

Message from the editor

Dear PARSA Members

As the excitement for the annual PARSA meeting in Bloemfontein this year builds, we are reminded that this year is flying by and there are still many things to be done.

The three-year term of office for the current council expires at the next PARSA AGM, to be held in Bloemfontein, Wednesday 3 October 2012. A call for nominations for candidates to serve on the council have already gone out so we urge all members to please consider these nominations and submit their nomination forms to Marinda Oosthuizen at 012 529 8312 or e-mail to marinda.oosthuizen@up.ac.za. Please be sure to secure the signature of the person nominated and send the forms by **3 September 2012**. If you did not receive the form and would like one please contact me (ecology@uj.ac.za) and I will send it through.

Please also note the closing date for early registration (and hence cheaper rates) for PARSA 2012 is around the corner, **17 August 2012** so please be aware and make your arrangements accordingly.

Another friendly reminder that membership fees are due please! Membership is terminated if a member is 3 years in arrears so please ensure your account is up to date! Thank you to those who have already paid – it is greatly appreciated!

Please note the next newsletter will be the last one for the year, so get all your articles in by October!

Kind regards

Kerry



Dear PARSA member:

It is now "all systems go" for this year's PARSA congress in Bloemfontein (1–3 October 2012). Liesl van As and the whole organising committee have been hard at work. I've been informed that there was a healthy response to the call for papers and posters and that we can look forward to an interesting few days in the City of Roses. As always, contributions by post-graduate students will be eagerly anticipated. The conference has a local flavour this year, with all invited plenary speakers coming from our own ranks.

The planned **International Conference on Parasites of Wildlife** at the new conference centre in Skukuza, Kruger National Park, is moving ahead. Prominent international parasitologists have been recruited to serve on the organising committee, which will of course also include local colleagues. The Conference is being planned for the first week of September 2014 to allow slotting in with the 8th Tick & Tick-borne Pathogen Conference (TTP 8), scheduled for Cape Town during the last week of August 2014. This will make it easy for international delegates from abroad to attend both conferences.

The local organising committee of TTP-8 has been invited to attend the next PARSA council meeting, scheduled for 28 August 2012, where possible PARSA involvement in TTP-8 will hopefully be finalised.

This is my last letter to members as President of PARSA. The three-year term of office has really flown by! We can look back on successful conferences at Drakensville, KZN (2010) and Stellenbosch (2011), and look forward to the 2012 conference in Bloemfontein, the 2013 conference in Potchefstroom and the 2014 international conference in Skukuza. The revamped electronic newsletter, which has earned nothing but praise, is also a milestone in the history of PARSA's development.

I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the other council members for their hard work behind the scenes. Last, but not least, my sincere thanks to all PARSA members for loyal support.

Regards
Banie Penzhorn
President



Prof Banie Penzhorn
(President: PARSA)

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Next Issue...

For the next issue we are looking for the following contributions:

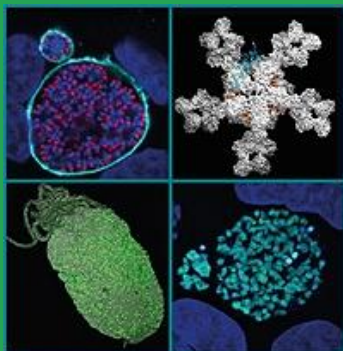
- Feature articles on research being done in your institute (with photos).
- Summary on the life and work of a respected and well-known parasitologist.
- Student abstracts from across southern Africa conveying the various research being done on parasites in Africa.
- Reviews and photos of the parasitological conferences and workshops attended.
- News to be distributed including job and bursary opportunities, post-graduate project opportunities and awards won by our PARSA members.

Due: October 2012

Please note...

Please note that most of this information is also available on the PARSA website as well as some additional information not present here. Check it out at:

www.parsa.ac.za



2012 Conferences

57th Annual meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists

4 August – 7 August 2012
San Diego, CA

The meeting promises to deliver a very exciting program and will bring together scientists from academia, industry, government and private practitioners. With the growing concerns around parasiticide resistance, the changing environment and the launch of many new products for the control of pests and parasites there has never been a better time to attend this meeting.

www.aavp.org/about-us/aavp-annual-meeting

XXIV International Congress of Entomology (ICE 2012)

19 August – 24 August 2012
Daegu City, South Korea

The Entomology Congress will be a great opportunity to learn about the advances made in the science of entomology in the recent past, and promote dialogue and establish collaboration between the entomologists from different continents.

<http://www.ice2012.org/>

31th International Symposium of the European Society of Nematologists

23 September – 27 September 2012
Adana, Turkey

The annual symposium will be held in Turkey in 2012. *Adana* is located in the East Mediterranean region of Turkey and has always been an important agricultural area of Turkey as well as a region with fascinating geography, history and culture. More information will be posted on the website.

www.esn-online.org

XVIII International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria XLVIII Congress of the Brazilian Society of Tropical Medicine

23 September – 27 September 2012
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The theme of the Congress: “Neglected Tropical Diseases” is adequate for a Country that holds such a varied biome and the largest tropical forest of the world. The Amazon Region covers 40% of South America's and 5% of the world's surface, with 61% of its territory inside Brazil. As a consequence of having the largest biodiversity of this Planet, several tropical diseases threaten the population and are the object of concerns and researches.

