

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT / CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: 5th Young Natural History scientists' Meeting

Travel Dates: 6-10 March 2018

Location: Paris (France)

Group member(s): Tom Ratz

Aims:

- 1- Practicing the oral communication in a scientific context,
- 2- Discuss and debate my research interests with students and young researchers from different backgrounds,
- 3- Communicate about my work and have my research group more visible outside my institute,
- 4- Increasing my skill in Evolutionary Ecology and Natural Sciences in general.

OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-

The 5th occasion of the annual Young Natural History scientists' Meeting (YNHM) took place at the National History Museum of Paris and was dedicated to students and researchers at an early stage in their career in the broad field of Natural History Sciences, covering research interests such as Biology, Geology, Palaeontology, as well as Archaeology. This year, the meeting brought together more than 200 participants, who attended over 50 talks and an even larger number poster presentations throughout the different thematic sessions. All sessions were opened by a talk given by invited keynote speakers who were eminent researchers in the fields. In addition to the different presentations, participants were able to enjoy additional events related natural histories such as a movie projection, a photography exhibition and excursions. Overall, the meeting was a great opportunity to learn more about current research in Evolutionary Biology and more generally Natural Sciences.

I gave a poster presentation on the results of my second PhD project entitled: "Inbreeding does not alter plasticity in parental care". This presentation was part of the session on Evolutionary Ecology. The poster session was particularly satisfying as it allowed me to discuss about my research with many students and researchers, get constructive comments and interesting suggestions on my current project and also for future experiments. I also had the chance to contribute to the photography exhibition and show one of my photographs.

Attending the 5th Young Natural History scientists' Meeting was made possible thanks to the funding provided by the James Rennie Bequest, for which I am very grateful. Attending the meeting was useful to improve the quality of my current research project and also to extent my research network in the field of Evolutionary Biology, which, I have no doubt, will prove useful in my future career as a researcher. Finally, the broad diversity of topics and approaches covered by meeting was particularly valuable to have the benefit of hindsight onto my own research interests.