**REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT / CONFERENCE**

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| **Expedition/Project/ Conference Title:** | Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB2019) |
| **Travel Dates:** | 19–27th August 2019 |
| **Location:** | Turku, Finland |
| **Group member(s):** | Tom Ratz |
| **Aims:** | * Communicate about my research to a scientific audience, |
|  | * Improve my presentation skills, * Extend my professional network and find opportunities for future new collaborations. |
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| **OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-** | |

The 2019 Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology is a biannual meeting intended for evolutionary biologists from all over the world. This year, the meeting was held in Turku, Finland and gathered more than a thousand attendees, presenting over 500 talks and 600 posters, all split between 36 different symposia. In addition to the delegate sessions, invited speakers gave 5 plenary talks. Participants could also attend social events organised during the congress, such as excursions around the city of Turku, a conference dinner and informal dinners.

I presented a poster in the Species Interactions sub-theme of the Open Symposium. The poster was on my most recent PhD project looking at immunity, parental care and response to bacterial infections, using female parents of a burying beetle as a study system. With the poster, I was able to introduce an array of techniques we used for this project and present results on behavioural and life-history data showing that immune challenged females maintained their care despite the higher mortality caused by infections. I also showed that immune-challenged females shift reproductive investment towards current reproduction. I was very satisfied with the attention the poster attracted and delighted to see that I won the popular vote prize of the second poster session. During the poster session, I had the chance to talk about the experiment, as well as answer questions and get suggestions and feedback, which are very useful at this stage of the project. More generally, the poster presentation gave me the opportunity to chat about my research interests and discuss about potential future ideas for follow-up projects.

Attending the ESEB2019 conference in Turku was possible thanks the travel grant provided by the James Rennie Bequest. Presenting a poster and attending the conference was useful and I am very grateful for the travel grant I received. Overall travelling to this conference gave me the opportunity to get feedback on the project that I am currently running, as well as learn more about the newest research in evolutionary biology, and importantly extent my research network in the field.