<http://ictmm2012.ioc.fiocruz.br/index.html>

Challenges in Malaria Research

10 October – 12 October 2012
Basel, Switzerland

Challenges in Malaria Research will see internationally renowned speakers present their insights into malaria elimination, including social science and policies; Artemisinin resistance; new drugs; vaccines; diagnostic challenges and vector controls. Attendees of Challenges in Malaria Research will learn about the latest developments in key areas and initiatives that are at the forefront of malaria research.

www.challenges-in-malaria-research.com

3rd Neotropical Parasitology Congress: Global Parasitology

5 November – 10 November 2012
Lima, Peru

In the 3rd International Congress of Neotropical Parasitology we developed roundtables, lectures, oral presentations and poster presentation about parasitology in neotropical region.

www.aphiaperu.com/

Book News

A new book has just hit the shelves in South Africa, called “*The Story of Life & the Environment: An African Perspective*”. Although this book is not a parasitology based book, two of our own PARSA members are authors for this amazing book and deserve the recognition for it.

The Story of Life and the Environment is a book that belongs in many places - as a reference book in all our libraries; a teaching textbook in science classrooms and university lecture halls; and a family education resource in every home.

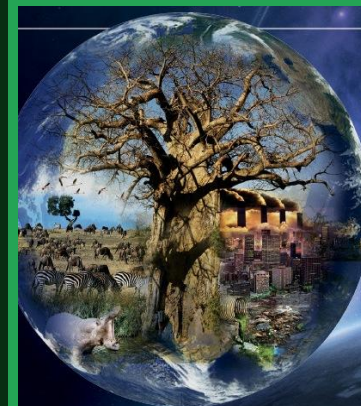
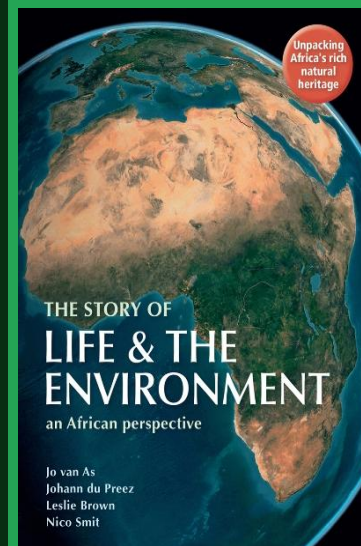
It presents some of the most important ideas in the life sciences, and makes it exciting and accessible to the public without losing the complexity of the scientific knowledge at stake. The rich interplay between high-quality illustrations and a flowing science-accurate narrative, takes us from the early origins of humankind to the contemporary problems that threaten the ecosystems in which we live and hope to survive.

The Story of Life and the Environment starts at the beginning of time. It shows how our universe and solar system came about and how our planet has transformed over more than 4.567 billion years. It explores this biodiversity and the processes that resulted in the divergent living creatures that share this planet with us. It explains the workings of ecosystems and how environmental factors act in sustaining all the ecosystems of our planet.

We are the generation that can make a difference not only to our own lives, but also to the lives of following generations. If we are to make that difference and become responsible citizens of Earth, all of us will have to become actively involved in protecting the environment. We can do this by educating people about the dangers of habitat destruction, pollution and the irresponsible use of natural resources. To illustrate how this can be achieved, the concluding chapter of *The Story of Life and the Environment* is about how to care for our planet.

Humans are clever and resourceful and have the ability to adapt and survive, as has been shown throughout the ages. However, if our life-support systems fail, we are lost. We have only one Earth - and nowhere else to go.

Congratulations Prof Jo van As and Prof Nico Smit on this fantastic publication!!




International Workshop on Symbiotic Copepoda 2013

Susan Dippenaar

University of Limpopo



The Second International Workshop on Symbiotic Copepoda (IWOSC) will be held from 30 June – 5 July 2013 at the University of Limpopo, Department of Biodiversity, Mankweng, South Africa. The workshop is a follow-up of the first IWOSC, held during December 2010 at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, U.S.A., and still aims to combat the declining number of experts in our field. Thus, we want to train and recruit more young scientists to maintain the scientific legacy of our smaller, but important, group within the global copepod community. This workshop differs from the one offered a week prior to the triennial International Conference on Copepoda (ICOC) by the World Association of Copepodologists (WAC) to selected young scientists, as it is organized independent of WAC (but with their consent) and will exclude the free-living copepod groups. It focuses on symbiotic copepods and includes collecting methods from different host groups, methods of working with and identifying the material, as well as using computer software methods for organizing illustrations into plates. Students will have the opportunity to interact with peers as well as well-known copepodologists such as Prof Ju-Shey Ho and will have the opportunity to bring their own material to the workshop to receive assistance with problems encountered. As with the previous workshop, participants will have the opportunity to submit the presented paper (see preliminary program) for publication in the international journal *Zoosymposia* (which is the sister journal of *Zootaxa*).

