International Association of Bryologists

General Meeting

Location: Madrid, Spain + Hybrid via Zoom

Attendees: Michael Stech (virtual), Catherine Reeb, Christine Cargill, Lars Soderstrom, Boon Chuan Ho, Sylvia Pressel, Juan Larrain (joined an hour into the meeting), Matt von Konrat (virtual, minutes), Masaki Shimamura

Apologies: Juan Carlos Villarreal, Mereia Tabua, Bernard Goffinet, Andrew Franks, Jessica Budke, Itambo Malombe

Agenda:

Brief agenda [Full agenda distributed prior to meeting below]

[1.] Welcome and opening remarks, and achievements since virtual meeting (President: Catherine Reeb + Chris Cargill for "Women in bryology")

[2.] Elections preparation

[3.] Council organization

[4.] IAB Meeting 2025 Planning

[5.] Report from treasurer

[6.] Awards Committee Organization

Action items

Notes

[1.] Welcome and opening remarks:

- IAB President, Catherine Reeb (CR) provided opening remarks and welcomed the council. CR provided a deep thank you to the outgoing President, Bernard Goffinet, thanking him for his leadership, for helping make IAB a success and his contribution to bryology in general. CR shared that the Executive Committee over the last few months has been meeting every two weeks and proposed a more regular meeting of the council. CR shared her vision for IAB including publications, social media, website activities, IAB organization and the journal, Bryophyte Diversity & Evolution (BDE) that continues to be overseen by Michael Stech. CR noted we will not discuss the journal at this meeting, but added that we owe Michael Stech (MS) a huge thanks for his service towards the journal, his leadership and hard work. MS will continue his role as editor at this time. CR then subsequently led the agenda.

CR noted that discussion of BDE will take place in a future IAB meeting, possibly with a taskforce or dedicated group. CR continued to share her vision including promotion and collaboration with other organizations, increasing participation with young bryologists, and especially from developing countries, thinking about strategies to increase and support emerging scientists, and potentially create a focus group or committee to explore this.

CR shared the many IAB goals that she is actively pursuing. She also summarized the recent successes and achievements including special issues of BDE, new developments with the web, ongoing activities including the Bryological Times and many others. She mentioned the possible collaboration with BryoNames, but apologized for any confusion and lack of documentation and the potential role of IAB; CR proposed this will not be focused on during this meeting and will be brought up in a future meeting. Before proceeding with the meeting, CR encouraged council members to be active and to promote ideas, suggestions and also any constructive criticism.

- **Women in Bryology:** Christine Cargill (DCC) provided a brief overview of the ongoing Women in Bryology project; this was not in the original agenda, but CR wanted DCC to briefly share. DCC provided a brief summary of the success of the project, the website profiles and the published profiles in the Bryological Times and thanked the team and contributors. This will be an ongoing project and has been very positively received.

[2.] Elections preparation

- CR introduced several items regarding forthcoming IAB elections including: Proposed changes to Article 10 and Article 16, which require a constitutional change; Election procedure; Election timelines; Online voting statements such that they were unambiguous. etc.
- CR introduced and shared the wording of **a proposed change to Article 10**. Matt von Konrat (MvK) added that wording should also include the Secretary/Treasurer in addition to those of the Executive. CR made the motion, MVK seconded the motion. 13 voted in favor and the motion passed.
- CR introduced the proposed **change to Article 16**
  Provided some background, namely the votes for an executive position would get transferred to a council member. CR noted this had happened in previous

elections and it was not fair. MvK supported this and noted it had happened in previous election cycles.
Lars Söderstrom (LS) provided some history and made the argument. It's the reason why LS also argued that it could potentially lose some good candidates; SP proposed that it could go from a ballot for both the Executive and Council members.
MVK suggested we modify the language, distribute the new proposal and send it by vote; SP and LS agreed. SP's idea is that candidates or nominees could appear both on the executive ballot and as a council member both separately then should they both get high votes and they could decide which office they want in any case this requires some wordsmithing and the Executive Committee will will take a first pass.

- **MVK outlined a document on elections and guidelines** that he'd been preparing. CR then went on to share a proposed outline for voting or trying to develop an online automatic and counting system for the election process. MVK just underlined that this should be tested in advance, also against countries like China and so on.

  Juan Larrain (JL) joined the meeting at around 1:00 and apologized for the time difference. A vote on online voting and a voting system was taken and it was voted in favor of the online project and a paper ballot as a backup.

