

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: 10th Ecology and Behaviour meeting

Travel Dates: 09/05/2014 – 19/05/2014

Location: Montpellier, France

Group member(s): Maarit Maenpaa

Aims: Give a poster presentation and network with other researchers and students within my field of study.

Hear a wide range of presentations in the form of talks and posters given by students and accomplished researchers in the field of behaviour and ecology.

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The annual Ecology and Behaviour meeting is organised by graduate students and post docs, set out to give young researchers working in the field of ecology, evolutionary biology and animal behaviour, a place to exchange ideas in a friendly environment. The meeting consisted of four days of talks and posters and additional events, and was attended by more than a hundred young researchers, and 12 plenary speakers from across Europe. The conference was a good opportunity to meet and connect with researchers in a similar stage of their career, and find out more about the current issues in my field of study. The plenary speakers were chosen well, and some of these talks were stimulating and also inspiring. The attendees were also given a chance to talk to the plenary speakers about the field of their study, which in the particular workshop I chose, ended up becoming a discussion on the beginnings and progressions of the careers of the speakers. Hearing the different ways of building a successful career in science was rewarding, and encouraging.

My objective for attending the meeting was to practice my skills in presenting in a poster format, and to meet fellow researchers. My poster gathered a good amount of interest, and it was well received. I had the opportunity to talk about my work to a number of people, and I feel that it improved my ideas of how to present my data in the future. Some of the other talks and posters were very interesting, and I gained new insights and ideas, some of which I feel, may be useful for my own work later on. It was also a good opportunity to learn practical presentation skills by paying attention to the strengths of other presentations given by others.

I am grateful for the funding provided by the James Rennie Bequest as it gave me the opportunity to attend the 10th annual Ecology and Behaviour meeting in Montpellier. The meeting was beneficial for me, and developed my skills as a scientist, for which I'm appreciative.