

JAMES RENNIE BEQUEST

REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT / CONFERENCE

Expedition/Project/

Conference Title: International Society for Behavioral Ecology Congress 2022

Travel Dates: 28 July-3 August 2022

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

Group member(s): Georgia Lambert

Aims:

- 1) To present my PhD work
- 2) To hear the latest research in the primary field of interest for my PhD
- 3) To widen my scientific network

Photography consent form attached:

(please refer to your award letter)

Yes

No

OUTCOME (a minimum of 500 words):-

The International Society of Behavioural Ecology Congress was held in Stockholm, Sweden from the 28th of July to the 2nd of August 2022. This is the most prestigious conference in behavioural ecology and hosts researchers from all over the world. This year, there were over 700 delegates ranging from established academics to early career researchers. Each day was opened with a plenary talk covering a different, cutting-edge area of research in behavioural ecology. The plenary talks were followed by sessions of talks each focusing on a specific theme varying from 'Anthropogenic effects on behaviour' to 'Host-parasite interactions'. On the last day, the Hamilton Lecture was given by Prof Hanna Kokko (the University of Zurich) entitled 'From metaphors to theories and their tests' – this talk was outstanding. On the evening of the second and fourth days, poster sessions were held during which delegates could informally view posters and chat with the presenters. In addition to the conference presentations, delegates had the option of joining social events organised on the half day and the last evening of the conference. On the half day, activity options included a boat trip around the city, a gin tasting session or a trip to the Swedish museum of natural history. A gala dinner and party were held on the last night of the conference at Skansen (an open-air museum).

I gave a 15-minute presentation on my first PhD project entitled 'Resource access buffers against effects of current reproduction on future ability to provide care in a burying beetle' during the 'parental care' talk sessions on the second day of the conference. In this project, I investigated whether parents that invested more in a current breeding attempt were less able to provide parental care in a future breeding attempt. After the talk, I took questions from the audience about my experimental design and received feedback and constructive criticism from experts in my specific field. I also got suggestions for some exciting follow-up experiments that I hope to conduct soon. These discussions continued during the lunch that followed my

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presentation and throughout the rest of the conference. This helped me to reflect on how best to present the results of this project in a manuscript and also gave me some interesting ideas for future projects.

I am very grateful to James Rennie Bequest for this travel award which made my attendance and participation at the International Society of Behavioural Ecology Congress in Stockholm possible. Attending this conference allowed me to update and reinforce my knowledge of both theoretical and empirical behavioural ecology, receive constructive criticism on my current work and inspiration for new projects from experts in my field, and extend my scientific network. I was able to meet other researchers from all over the world who have the potential to be the host of a lab visit, a future collaborator or a future post-doc supervisor. I also had the opportunity to meet delegates face-to-face that I had formed relationships with during virtual conferences. These contacts will be invaluable to me and my progression towards a career in academia.