



Minutes

IAB 2026 Council meeting, April 20th 2026

Present: Catherine Reeb (president); D. Chris Cargill (vice president 1); Matt von Konrat (secretary-treasurer); Bernard Goffinet (last president); Tian-Xiong Zheng (editor BDE); Jessica Budke; Nicolas Wilding; Nonkhululo Phephu; Lars Söderström; Ho Boon Chuan; Michelle Price (vice president 2 – minutes).
Excused: Silvia Pressel. Absent: Andrew Franks (BT); Juan Larrain; Masaki Shimamura.

Agenda: 1. Welcome and opening remarks; 2. Janice Glime Award; 3. Awards committees organisation; 4. A new Editor and new horizons for the BDE; 5. Elections in 2027; 6. Website progress; 7. IAB Virtual meeting or lecture; 8. AOB and information.

1. Welcome and opening remarks [CR]

- Approval of the minutes from the previous council meeting (Taiwan, 13 October 2025): **Decision:** The minutes were approved and are available [here](#).
- IAB achievements since the IAB Council meeting in Taiwan, 13 October 2025.

The Taiwan meeting was a great success. The survey and discussions held at the meeting lead to some interesting developments, including the redevelopment of the IAB website and the approval of a new Editor-in-Chief for the IAB's journal *Bryophyte Diversity and Evolution* (see points below). Since the Taiwan meeting, the IAB Executive Committee has continued meeting on a bi-weekly basis and, in the future, the Minutes of the IAB Executive Committee meetings will be shared with the council. Two issues of the Bryological Times have been published (BT 161 & 162) and they have been very positively received, with congratulations conveyed to the Editorial Team, led by Andrew Franks.



2. Janice Glime Award [DCC]

The award was positively received by the IAB members. To decide on the theme for the award, the IAB council was asked to vote on a selection of options. The results are as follows: Excellence in promoting bryology through mentoring or outreach (11 votes); Significant contributions to Bryophyte developmental biology, evolutionary biology or evolutionary ecology (2); Best PhD in bryology (1): 14 votes cast. **Decision:** The new award will be entitled the *Janice Glime Award for Excellence in promoting bryology through mentoring or outreach*. A plaque will be given to the recipient.

DCC also noted that she and Pina Milne (PM) had also discussed the frequency of the award and recommend every six years along the lines of the Hedwig award, to be made at the same time as IAB meeting during the International Botanical Conference (the next one is in 2029 in South Africa). We also would like the award to have a monetary value of \$US 300 or \$US400.

The proposition for the composition of the award committee was approved:

Award name	Aim/goal	Reward	Chair	Composition
Janice Glime Award	Excellence in promoting bryology through mentoring or outreach	Plaque and 300 or 400 USD	Outgoing President	3 members (council or other nominees)

The next steps: 1. establish the award committee, 2. develop the criteria for the award. *Note* DCC and PM are currently working on an award document covering all aspects including merit criteria.

3. Awards committees organisation [BG]

The IAB presents six awards (including the new Glime Award) and two grants (see <https://bryology.org/awards-grants/>). A committee is convened for each award and chaired by a designated member of the IAB Executive Committee, a nominated member of the IAB Council, or a nominated member of the IAB. These are the chairs for the awards for this period.



IAB Council

Award	Aim	Reward	Chair	Committee composition
Hedwig Medal	Lifetime achievement in bryology	Silver Medal or equivalent (IAB meeting at the IBC)	IAB president: Catherine Reeb	Needed 3 council members
Richard Spruce Award	Important contributions to bryology, within the first 25 years of their career	Plaque & opening address of the next IAB congress. Awarded every 2 years & invitation for opening address at the next IAB congress.	Vice-president: Michelle Price	Nicolas Wilding; Needed 1 council member
Hattori Prize	Best book or paper or series of papers published within the previous two years in a journal	Monetary reward (400 USD) Awarded every 2 years	Vice-president: Chris Cargill	Nonkhululo Phephu, Boon Chuan Ho Juan Larrain
Ricléf Grolle Award	Excellence in bryodiversity for bryologists who work in developing countries	Awarded every 2 years	Nominated member of the IAB Council: Bernard Goffinet	Needed: 3 recognized specialists (IAB Executive Committee approved)
Stanley Greene Award	Grant for research in bryology.	Monetary award (to be determined based on the IAB awards budget). Given every two years	Secretary-Treasurer: Matt von Konrat	Nicolas Wilding, Michelle Price



IAB Council

Conservation and Endangered Species Grants	Grant for bryophyte conservation	Monetary reward (2 x max of 1000 USD). Grants awarded at any time	Representative of the IUCN Bryophyte Conservation committee (Irene Bisang - tbc)	Needed: 3 recognized specialists (IAB Executive Committee approved)
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Hedwig Medal: The Japanese Association for Bryologists (JSB) has previously financed this award and has informed the IAB Executive Committee that they are not in a position to continue to finance this award. The IAB executive committee will seek confirmation. This association also holds the template for the medal that is usually cast in silver. The price of silver has gone up over recent years. For context, in 2024 the cost of the medal was estimated at about \$1,250. The Executive Committee has discussed alternative options (e.g. engraved plaque). The IAB should recuperate the template for the medal.

Richard Spruce Award: Nicolas Wilding will join this committee. One more council member is needed – interested persons are invited to contact MP directly (michelle.price@geneve.ch). This award will be given at the IAB Congress in Bogota, Columbia in 2027.

Hattori Prize: DCC will chair this committee this year and will be joined by Nonkhululo Phephu, Boon Chuan Ho and Juan Larrain. Criteria for this award have been discussed through the special committee on awards.

