

ESA International Branch Meeting 2013
March 5, 2013 • Pucon, Chile (during ISBCA Meeting)
MINUTES

Participants:

Aziz Ajlan, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia, Vice-president, International Branch
Rob Wiedenmann, University of Arkansas, USA, ESA President
James Harwood, University of Kentucky, USA, a past-president, International Branch
Michael Parrella, University of California, Davis USA, ESA Governing Board member
John E. Banks, University of Washington, USA
Carlo Duso, University of Padova, Italy
Kevin Heinz, Texas A&M University, USA
Jon Lundgren, USDA-ARS, South Dakota, USA
Ronald Oetting, University of Georgia, USA
Renato Ripa, BIOCEA, Chile
Max Suckling, NZ Institute for Plant & Food Res, New Zealand
Michael Traugott, University of Innsbruck, Austria
Tania Zaviezo, Chair ISBCA Organizing Committee, Chile
Debi Sutton, ESA Director of Membership and Marketing

Vice-President Aziz Ajlan opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed the group. He then turned the meeting over to ESA President Wiedenmann to provide an overview of ESA activities. Rob asked the group to introduce themselves, and then provided a history of the International Branch, now in its fourth year. Michael Parrella highlighted that with a membership of nearly 700 members, the newest ESA Branch is healthy and growing. Rob added that international growth is one of ESA's key initiatives, with a solid start due to ESA past president Grayson Brown's initiatives of bringing presidents of entomological societies from around the globe together for information sharing, and the recent bid win for ICE 2016.

Rob then shared other current ESA initiatives including science policy and diversity work. He also mentioned the 'Each One, Reach One' membership campaign that is in process.

Rob then mentioned that the International Branch needs a representative to the ESA Committee on Awards and Honors and asked for a volunteer. No one volunteered so Debi indicated that ESA HQ could see if the ESA Volunteer Database includes anyone interested in this type of service, or send out the request to Branch members for electronic nomination.

A majority of the meeting was spent discussing the location and timing for the International Branch 2014 and 2015 meetings, with consensus that the 2016 meeting should be held in conjunction with ICE 2016. Aziz came prepared with a listing of four possibilities for 2014, which Debi reviewed with the group. They are as follows:

- 21st Biennial International Plant Resistance to Insects Workshop, April 23-27, 2014 in Marrakech, Morocco
- Royal Entomology Society's 10th European Congress of Entomology, August 3-8, 2014 in York, UK

- 8th Meeting of the IOBC-WPRS Working Group “Integrated Plant Protection in Fruit Crops”, May 25-28, 2014 in Vigalzano, Pergine Valsugana, Italy
- 17th World Congress for the International Union for the Study of Social Insects, July 13-18, 2014 in Cairns, Australia

The consensus of the group was that Debi should analyze the geographic location and specialty interests of current International Branch members. Then Debi should share this information, along with the list of these four meeting opportunities, and poll the Branch members electronically, soliciting recommendations for other meetings and potential locations during the process.

Other discussion included ideas for how the Branch could support its membership with its current funds. Ideas included the Branch sponsoring a symposium or a social function at one of the international meetings or at the ESA Annual Meeting in order to raise awareness of the Branch. Another idea was to provide travel support for presenters, especially students from the Branch at other meetings. And another idea was to hold all reserves until the ICE 2016 meeting in order to make the largest impact with travel or presenter funding at that time. Mike Parrella mentioned that some Branches work together with ESA Sections to combine funding and this should be investigated by the Branch.

The group discussed the fact that with the cost of travel increasing and the cost of technology decreasing, it would be worth investigating whether the Branch could hold its annual meeting as a virtual meeting, using Webex or a similar technology, and that the symposia from such a meeting could be posted on YouTube for viewing by a larger audience. Debi offered to get pricing from ESA Meetings Director Rosina Romano for this, and mentioned that this technology was already being used during ESA’s Annual Meeting each year, so it might be best to schedule a meeting like this during that timeframe. Kevin Heinz mentioned that it might be possible to have Dell sponsor the technology for this type of meeting. Max Suckling proposed a different model that might work for the Branch—and that the virtual connections might be more frequent than yearly, and be more topical exchanges, whereas face-to-face meetings at another scheduled meeting, might be the less frequent means of exchange.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Debi to gather demographic data on IB members and have HQ work with Maggie Hardy to poll them on location/timing for 2014 and 2015 meetings.
- HQ to advise ESA Committee on Awards and Honors of new IB representative after appointment
- Debi to ask Rosina for the cost of hosting a Branch meeting virtually.

With no other issues to discuss, Aziz closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and asked participants to enjoy refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,
Debi Sutton