



**Systematics,
Evolution, and
Biodiversity
Section**

Statement from the Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity (SysEB) Governing Council

It has come to our attention that until yesterday (July 13, 2018) the Coleopterists Society, as well as the University of Nebraska, hosted digital archives of a newsletter on scarab beetles that contained substantial sexist and demeaning content toward women, particularly women of color. We unequivocally condemn the material contained in these newsletters.

Like many taxon-related groups, the Coleopterists Society co-meets with ESA. As per ESA official policy and SysEB's own moral and professional obligations, we are dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and productive environment for everyone, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, physical appearance, gender, or sexual orientation. We are encouraged that the Coleopterists Society acknowledged their role in hosting this content and issued a public apology. Further, they are taking the appropriate steps to implement codes of conduct and officer training (link to their official response below). We also want to let our own section membership know that we are aware of this issue and are actively working to ensure that any SysEB-related groups that wish to co-meet with ESA share and demonstrate our society's values and zero tolerance for harassment.

The SysEB Governing Council is taking the following immediate action:

1. We are reaching out to all SysEB-related groups that co-meet with ESA and requiring that they either explicitly and publicly adopt ESA's meeting code of conduct and distribute it to their membership/participants, or implement their own policy (if they have not already done so) that is at least as stringent as ESA's policy. A link to ESA's policy is below.
2. We are further asking each group to outline what steps they have/will take to ensure their meeting/symposia are both welcoming and representative of our diverse society.

SysEB members with comments or concerns are encouraged to reach out to the SysEB Governing Council at anytime. A link to our individual officer contact info is below.

Signed,
The Governing Council of the Systematics, Evolution and Biodiversity Section (SysEB)
Entomological Society of America
<http://www.entsoc.org/syseb/officers>

Related Links:

Full statement from the Coleopterists Society:
<https://twitter.com/ColeopSoc/status/1018194343344078849>

ESA's code of conduct: <http://www.entsoc.org/conduct>