Riclef Grolle Award: Discussions were held on the eligibility criteria (see also the minutes of the IAB council meeting in Madrid in July 2019 - <https://bryology.org/council-minutes/>) and to whom exactly the award can be given.

Decision: the criteria apply to persons who are professionally based in developing countries and who work in their country or region. Note, the list of developing countries was updated in 2025, but the source should be included (e.g. https://www.ica.org/app/uploads/2024/03/List-of-Developing-Countries-2024_Updated.pdf).

Proposition: The wording on the eligibility criteria on the website should be clarified (current website point 3), as follows: *Original wording:* Intended for

**IAB Council**

bryologists who work in developing countries (see list below) and still manage to contribute significantly to the knowledge of bryodiversity in bryophyte-rich areas such as the tropics or smaller regions therein or in bryologically unexplored areas. Recognition should consider such evidence as published work, outside grants and support, and establishment of facilities and collections in areas of need. => *New wording:* Intended for bryologists who are professionally based in developing countries (see list below), work in their country or region and contribute significantly to the knowledge of bryodiversity in bryophyte-rich areas such as the tropics or smaller regions therein or in bryologically unexplored areas. Recognition should consider such evidence as published work, obtention of grants and support, and establishment of facilities and collections in areas of need.

Vote: in favour of the proposed change (10), abstention (1).

Stanley Greene Award: MvK noted that it would be good to decide on who specifically will chair this committee, other than the IAB Secretary-Treasurer. The IAB Secretary-Treasurer can inform the committee on the amount of the grant, but the distribution of responsibilities would be more equitable if a council member were nominated as the committee chair in place of the IAB Secretary-Treasurer. This will need to be changed on the IAB awards website.

Conservation and Endangered Species Grants: Irene Bisang will be contacted by C. Reeb

Council member engagement

The Council held discussions on the importance of Council members proactively participating in the committees, as well as in nominating people whom they think would be well placed on a committee. It was suggested that the awardees, especially for the grants, could be recruited to join the following year's committee. It was noted that this has been employed in previous years and should be reinstated and formalised. In general, the criteria for the awards and grants should be collectively reviewed and updated, if needed. The importance of engaging with the IAB membership and encouraging them to nominate persons for the awards was stressed. This issue should be included in reflections



on criteria (to make this more explicit) and discussed at the upcoming IAB Council meeting on the 8th June.

4. A new Editor and new horizons for the BDE [TXZ]

Tian-Xiong Zheng recently took over the position of *Editor-in-Chief* of the IAB journal, Bryophyte Biodiversity and Evolution (BDE). A summary of the situation (changes in the Editorial Board; submissions) was presented along with some ideas on how to generate more submissions using special editions (see slides in Annex 2). Two ideas were presented and discussed, with the idea put forward that special issues should focus on research fields or themes, rather than on anniversaries of institutions or tribute issues for specific persons, at least at the beginning, so that they are of interest across the IAB membership and generate more submissions. MkV indicated that in the past special issues were more expensive than ‘normal’ issues, as all articles were published under the open access model. **Action:** a meeting to brainstorm on the special issues and discuss the financing of special issues should be organised by TXZ in the next month to advance on this topic (BDE Editorial Committee / IAB Executive Committee).

5. Elections in 2027 [CR]

Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed in detail during the meeting. For information, the following officers have their term coming to an end in 2027: President: Catherine Reeb; Vice President 1: Chris Cargill; Council members: Silvia Pressel, Boon Chuan Ho, Lars Söderström, Juan Larrain and Masaki Shimamura. Note, the regions to be filled are Europe, Asia, and South America (3 seats) and 2 region-free seats.

Proposed timing for the elections:

- Call for nominees: October 1st
- Deadline for nominations: November 1st
- Confirmation of nominees: November 15th
- Submission of biographies: December 15th
- Final biographies due January 25th
- Open election on March 15 to March 30



- Adjudication: April 15
- Notification and vote by Council May 1st.
- Term of new members starts at meeting in Colombia, July 2027

Decision: A council meeting will be held on the 8th June at the same time as the current meeting. The discussion items will be 1. Finalization of the IAB awards and grants committees & 2. IAB elections at the IAB meeting in Bogota in 2027.

Action: a meeting invitation and digital link will be sent as soon as possible after the current meeting to the IAB Council. The Election Committee should be established as soon as possible. Bernard Goffinet and Jessica Budke volunteered, with one more person from the council needed. The two Election judges can be selected closer to the elections.

6. Website progress [CR & MP]

Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed in detail during the meeting. In summary, a web designer has been hired with a first model for the new pages shared with the IAB Executive Committee. The site will be developed over the next month and launched over the next 3 months. The feedback from the survey (see Annex 3) will be very useful in developing future pages and content.

7. IAB Virtual meeting or lecture [CR&MP]

One of the central roles of the IAB is uniting the community and providing a forum for exchange and networking. **Decision:** the IAB Council agreed that it was strategically important to hold a virtual event this year (unanimous vote). MvK offered to provide the logistical support for the hosting of such an event. **Action:** to ensure the success of such this event, allow time for the development of the structure and content, and to produce publicity, a task-force should be formed immediately to work on this event. Interested persons from the council should contact CR directly (creeb.iab@gmail.com).

This will be one of the subjects of next Council.

8. AOB and information



Next IAB Council meeting: 8th June (add link) at the same time as the current council meeting.

Dates of upcoming IAB Executive Committee Meetings: 27 April; 11 & 25 May; 8 & 22 June.

IAB 2027 congress: July 2027, Bogota, Colombia – specific dates to be confirmed.

Date of the next International Botanical Congress in Cape Town, South Africa: 21-29 July 2029, see IBC 2029 | XXI International Botanical Congress.