



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



ECE 2023
CRETE
European Congress of Entomology

XII European Congress of Entomology

16-20.10.2023

Cultural Conference Center of Heraklion
Crete, Greece

www.ece2023.com

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ΤΕΧΝΙΚΟ ΕΠΙΜΕΛΗΤΗΡΙΟ
ΕΛΛΑΔΑΣ

Welcome Letter



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the ECE 2023 and the Hellenic Entomological Society, we are delighted to welcome entomologists from around the globe to the XII European Congress of Entomology (ECE 2023), in Heraklion, Crete, on 16-20 October 2023.

Forty-five years after the first European Congress of Entomology in 1978 at Reading University, UK and following a series of successful congresses around Europe, we now have the great honor to host this major European entomological meeting in our beautiful country and with it the opportunity to share knowledge, expertise and perspectives.



The world of entomology faces many problems with the increasing threat of climate change, damaging vector-borne diseases, biodiversity loss and the need to feed an expanding world population. Our goal is to gather scientists from around the globe and provide a unique opportunity to exchange information and to communicate research results on a wide range of topics. The ECE 2023 audience consists of researchers and academics from a diverse range of entomology related fields, as well as policy-makers, field agronomists, crop protection experts, medical practitioners, engineers, social scientists and artists.

The congress program includes invited lectures from international experts, symposia, oral and poster sessions, workshops and satellite seminars. In addition, the congress is undoubtedly the ideal meeting place to network and interact, establishing the starting point for future collaborations and breakthrough innovations in entomology.

The historic, as well as magnificent island of Crete sets the ideal scenery for ECE 2023. The congress is hosted in the Cultural and Conference Center of Heraklion, a contemporary venue of international standards, offering high level services in an inspiring environment.

We strongly believe that we will deliver a high-quality meeting which will turn out to be a memorable experience. The success of the congress depends on the contributions of the delegates and we thank you for being actively involved.

Welcome at ECE Congress in Heraklion in 2023!

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

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Table of Contents

PLENARY SESSIONS	13
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	
Session 1	
Morphology and Systematics	17
Advances in Hemipterology	18
Advances in Diptera & Hymenoptera	24
Advances in Coleoptera and other Arthropods	29
Session 2	
Genetics and evolutionary biology	35
Sex Determination	36
Evolutionary Genomics	42
Session 3	
Physiology and Biochemistry	51
Recent Insights into Peptide Research in Insects	52
Unique Physiological Adaptations in Insect Development and Survival	57
From Digestion Towards Metabolism & Immunity	62
Session 4	
Ecology and Behavior	67
Sensory Biology	68
Evolutionary Ecology and Behavior	71
Chemical communication/engineering	81
Biotic - Abiotic Factors	85
Session 5	
Multitrophic Interactions Insect, Microbial, Host plants	96
Multitrophic Interactions in a Changing World	97
Multitrophic Interactions: from Symbiosis to Antibiosis	102
Multitrophic Interactions: Ecology and Evolution	107
Session 6	
Insect Biotechnology	113
Improved Methods for Rnai-Mediated Pest Control	114
Discovery and Engineering of Viruses and Micro-Organisms for Improved Pest Control	119
Genome Editing of Insect Pests and Vectors of Disease to understand Physiological Processes and Resistance Mechanisms	123
Session 7	
Symbiosis and Insect Pathology	127
Reproductive Manipulation and More: Symbiont-Mediated Host Alterations	128
Nutritional Symbiosis and Insect Rearing	133
Takes More Than Two to Tango: Multiple Insect Host - Symbionts Interactions and Insights to Insect Virome	138

Session 8

Urban and Forest Entomology	143
Insects in Urban Landscapes - Pests, Friends and Allies	144
Forest Insects in a Changing Environment - Challenges and New Approaches	150
Ecology and Evolution of Bark Beetles	155

Session 9

Medical and Veterinary Entomology	160
Paradigms of "One Health" Approach in Combating Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs)	161
Next Generation Vector Surveillance: Emerging Technologies and the Role of Society	166
Innovative Vector Control Strategies: Adapting to the Future	171
Changing Patterns on VBDs Transmission Risk	176
One Health	181

Session 10

Invasion biology and climate change	186
Invasion and Climate Change I	187
Invasion and climate Change II	192
Invasion of <i>Popillia Japonica</i> in Europe and Management Approaches	198
Fruit Fly Invasion	203
Invasive Arthropods Affecting Human and Animal Health	208

Session 11

Biodiversity and Conservation	213
Identification and Monitoring Tools	214
Biodiversity in Agro-Ecosystems	220
Ecology, Climate and Diversity	225
Conservation and Restoration	230
Threats and Awareness	235

Session 12

Social Insects and Apidology	240
Bee Threats in a Changing Environment I	241
Sociality in Insects	246
Bee Threats in a Changing Environment	250
Wild Bees Ecology, Biogeography and Pollination	258

Session 13

Toxicology and Pesticide Resistance	262
Toxicology and Pesticide Resistance I	263
Toxicology and Pesticide Resistance II	268
Toxicology and Pesticide Resistance III	272

