



## WORLD CONGRESS OF MALACOLOGY ANTWERP, BELGIUM, 15-20 JULY 2007

FIRST CIRCULAR : September 20th, 2006

The congress will be held on campus « Groenenborger » of the University of Antwerp. It is the 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of UNITAS MALACOLOGICA (UM). The congress will also host the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY (AMS). All payments will be in EUROS (€).

The congress is open for all contributions in the field of malacology and will host several exciting, open symposia, including:

- « Sexual selection » (organised by R. Chase & J. Koene)
- « Micromolluscs » (organised by D. Geiger)
- « Molluscs as models in evolutionary biology : From local speciation to global radiation » (organised by M. Glaubrecht & T. von Rintelen)
- « Molluscan models : Advancing our understanding of the eye » (organised by J. Serb & L. Robles)
- « Inventorying the molluscan fauna of the world : frontiers and perspectives » (organised by P. Bouchet & S. Panha)
- « Neogastropod origins and evolution » (organised by J. Harasewych)

### **Yet, there is still room for further symposium or session proposals...**

There will also be a contributed papers session and a poster session, with posters on display throughout the conference. The conference will start with an « icebreaker » on Sunday late afternoon, 15 July 2007. The scientific presentations are organised in four parallel sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. During the poster presentation on Tuesday evening there will be a reception with wine, typical Belgian degustations, cheese and of course... a selection of Belgian beers. On Thursday evening AMS will host its annual auction of molluscan books and paraphernalia (no specimens) to benefit its student programs. The conference dinner will be on Friday evening (several options are still being considered). Wednesday is a free day during which participants can discover the many historical and beautiful places in Antwerp. They can also join one of the suggested congress activities or do whatever they want, of course !

Convenient, though modest accommodation will be available at the university campus (about 200 single and 20 double rooms with lavabo, but toilets and showers are shared [even though cabins are individual of course]; prices: 20 €/person or 27 €/person per night ; breakfast included). Hotel accommodation will be provided in the city centre of Antwerp, near « Antwerpen Centraal » railway station, the main bus terminals and the shuttle bus from/to Brussels international airport. Prices range from 47.5 € (singles) to about 155 € (4 persons) per room per night (breakfast included).

**ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS**

**Congress registration fees are in € (before / after 30 April 2007):**

Full registration, UM-members	220 / 270
Full registration, non-UM-members	280 / 330
Student, UM-member	110 / 150
Student, non-UM-member	160 / 200

Fees include registration, abstract book, icebreaker, lunches, drinks and the wine/beer/degustation poster reception. The congress dinner is not included.

**There will be several student awards for oral and poster presentations, including six awards presented by UM and the Constance Boone Award presented by AMS.**

**UM will provide Travel Grants. Applicants must be a member of UM or of an affiliated organisation. If not, a three-year UM membership will be deduced from the grant. The maximum amount of any Travel Grant will be 800 € for applicants from outside Europe and 400 € for residents in Europe. Application forms will be sent out with the next circular and will be available from the WCM 2007 website and the UM website (see below). They can also be requested when pre-registering (see below).**

**AMS will also be offering travel grants to its student members - please check the AMS website (see below) for information and application.**

The congress website will soon be activated. In the meantime additional info can be obtained at :

[wcm@naturalsciences.be](mailto:wcm@naturalsciences.be)

You can also PRE-REGISTER at this E-mail address, indicating :

- (1) what kind of presentation(s) you would like to give (NOTE : each participant can only act as first author of ONE oral presentation and ONE poster presentation),
- (2) which accommodation you prefer (campus vs hotel + how many persons/room),
- (3) what type of registrant you are (UM member, student UM, student non-UM),
- (4) whether you want to receive a Travel Grant application form,
- (5) whether you need a congress « invitation » or « acceptance » letter (sometimes needed for certain grant applications)

Please provide your contact information. **Pre-registration IS NOT A FORMAL BOOKING; it simply implies that you will be put on the congress mailing list, so that you will automatically receive the next circulars (via E-mail, unless explicitly requested otherwise).**

Useful websites :

**Website of UNITAS MALACOLOGICA :**

<http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/unitas/>

**Website of the AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY:**

<http://www.malacological.org>

**About Antwerp :**

<http://www.antwerpen.be/eCache/BEN/52.html>

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/antwerp.html>

<http://www.trabel.com/antwerp.htm>

**Website of the University of Antwerp** (look for campus « Groenenborger »):

<http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=.ENGLISH&n=25878>

**Belgian railways :**

<http://www.b-rail.be/main/E/index.php>

Note : There are good international train connections between Antwerp and several major cities outside Belgium. All train tickets can be purchased on-line using your credit card.

**International bus connections to Antwerp** (Europe only):

<http://www.eurolines.com/>

**A route planner for if you come by car :**

<http://www.viamichelin.com/viamichelin/gbr/tpl/hme/MaHomePage.htm>

**Airports :**

Antwerp airport : <http://www.antwerpairport.be/en/index.html>

Brussels airport : <http://www.brusselsairport.be/index.cfm?lang=en>

Charleroi airport : <http://www.charleroi-airport.com/BSCA/siteEN.nsf/.Accueil?Readform>

VLM Airlines, the Flemish regional airline, offers daily flights from London, Liverpool, and Manchester to Antwerp Airport, where you can take the bus to « Antwerpen Centraal » railway station (10min; 1.50 €).

Website of VLM : <http://www.flyvlm.com/emc.asp>

Brussels (Zaventem) is the main international airport in Belgium (home of SN Brussels Airlines and VirginExpress), with a shuttle bus to the city centre of Antwerp (1 bus/hour; trip takes 45min; 8 €). You can also take the train in Brussels Airport and switch trains in « Brussel Noord » railway station (5 trains/hour; 60-80min; 6.70 €).

Website of SN Brussels Airlines: <http://www.flysn.be/en%5Fbe/home/default.aspx>

Website of VirginExpress : <http://www.virgin-express.com/>

Charleroi (Brussels South) airport is a major hub of Ryanair. From Charleroi you can reach « Antwerpen Centraal » railway station by direct train (2 trains/hour; 90-100min; 12.40 €).

Website of Ryanair : <http://www.ryanair.com/site/EN/?culture=GB>

Another convenient possibility is to fly to Amsterdam (Schiphol) and take the train from Schiphol Airport to Antwerp. You can take either the fast trains (Thalys; you have to book in advance and it is more expensive) or the « normal » direct trains (1train/hour; 120min; 26 €).

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WE (= CONGRESS ORGANISATION) WILL NEITHER PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION, NOR WILL WE PICK UP PEOPLE AT AIRPORTS OR RAILWAY STATIONS. WE COUNT ON YOUR SCOUTING TALENTS!**

**Currency Converter :**

<http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic?user=onlineconversion&lang=en>

**SEE YOU IN ANTWERP !**

Thierry Backeljau  
President of Unitas Malacologica