Bäckaskog are countless numbers of beautiful medieval towns and villages (including Lund), many located at the sea, and numerous well preserved castles and stately homes (open to the public). Just to the north, in the province of Småland (home to Astrid Lindgren and Pippi Longstocking) are the well-known Swedish glassworks, of which Kosta, Boda and Orrefors are the most famous villages. There are 30 to 40 different glassworks – many of them very small and hundreds of years old – spread throughout the forests of Småland. The master glass blowers all blow glass in the traditional manner, and in close collaboration with the artists and designers. Most glassworks allow visitors to watch the glass blowers at close quarters, a very memorable experience. These glass communities provided the backdrop for the acclaimed Swedish film “My life as a dog”. In the nearby province of Blekinge is the old naval fortress town of Karlskrona, the best-preserved 18th century naval facility in the world, and a World Heritage site. Otherwise, for those interested in the outdoor life, fishing, camping out, canoeing and mushroom collecting (only for the informed!) are all part of the Swedish way of life and can be enjoyed by visitors at little (if any) cost. For those interested in a more organised source of information, a Lonely Planet guide to Sweden has recently been published. More tourist information, and links to useful sites, can be found on our web site at www.iciv.se/tourist.html.

9. Last things

Finally, we would like to let you know that Anna Gislén is once again acting as a conference secretary, heroically handling most of the day-to-day administration of the conference. She is usually the first link in the chain of communication and will often be the person that you will deal with.

Once again, we look forward very much to having you with us next year!

Our warmest regards, and Seasons Greetings!



Eric Warrant



Dan-Eric Nilsson