Since it is necessary to compile a preliminary mailing list of student participants for this workshop (currently there is a limit of 20 – 30 students), it is important for us to know about researchers and students, from your laboratory, who are interested in attending the workshop. A registration fee of R1000 (South African Rand) will be required from all participants, which will be used partly to cover costs for the welcome reception dinner, morning and afternoon tea, lunches and daily transport from Bolivia Lodge to the University and back. It is thus recommended that all participants reserve accommodation at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane. Bolivia Lodge is walking distance from the Mall of the North and offers a range of accommodation and provides breakfast (@ R105.00 per person) and dinner (@ R130.00 per person) if desired. More information about Bolivia Lodge can be obtained from their website, <http://www.bolivialodge.co.za/>.

The preliminary workshop program is as follows:

- **Sunday 30 June 2013:** Arrival, registration and welcome dinner at Bolivia Lodge.
- **Monday 1 July 2013:** Research presentations (oral & poster) and discussion at UL.
- **Tuesday 2 July 2013:** Introduction to the morphology of symbiotic copepods found on invertebrates. Workshop on copepods associated with marine invertebrates (including examining possible hosts for infection, collection and preservation, dissection of a copepod and using keys to preliminary identify a copepod and curating of collected and dissected material).
- **Wednesday 3 July 2013:** Introduction to the morphology of symbiotic copepods found on marine vertebrates. Workshop on copepods associated with marine vertebrates (including examining possible hosts for infection, collection and preservation, dissection of a copepod and using keys to preliminary identify a copepod and curating of collected and dissected material).
- **Thursday 4 July 2013:** Introduction to the morphology of symbiotic copepods and branchiurans found on freshwater fish. Workshop on copepods and branchiurans associated with freshwater fish (including examining possible hosts for infection, collection and preservation, dissection of a copepod/branchiuran and using keys to preliminary identify a copepod/branchiuran and curating of collected and dissected material).
- **Friday 5 July 2013:** Workshop on methods and techniques used in preparation of manuscripts (e.g. using of different software programmes and preparing line diagrams etc.). Farewell dinner.
- **Saturday 6 July 2013:** Departure.

We would really appreciate if you could respond by **30 September 2012**. A website with updated information will be created in due course. If you require further details or a formal invitation to this workshop to facilitate procurement of university travel funds in advance, please do not hesitate to contact me (susan.dippenaar@ul.ac.za; Tel: +27 15 268 3112).

Journal News

Information on a new open access journal –
International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife

The ***International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife (IJP: PAW)*** publishes the results of original research on parasites of all wildlife, invertebrate and vertebrate. This includes free-ranging, wild populations, as well as captive wildlife, semi-domesticated species (e.g. reindeer) and farmed populations of recently domesticated or wild-captured species (e.g. cultured fishes).

Articles on all aspects of wildlife parasitology are welcomed including taxonomy, biodiversity and distribution, ecology and epidemiology, population biology and host-parasite relationships. The impact of parasites on the health and conservation of wildlife is seen as an important area covered by the journal especially the potential role of environmental factors, for example climate. Also important to the journal is 'one health' and the nature of interactions between wildlife, people and domestic animals, including disease emergence and zoonoses.

The principal form of publication is the full-length paper which contains substantial, original research. The Journal also commissions papers with emphasis on shorter, focused reviews of topical and emerging issues as well as strategically important subjects. The Journal encourages critical comment and debate on matters of current controversy in the area of parasites and wildlife via "Current Opinions".

This title is fully open access and therefore funded not through library subscription payments but through author fees. If you would like your article to be published open access, but you genuinely cannot afford these fees, then individual waiver requests are considered on a case-by-case basis and may be granted in cases of genuine need. Priority for this waiver programme will be given to applications by authors from countries eligible for the Research4Life programme (see <http://www.research4life.org/institutions.html>).

Editors in Chief:

Lydden Polley
 (University of Saskatchewan, Canada)

Andrew Thompson
 (Murdoch University, Australia)

Sponsored by:

Australian Society for Parasitology



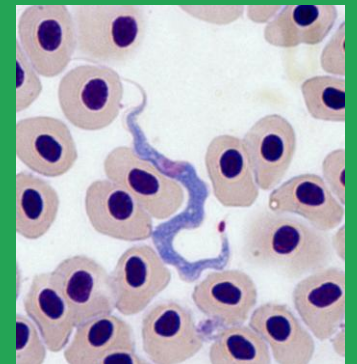
PARSA Application

The application form for new members is available on the PARSA website or from the PARSA secretary. The current joining fees are R80 per member thereafter it is R100 per year to maintain membership.

The application form can be sent to the PARSA secretary:

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Members

The Parasitology Society of Southern Africa currently has 139 members from around the world. Memberships of members that are 3 years in arrears will be terminated.