[3.] Council organization CR then went on seeking the opinion for Council to meet every 2 months = six Council meetings per year, changing the time zone of each meeting. CR was seeking assistance to organize and seek input from the Council. CR expressed that no one is obliged to attend regular meetings and that could get an increased engagement with Council members. Some members agreed it was a good idea MS agreed that it was a good idea but not mandatory especially if voting could be an issue. (*SP offered her help to CR for the calendar, after the Council.)*

MVK's noted that meetings could be more operational in nature and of course no voting would take place. I just like a normal either button email or at our proper council meeting. CR noted that she would like to give this a try; CR also noted seeking a volunteer to help organize meetings. CR will follow up by email to the council. Michael Stech (MS) suggested that these meetings should not be a forum for voting or decision making. This was agreed and anything requiring a vote would continue by email or formal council meetings. CR and MvK stressed this would be a forum to continue to increase the engagement of council members.

[4.] IAB Meeting 2025 Planning. CR went on to share the proposal for Taiwan. She also shared that she had a proposal from Indian colleagues, but it hadn't been finalized. Council members commented that it was a very welcoming country, everyone accepted that it was a good proposal. SP said it was very detailed. All Council members suggested that some more details could be added about sorting out the logistics for presentations and talks, also an excursion was suggested.

The Council voted 13 in favour and it was suggested that a CR contact the Taiwan proposal and suggest adding another day for conferences and an excursion before or after the actual conference as these have always been successful in the past.

We need a delegation from the IAB Council to coordinate with the Taiwan team : we'll need some Council representation as part of that organizing committee.

Note : *Boon Chua, Masaki and Bernard proposed their participation after the Council*

[5.] Report from treasurer

Membership report: MVK presented and reported the budget and information about membership. He mentioned that he'll follow up by email with the report for all council members to access. There was no comment or concerns and there was no vote except about pursuing non profit status. MvK shared that he had a meeting with the bank manager about logistics should the next treasurer be outside the USA. MvK also had a meeting with a tax and accountant specialist about seeking non-profit status. The Council approved that the cost of $800USD can be paid to the professional to seek non-profit status.

[6.] Awards Committee Organization CR stated this will not be discussed and will be brought up in a future meeting. We were starting to run out of time, this will be discussed later on.

CR then closed the meeting at 9:00 p.m, bringing up that she would like to meet more regularly and will follow up on the items that have been discussed throughout this meeting end

Action items

- A follow up meeting with the Council to discuss the future and strategy for the journal Bryophyte Diversity & Evolution
- A follow up meeting or email will clarify the potential collaboration with BryoNames
- Award Committees: To be followed up
- CR will distribute a change to the constitution regarding elections as outlined above.
- ~~CR will contact the proposers of the IAB Conference 2025 in Taiwan; CR will follow up on some minor questions raised during the council meeting [post Council meeting at an Executive Meeting, 20 Aug. 2024 - to discuss dates as well, e.g., January 2026]~~.

Original Agenda

[1.] Welcome and opening remarks, and achievements since virtual meeting (President: Catherine Reeb)

Time: 19h00 -19h25

[2.] Elections preparation

Time: 19h25-19h45
Vote for two changes (Article 10 and Article 16) in the constitution concerning elections: see the attached document “Motion_for_constitution_change.pdf” for justification and proposal.
Formation of election designation committee and outline of the calendar
Proposal to conduct the election through online voting through bryology.org
Bernard Goffinet is willing to set up the ballots and work with election committee and webmaster to get all biographies on the online ballot.

[3.] Council organization

Time: 19h45-19h55
Discussion and approval of the frequency of Council meetings (virtual, if not during an IAB meeting) every two months (six per year with with time zone rotation). – Call for a volunteer to organize the calendar

[4.] IAB Meeting 2025 Planning

Time: 19h55 - 20h20
PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED PROPOSAL for TAIWAN.
Examination of the proposal(s) for IAB 2025 meeting
Vote for the organization of the IAB 2025 meeting

[5.] Report from treasurer

Time: 20H20-20h35

Budget report and expenditure
Membership
1 provisional items for the next Council meeting at the end of the document
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Non-profit status

[6.] Awards Committee Organization

Time: 20h35-20h45
Reminder about the different committees for the IAB Awards. The call for volunteers for the committees will be sent out later by the chair of each committee.

[7.] Miscellaneous Discussions, Closing Remarks

Time: 20h45- 21h00
SEBOT (Spanish Society of Botany) meeting on Friday 26th july morning
→ Call for a volunteer of the Council to join this meeting on Friday 26 morning

During the IBC SEBOT will be holding meetings to explore possible collaborations among different Botanical Societies that could help in obtaining financial support, organizing joint activities, or enhancing botanical visualization. The Spanish Bryologist Society (SEB) is also part of the SEBOT. We are invited to an informal meeting with SEBOT (with Isabel Draper and/or Xavier Picó) to discuss potential collaborations.
Other Bryological Times (report made at last Council meeting by Mereia Tabua)
BDE