

# Minutes

## IAVS General Assembly, Brno, Czech Republic

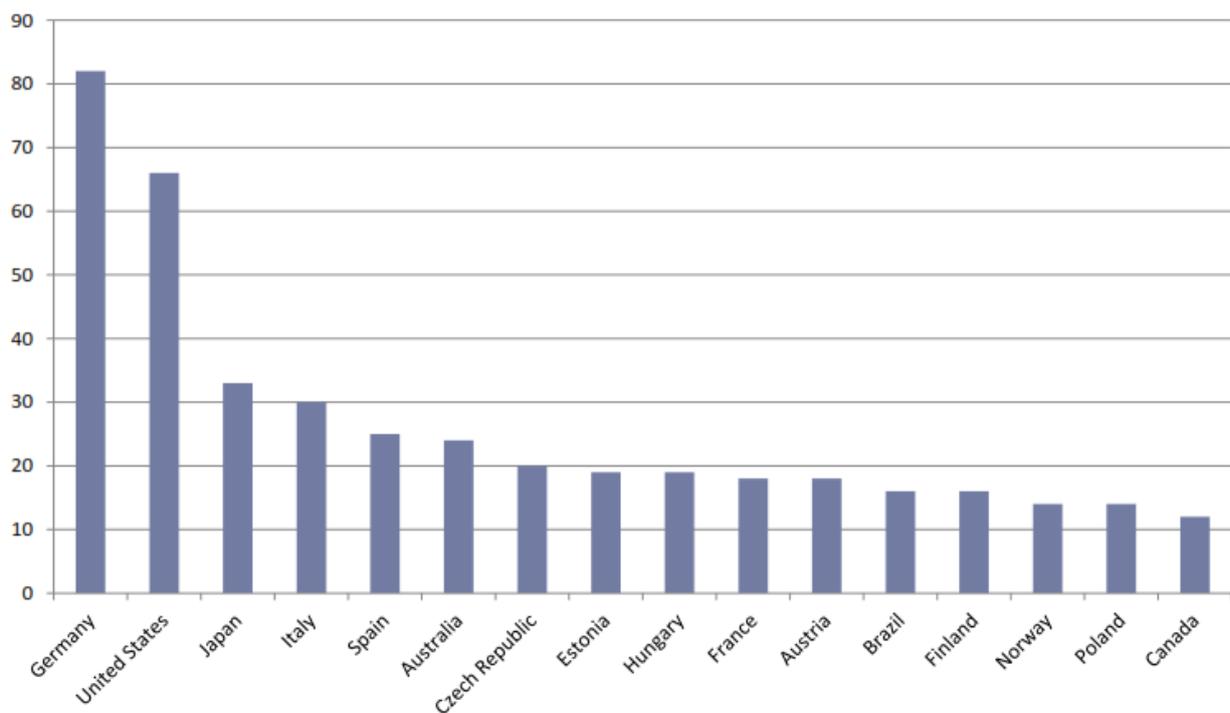
**Time: Friday, July 24 16:15-17:15**

**Location: Congress Hall A&B, Hotel Voroněž**

The General Assembly was opened by President Martin Diekmann, who presented the following:

### 1. Membership report

The number of IAVS members is stable to increasing; details for the top 20 countries are shown below (based on those members who had renewed by July 2015). Germany currently has the most members, with the United States being second highest.



### 2. Council business

Council business (including Minutes from 2015 meetings of the outgoing and newly elected councils at Brno) will be printed in the *IAVS Bulletin* 2015/2. Highlights of the year include

- There has been a change in the bylaws of the European Dry Grassland group to expand the geographic scope. Accordingly the name has been changed to the Eurasian Dry Grassland Group
- The income for IAVS has increased slightly, primarily through our journals and profit share arrangement with the publisher (Wiley).
- The IAVS Business Office (FASEB) will develop a symposium website to be in place for the Brazil meeting in 2016
- Reports were submitted from the IAVS working groups and regional sections

### 3. New Governing Board

A new Governing Board was elected at the meeting of the new Council:

- Martin Diekmann was re-elected to serve as President
- Susan Wiser was re-elected to serve as Secretary
- Javier Loidi was re-elected to serve as a Vice President
- Alessandra Fidelis, Peter Minchin, Pavel Krestov and Monika Janišová were newly elected to serve as Vice Presidents

#### 4. Publications (presented by Robert Peet)

The journals are doing well. The 2014 impact factors were released in June. AVS increased a bit from a ranking of 2.416 to 2.548, while JVS increased substantially from 3.372 to 3.709. AVS and JVS are now at all-time highs in the rankings of Ecology journals, Forestry journals and Plant Sciences journals (see table below). Our past and present Chief Editors and their Associate Editors and Editorial Boards are to be congratulated.

Year	Ecology		Forestry		Plant Sciences	
	JVS	AVS	JVS	AVS	JVS	AVS
2014	31	56	2	5	25	52
2013	35	58	3	7	27	55
2012	45	61	3	8	38	58
2011	47	75	3	15	44	74
2010	49	66	2	9	39	65
2009	49	77	2	15	36	79
2008	51	72	5	15	39	71

The full report from the Publications Officer is published with the Council Minutes.

