



International Union for the Study of Social Insects

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I hope this newsletter finds you all well, and that your work with social insects, be that research, teaching, and/or public outreach, is changing the world for the better!

The sharp-eyed amongst you will have noticed that my address (above) has changed. I started a new job in the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, this month. It's a pleasure to join the wonderful social insect researchers Professors Adria LeBoeuf and Lynn Dicks in this Department, and I'm looking forward to long hours discussing ants, bees, termites, and wasps with them both.

While we're currently going through winter here, I was lucky in December to spend some time in Costa Rica, where highlights included some amazing wasps and their nests, and my first encounter with *Nasutitermes* termites (see below). What amazing animals!

In this newsletter, I bring you important news about the upcoming (2026) International Congress, and roles to apply for at our flagship journal, *Insectes Sociaux*. Read on!



A Nasutitermes covered trail, and a Synoeca nest, from Costa Rica

IUSSI 20th International Congress 2026

Judith Korb, President

Join the Congress that Shapes the Future of Social Insect Science

From the intricate architecture of ant societies to the collective intelligence of bees, termites, and wasps, social insects continue to redefine how we understand cooperation, evolution, and resilience. Their societies challenge our assumptions—and inspire new ideas across biology, ecology, behavior, and beyond.

We invite you to be part of this exchange of ideas by submitting an abstract and joining us at the upcoming 20th International Congress of the IUSSI. This meeting is more than a venue for presenting results; it is a space to test bold hypotheses, share emerging methods, spark collaborations, and connect with a vibrant, interdisciplinary community united by curiosity and passion.

Whether you are an early-career researcher bringing fresh perspectives or an established scientist sharing insights, your contribution matters. Every abstract adds a voice to the collective, and every presentation helps shape where our field goes next.

Come share your work, challenge conventions, and be inspired by the remarkable societies we study—and by the people who study them. Submit your abstract by **31. January 2026 and register now**

(https://express.converia.de/frontend/index.php?folder_id=10514&page_id=)

We are looking forward to see you in Freiburg!

Judith Korb and the Organising Committee

News from *Insectes Sociaux*

Madeleine Beekman, Editor-in-Chief

A new year already. I am very excited about the upcoming IUSS conference in Freiburg later this year and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Since the last newsletter *Insectes Sociaux* has published its second Special Issue: *The overlooked biodiversity of ant associates*, guest edited by Jean-Paul Lachaud, Bálint Markó, and Gabriela Pérez-Lachaud, which was published in September.

Two new Special Issues are now open for submissions: [Foraging behaviours of ants](#), and [A glimpse into a little-known world: Organisms associated with social arthropods](#). Do check the website for more information (<https://link.springer.com/journal/40>). If you have an idea for

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a Special Issue, then do drop me an email.

I would like to invite expressions of interest to join *Insectes Sociaux* as an Associate Editor. I am particularly looking for expertise in molecular biology and expertise in bees. Because we have rather a large number of Associate Editors, the workload is manageable. You get to read interesting papers, get a feel for how the reviewing process works from 'the other end', but above all you will be joining a team of dedicated social insects' fans. Last, but not least, you will contribute to the health of our society, the IUSI, by helping raise revenue via the publication of *Insectes Sociaux*. What is stopping you from sending me an email now?

The International IUSI conference is also a time for change. As I wrote in the previous IUSI newsletter, I will step down as Editor-in-Chief at the IUSI conference in Freiburg. **We are now looking for someone interested in taking over the reins in earnest.** The job is rewarding, not in the least because of the awesome associate editors. It is a great opportunity for someone with prior experience as associate editor.

Insectes Sociaux is IUSI's most important asset. Come and join the team.

With best regards, Madeleine
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Supporting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Mark Brown, Secretary General

We were delighted to be able to fund in full bids for Congress travel funding from Sections that have historically been, and remain, financially less advantaged. As a result, we look forward to seeing as broad a diversity of members at the International Congress as possible.

If you want to contribute as an individual to our fund-raising efforts, please use the NAS-IUSI fundraising [link](#).