

Minutes of IAB Council Meeting 14th October 2025 At Taiwan IAB Conference

Present: Catherine Reeb (CR, President); Chris Cargill (DCC, incoming 1st Vice President, minutes); Juan Carlos Villarreal (JCV, outgoing 1st Vice President); Matt von Konrat (Secretary Treasurer); Council members: Boon Chuan Ho; Juan Larrain; Silvia Pressel; Masaaki Shimamura; Andrew Franks (editor of BT); Nicholas Wilding (new council member); Michael Stech (Editor of BDE).

Apologies: Bernard Goffinet (BG, Past President); Jessica Budke; Michelle Price (incoming 2nd Vice President); Nonkululu Phephu.

1. Welcome and introductions from president, Catherine Reeb.

2. Election Results (CR)

- i. Nicholas Wilding (council member representing Africa)
- ii. Michelle Price (2nd Vice President)
- iii. Nonkululu Phephu (council member)
- iv. Andrew Franks (Oceania)
- v. Jessica Budke (North America)
- vi. Matt von Konrat (Secretary/Treasurer)

Congratulations to all winners of positions on council.

Following this year's elections, Bernard and Matt have created a document outlining the protocols, rules and regulations for the elections.

Nicholas Wilding asked how many are on council. CR thought there were 16 members including the editors of BDE and BT.

All members that were present introduced themselves.

3. Achievements since last Council Meeting (CR)

Elections were held.

Several problems were solved by the executive team.

4. Winners of the Awards for 2025 were announced.

- i. **Spruce Award:** Silvia Pressel
- ii. **Hattori Prize:** Gao S. L., Li, D. D. & Yu, J. 2024. Taxonomy and Systematics of the Genus *Macromitrium* (Orthotrichaceae, Moss) in the world. Science Press, Beijing. (2025, EDP Sciences and Science Press published in Paris)
- iii. **Grolle Award:** Boon Chuan Ho
- iv. **Conservation Grant:** 1) Marline Lovanomenjanahary, Herbarium Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA and (2) Xiangbo Yin, Philipps Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany
- v. **Stanley Green Award** not yet awarded

The winners of the awards will be announced in BT and at the conference dinner.

Some difficulties were uncovered while making decisions on each of the awards. For example with the Hattori Prize, a number of the committee members were unable to see the books that were nominated. Also important papers that were published in the time period had not been nominated. Can someone be awarded the prize if not nominated? A review, therefore, will be undertaken to develop criteria for each of the awards for future committees. **A sub-committee will be formed to work on these criteria** and will be comprised of: Catherine Reeb, Silvia Pressel, Juan Carlos Villarreal and Nicholas Wilding. CR will write to members after the conference.

CR also explained to NW what the executive committee is and how it works.

New Award to be named after a prominent female bryologist was announced by DCC and was Janice Glime. DCC emailed Janice before the Council meeting to let her know and she sent back a lovely email accepting the decision.

What the award will be for is to be decided by the Council. DCC received feedback from a number of people which will be sent to all council members and a decision will be made before December.

5. Next IAB Conference in 2027 (CR)

The proposal put forward by Laura Campos for Bogotá, Colombia has been sent around to all council members. Juan Carlos Villarreal will be supporting Laura in this proposal.

Laura is wanting to raise awareness of the Andes and science in Colombia.

While the proposal is still not fully developed, there is still another 2 years to go.

NW asked if there are guidelines for those putting a proposal together?

CR said that the past proposals are shared with the new proposer.

Maybe guidelines should be developed for future proposals.

JCV noted that Quebec was developed by a company and can be used as a template.

Closer to the time of the conference we should check with members who would be considering attending for better planning for the organisers.

It was then put to the vote, and all 12 council members present voted yes.

Decision to entrust the organization of the 2027 congress to Laura Campos and her team from the Faculty of Sciences at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNAL), in Bogotá, taken unanimously

CR to confirm with Laura

CR suggested in between the Taiwan and Colombia conferences a 2-day online conference. Have 2 shifts due to time differences between hemispheres.

To decide by December 2025.

6. Treasurers Report (MvK)

Received non-profit status from the US state of Illinois which then allows us to apply for Federally for non-profit status. With the new administration there is less staff so it will take longer to achieve.

Non-profit status gives us access to potential revenue streams both nationally and internationally, tax exemption status, global recognition, funding streams also open up.

IAB had some major expenditures, back-to-back conferences, the awards.

Masaaki S pointed out that the Japanese Bryological Society can no longer pay for the Hedwig Medal. B. Goffinet has suggested another way to pay for this.

MvK to send a copy of the treasurer's report around to all council members.

11 members voted to accept the report.

7. Website Update (CR)

Needs to be updated. Not efficient with 3 people making updates. CR to take over the website with help from MvK. Fia has been great but has other commitments.

8. Bryophyte Diversity and Evolution (update on journal) CR

CR announced that Tian-Xiong Zheng from the Hattori Botanical Lab herbarium Japan has agreed to take on the role of editor-in-chief of BDE with conditions.

Michael Stech as out going editor will stay on as a member of the editorial board.

CR will invite Tian to meet with the Exec Committee along with Michael Stech.

There is only one more Council meeting before December, so we will need to make a decision about the new editor-in-chief and the future of BDE.

CR would like to solve the problem with Magnolia Press and the contract, which should be discussed.

9. BT Newsletter (AF)

Vol 161 in process of being prepared with 12 articles so far.

The abstracts from the conference will be a special separate issue.

Other business

10. Virtual Membership Card (CR)

Suggested by several members that it would be great to have proof of membership to IAB with a virtual membership card.

It could have the expiry date of their membership dues on the card.

MvK will ask to his colleagues to build the graphics for this card which could be sent out to members.

11. IAB T-Shirt (CR)

A virtual logo could be sent out to members with a template for a t-shirt with a free-space. Then it can be printed on a t-shirt and the member is then free to make a bryophyte-themed design on the dedicated part on front of the t-shirt.

This could then be entered into a competition to be judged at the next IAB conference in Colombia.

Next Council Meeting TBA.