#### 5. Meetings reports

##### 5.1. Pirenópolis, Brazil, 2016 (presented by John Hay)

The 59<sup>th</sup> IAVS symposium will be held in Pirenópolis, Brazil from 12–17 June. The theme will be ‘Conservation of Plant Communities: from Environmental Drivers to Ecosystem Services’

Important dates are:

15 September 2015

18 December 2015

25 February 2016

15 April 2016

10 May 2016

Website and online registration opens

Deadline for special session proposals

Deadline for abstract submission

Deadline for early registration

Deadline for registration

1–2 day pre-symposium excursions will start in Brasília and end in Pirenópolis. They will include:

- Chapada dos Veadeiros (600 km)
- Parque Estadual da Serra de Caldas Novas (550 km)
- Environs of Brasília (100 km)
- Architecture of Brasilia (100 km)

Longer pre-symposium excursions will include:

- Atlantic Forest and Cerrado (São Paulo) (4–5 days)
- National Park of Catimbau (5–6 days)

Mid-symposium excursions will include:

- Parque Estadual dos Pirenéus
- Reserva Vaga Fogo
- Waterfalls
- Local cultural sites

Post-symposium excursions will include:

- National Park of Chapada dos Veadeiros and environs (5–6 days)
- Amazon near Manaus (6–8 days)

Pirenópolis is located in the central region of Brazil. The dominant vegetation is Cerrado (savanna) with a large variation in physiognomy. The historical city of Pirenópolis is approximately 190 km west of Brasília (2 h 30 min travel). The conference venue will be the Congress Hotel Pousada dos Pirenéus, which has capacity for hosting congress of up to 1000 participants and a recent history of hosting several national and international events. Brasilia is serviced by many airlines. Bus transport will be available to and from the Brasilia International airport to and from the congress. All major car rental companies have stands at the Brasilia airport.

## **5.2. Palermo, Italy, 2017 (presented by Riccardo Guarino)**

The symposium will be held June 20 - 24 (Tuesday-Saturday). The theme will be “Vegetation patterns in natural and cultural landscapes”. The pre-symposium excursion will be from June 11 - 18 (Sunday-Sunday). The focus will be on coastal landscapes of Sicily: Along the Sicilian coast, from Capo San Vito (NW Sicily) to Capo Passero (SE Sicily), including two days on the Island of Marettimo (max 30 participants). The post-symposium excursion will be from June 25 - July 1 (Sunday-Sunday) and will visit the Sicilian Mountains (for well-trained hikers): Etna, Nebrodi, Madonie (max 30 participants).

The symposium venue will be the Palermo Botanical Garden.

## **5.3 Bozeman, Montana, USA, 2018 (presented by Peter Minchin and Dave Roberts)**

The symposium will be held 22–27 July, 2018. It will be held in a convention center with capacity for 500+ people. The venue can be readily reached by connections to Bozeman-Yellowstone international airport. There are plenty of hotel rooms as well as student dormitories for budget accommodation. Mid-symposium excursion ideas include the Gallatin Mountains, Yellowstone National Park, Three Forks and Beartrap Canyon, Fairy Lake and Bridger Mountains and Custer National Forest and Beartooth Pass. The pre-symposium excursion will be 3–4 days and will go to Beartooth Pass, Yellowstone National Park and

Grand Teton National Park. The post-symposium excursion will be 4–5 days and will go to Flathead Lake, Crown of the Continent and Glacier National Park.

## **6. IAVS Awards (presented by Susan Wiser)**

- Announcement of Student awards for 2013
  - Young scientist Oral Presentation Award:

### First

Inga Hiiesalu (Estonia): “Belowground vs aboveground plant richness in a long-term grassland management experiment”

### Honorable mention

Jana Eichel (Germany): “Linking plant traits to a geomorphic disturbance gradient: the biogeomorphic window concept for lateral moraines”

Stefanie Stenzel (Germany): “Support monitoring of habitat types with remote sensing — „Yes we can!“ or „See the limits!“

Mária Májeková (Czech Republic): “Evaluating functional diversity: missing trait data and the importance of species abundance structure and data transformation”

- Young scientist Poster Award:

### First

Sonya Geange (Australia): “Plasticity in water use traits in Australian alpine plants”

### Honorable mention

Gianmaria Bonari (Italy): “Management effect on diversity of plants and insects in semi-natural grasslands: conflicts or reconciliation?”

Barbora Lepková (Czech Republic): “Seed dispersal by free-ranging herbivores and its impact on vegetation”

Emma Shidola (Namibia): “Assessment of vegetation diversity, structure, cover and the influence of fire in Alex Muranda research centre and Mutompo, Namibia using long-term data”

## **7. Items raised by the participants**

No items were raised

## **8. Thanks and gifts to the organizers**

President Diekmann thanked the keynote speakers and the symposium organisers including Milan Chytrý, the Vegetation Science Group and Mire Ecology Group of the Department of

Botany and Zoology from Masaryk University, Ta-Service and the others of the Local Organizing Committee who helped to organise the meeting and excursions.

The General Assembly was adjourned by President Diekmann at 17:15.