



# XVIII<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF LEPIDOPTEROLOGY

JULY 29 – AUGUST 04, 2013

BLAGOEVGRAD, BULGARIA

**XVIII<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Lepidopterology**  
29 July – 04 August 2013, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

## Fist announcement



The council of the Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica (SEL) and the National Museum of Natural History (Sofia) would like to invite you to the 18<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Lepidopterology, taking place in Blagoevgrad, from Monday July 29 to Sunday August 4, 2013.

The congress will take place at the American University in Bulgaria, [www.aubg.bg/conferences](http://www.aubg.bg/conferences). Blagoevgrad is a moderately-sized city in SW Bulgaria, beautifully situated in the Struma Valley close to the high mountain ranges of Rila and Pirin, in the vicinity of wonderful nature areas such as the famous Kresna Gorge. The locally common butterfly *Tarucus balkanica* that feeds on *Paliurus spina-christi* has been chosen as logo for the congress.

**Travelling.** Many flights from all over the world fly daily into the Sofia airport. Blagoevgrad is about 110 km south of the airport, and transport will be facilitated by organized buses or mini-vans from the airport to the congress center at a very low price. It is also possible to rent a car or share a taxi.

The congress site can also be easily reached by car, by train from Sofia directly to Blagoevgrad or from Thessaloniki in Greece, and by frequent buses between Sofia and Blagoevgrad.

**Registration and Accommodation.** Online registration will start in the autumn, after the SEL *News* has been published and the congress website is online. The fee hasn't been determined yet. All activities will be located in the complex of the American University, with accommodation available in the university residence halls Skaptopara 2 and 3, as well as the possibility of having meals in the university dining hall. Wireless internet is available everywhere in the university buildings and residence halls. The prices are very moderate, including full board and lodging for members of the SEL in the range of Euro 350–450 for a week (6 days), the cheapest in triple rooms, and more expensive in single rooms. The quality of the accommodation is excellent, but it is of course also possible to book a hotel room in the city yourself. Non-members will be required to pay considerably more. Prices will also be higher for late registration. Requests for Letters of Invitation should reach the organisers before March 2013. Students or members with need for financial help can apply to the SEL for support if they will be presenting a poster or talk.

**Scientific programme.** The organisers invite all members and other lepidopterists to come forward with suggestions for symposia or workshops. Please send an e-mail before October 1<sup>st</sup> to both Stoyan Beshkov ([stoyan.beshkov@gmail.com](mailto:stoyan.beshkov@gmail.com)) and SEL General secretary Erik van Nieuwerkerken ([nieuwerkerken@naturalis.nl](mailto:nieuwerkerken@naturalis.nl)) with your suggestions. Please indicate whether you would like to act as convenor for the suggested symposium. All subjects involving Lepidoptera are welcome.

**The proceedings** of the congress will be published in an issue of the peer-reviewed open access journal *ZooKeys* [www.pensoft.net/journals/zookeys/](http://www.pensoft.net/journals/zookeys/).

Our **Congress dinner** will take place in the restaurant Vodenicata [mehana-vodenicata.com/](http://mehana-vodenicata.com/) with folk music and dance, as well as a **mid-congress excursion** to the famous Rila Monastery for all participants. An **accompanying person's** programme will be organised, details to be decided.

**A post-congress excursion** of 2 or more days will be organised. The price (half board) will be around 40 Euro pppd.

**Collecting** is possible before, during and after the congress. In Bulgaria a special permit for collecting for scientific purposes, outside of nature reserves, is not necessary. It is possible to collect at altitudes of 2300 m or close to the sea level within one hour's drive from Blagoevgrad. You can easily visit the famous Prime Butterfly Areas Kalimantsi, Kresna Gorge, Malak Kozhouh, Melnik, Ograzhden, Pirin, Rila, Rilski Manastir, Skrinno Gorge and others. For more information visit [www.nmnh.com/butterfly\\_areas\\_bg/](http://www.nmnh.com/butterfly_areas_bg/).

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**Come to Bulgaria in the summer of 2013, listen to the newest developments in lepidopterology, renew friendships and meet new friends and enjoy the wonderful nature and culture of Bulgaria!**