



ISoP Newsletter Late Spring 2024

Dear Friends and Colleagues, apologies for taking nearly half a year to write to you.

2024 has so far been a strange year, with weather patterns in many places making it often difficult to determine what season you are in. It has confused plants into flowering at the wrong time and birds starting nesting before they should but so far, we do not know if that has affected ectoparasites. Popular media are convinced that with warmer seasons we are heading for massive outbreaks of lice, fleas, and bed bugs to name just a few but I am not convinced that weather and environmental conditions alone can have any influence on true ectoparasites, unless the hosts' behaviour changes with it.

ICP8

Following the success of ICP7 as a mainly online meeting it is now time to start thinking about ICP8 in Marseille in just a little more than 1 year time. Hopefully, the preparations will run smoothly for our colleagues in France in the run up to the meeting and that Prof. Fournier will be able to obtain sponsorship from enough commercial sponsors as science budgets are being cut everywhere and it may be difficult for some colleagues to attend. Could it be manageable to run some kind of hybrid meetings for part of the conference similar to last year for those who cannot arrange funding to attend?

Louse related publications

It is interesting that the number of louse related publications is down again for 2023 at 243, about 12% down on 2022, with a similar reduction in the number of other psocodean publications at 40. I am continuing to collect records of publications and shall do for the foreseeable future, although I shall be taking partial retirement from the end of June this year.

Hoping to see many of you in Marseille in 2025

Best wishes,

Ian