

Special issue devoted to the fourth International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology — ICIM 4, Moscow, 2017

The diverse and fascinating “kingdom” of invertebrates has been always attracting the interest of scientists. Almost 10 years ago scientists interested in the field of Invertebrate Morphology decided to create an International Society and for their first congress in 2008 gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark. http://snm.ku.dk/english/research/sections/biosystematics_section/isim/

After Cambridge, MA, USA, 2011, and Berlin, Germany, 2013, the fourth of these congresses will be held in Moscow, Russia from 18 to 23 August 2017. The society was created from a real “grass roots” movement where scientists for no other reasons than being interested in the amazing diversity of invertebrates and their adaptations to very different environments and life styles, came together to exchange and share their latest results, ideas and technical advances. Until this moment the society runs without a large administrative body and relies on the drive and deep scientific interest of those that volunteer to organize the international congress.

Remarkable advances have been made in our understanding of the relationships of invertebrates and their phylogeny, in particular. Therefore, a main focus of the 4th Congress, is on (i) synthesis of classical morphology with advances in molecular taxonomy and phylogeny; (ii) evolutionary developmental biology; (iii) investigations on structure of different groups of invertebrates, in particular, parasites; (iv) the problem of miniaturization and the evolution of larval forms; and (v) modern achievements in the field of functional morphology and paleontology. Special attention is paid to modern approaches and methods of morphological and evolutionary studies. Congress symposia will be assigned to four broad topics: (1) Recent advances in functional morphology; (2) Special invertebrate morphology; (3) Evolutionary theories; (4) Advanced Microscopy and Morphology. One of the main goals of the ICIM4 is to make a platform for communication, scientific exchange and establishing of international collaboration of young researchers majoring in invertebrate zoology.

The 4th congress in Moscow was supported by the IUBS Conference Grant and we are grateful to our sponsor — the International Union of Biological Sciences what helped the congress to go ahead and to support young researchers come to Moscow.

Participants from more than 25 countries will take part in the ICIM4, Moscow. The Congress venue is the famous Lomonosov Moscow State University with a long tradition in researches of invertebrates. The organizing committee has managed to put together an attractive program with international key speakers. New results on invertebrate morphology, paleontology, embryology, evolution, and phylogeny will be presented by famous scientists.

Members of organizing committee wish all ICIM-4 participants new interesting teamwork, fascinating discoveries, and enthusiastic mood!

*On behalf of Organizing Committee:
Natalia M. Biserova, ISIM President-elect
Elena N. Temereva, Chair of the ICIM4 Organizing Committee*