

# JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

## REPORT ON CONFERENCE

**Conference Title:** ESEB Congress

**Travel Dates:** 9-14 August 2015

**Location:** Lausanne, Switzerland

**Group member(s):** Natalie Pilakouta

**Aims:** Give a poster presentation and network with other researchers in  
my field

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### OUTCOME

The European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB) Congress is a large, biannual conference that is attended by evolutionary biologists from all over the world. This year, there were more than 1400 attendees at this conference, including 320 talks and 950 posters in 35 symposia, and plenary talks by five highly acclaimed evolutionary biologists. The symposia covered a wide range of topics in evolutionary biology, from genome evolution and microbe evolution to social interactions and interspecific interactions.

On August 13th, I gave a poster presentation on some of the results from my PhD research (Title: "Parental care buffers against inbreeding depression in burying beetles") during a 2-hour poster session. Throughout this session, I got the opportunity to discuss my experiment with PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, as well as senior academics from various universities. I received a lot of positive feedback about my poster and also suggestions for future work on this topic. In addition, during the rest of my time at the conference, I got to hear about the latest research that my peers are currently working on, which has stimulated ideas relevant to my own work.

I had previously only participated in small conferences primarily directed to and attended by PhD students, and this was my first time participating in a large, international conference. Attending this conference therefore provided me with a great opportunity for networking with other evolutionary biologists at various career stages. For example, I had the opportunity to meet and interact with senior researchers who I am interested in working with in the future, after I complete my PhD degree.

## **JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST**

Attending the ESEB Congress 2015 has been a valuable experience, and I am very grateful for the funding I received from the James Rennie Bequest, which made it possible for me to travel to Lausanne in Switzerland to attend this meeting.