Session 14	
Biological Control and Biopesticides	277
New Developments in Greenhouse	278
Biological Control of Orchard and Vineyard Pests	283
Entomopathogens as Biopesticide	293
Conservation Biological Control	298
Greenhouses and Other Topics	303
Session 15	
Integrated Pest Management	308
Plant Defenses, Elicitors and Antagonists	309
Pest Bio-Ecology, Monitoring and Control I	314
Pest Bio-Ecology, Monitoring and Control II	320
Pest Bio-Ecology, Monitoring and Control III	325
Pest bio-ecology, monitoring and control	331
Novel Technological Tools in IPM	337
Session 16	
Stored Product Protection	342
Urban Entomology and Stored Product Protection: Integrated Protection of Stored Product Pests	343
Urban Entomology and Stored Product Protection: Artifact Pests and Wood Borers in the Urban Environment	347
Urban Entomology and Insects for Food, Feed and Waste Management	351
Urban Entomology and Stored Product Protection: Integrated Protection of Stored Product Pests- Post Harvest Insect Biology and Control	355
POSTERS	
Session 1	
Morphology and Systematics	361
Session 2	
Genetics and evolutionary biology	368
Session 3	
Physiology and Biochemistry	384
Session 4	
Ecology and Behavior	399
Sensory biology	400
Evolutionary Ecology and Behavior	402
Chemical communication/engineering	405
Other	409
Session 5	
Multitrophic Interactions Insect, Microbial, Host Plants	426

Session 6	
Insect Biotechnology	443
Improved Methods for RNAi-Mediated Pest Control	444
Genome Editing of Insect Pests and Vectors of Disease to understand Physiological Processes and Resistance Mechanisms	447
Discovery and engineering of viruses and micro-organisms for improved pest control	449
Session 7	
Symbiosis and Insect Pathology	451
Session 8	
Urban and Forest Entomology	458
Insects in urban landscapes - pests, friends and allies	459
Forest Insects in a Changing Environment - Challenges and New Approaches	461
Ecology and Evolution of Bark Beetles	465
Session 9	
Medical and Veterinary Entomology	467
Paradigms of "One Health" Approach in Combating Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs)	468
Next Generation Vector Surveillance: Emerging Technologies and the Role of Society	470
Innovative Vector Control Strategies: Adapting to the Future	472
Changing Patterns on VBDs Transmission Risk	477
Session 10	
Invasion biology and Climate Change	480
Invasion biology and Climate Change	481
Invasion Biology and Climate Change - Popillia	488
Session 11	
Biodiversity and Conservation	492
Session 12	
Social Insects and Apidology	512
Wild bees ecology and biogeography	513
Bees and pollination	515
Bee threats in a changing environment	518
Session 13	
Toxicology and Pesticide Resistance	521
Session 14	
Biological Control and Biopesticides	536
New Developments in Greenhouse	537
Biological Control of Orchard and Vineyard Pests	544
Entomopathogens as Biopesticide	549
Other	554

Session 15

Integrated Pest Management	565
Pest bio-ecology, monitoring and control	566
Plant defenses, elicitors and antagonists	595
DNovel technological tools in IPM	600

Session 16

Stored Product Protection	608
Urban Entomology and Stored Product Protection: Integrated Protection of Stored Product Pests	609
Urban Entomology and Stored Product Protection: Artifact Pests and Wood Borers in the Urban Environment	618
Urban entomology and insects for food, feed and waste management	620

Bioprotection Symposium	632
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OC031. Mitochondrial genotype decreases mitochondrial respiration in seed beetles: implications for male subfertility

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Evolutionary theory suggests that inheritance of mitochondria through the maternal lineage could drive the accumulation of male-harming mutations in mitochondrial genomes. Namely, due to uniparental mode of mitochondrial inheritance, natural selection is "blind" to mutations that are deleterious to males as long as they are beneficial or neutral to females. This evolutionary phenomenon is known as 'the Mother's Curse'. The male-specific adverse effects of mitochondrial mutations are thought to be due to the fact that males are sensitive to impairments in the function of the oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) system, i.e. mitochondrial respiration. The OXPHOS system consists of five complexes whose subunits are coded by the mitochondrial and nuclear genomes. In our previous work, we identified several mitochondrial haplotypes (mitotypes) in laboratory populations of the seed beetle (*Acanthoscelides obtectus*). One of them, MG3b mitotype, significantly reduces male fertility compared to other mitotypes when expressed in the same nuclear environment, but has no negative effects on females. In this study, we tested whether the MG3b mitotype affects OXPHOS functioning in males compared with other, control mitotypes. Specifically, we expressed MG3b and two control mitotypes alongside the same nuclear background and measured mitochondrial respiration in males using high-resolution respirometry. Our results show that respiration linked to all OXPHOS complexes is significantly reduced in MG3b males compared with controls. This is particularly true for the complex IV, which shows mean reduction in activity of around 40%. This work provides evidence that the decrease in mitochondrial respiration is the cause of subfertility of MG3b males.

Keywords: the Mother's Curse, *Acanthoscelides obtectus*, mitochondrial respiration, mitochondrial genotype

OC032. Finding the Y: a step towards improving the assemblies of Y chromosomes

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