

Preface

The 87th Annual Meeting of the German Society of Mammalogy will be held in the heart of Europe – Prague, which we believe will give you a great opportunity to enjoy the magical atmosphere of this city while experiencing a stimulating and rewarding conference. Prague as the capital city of the Czech Republic, with its wonderful and diverse architecture, is among the most beautiful cities in the world. The history of this city, which has been shaped over centuries provides a breathtaking experience of culture, cuisine and hospitality. The meeting is being hosted by the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague and will take place from the 8th to 12th of September 2013 at the university campus.

The meeting features topics on mammalogy: a general topic on “Mammals of Europe: taxonomy, biogeography, and faunal relationships” and another specifically focused on “Wild ungulates: ecology, conservation, and management”. These topics have attracted numerous interesting contributions from participants from different countries. Besides these topics, a free session open for all topics from other fields of mammalogy is also included.

Mammals are among the most charismatic of all the animal taxa, have been fairly well studied in history and continue to attract the attention of biologists and other scientists till today. The first topic of the meeting focusing on “Mammals of Europe” aims to include presentations on biogeographic patterns of species assemblages, phylogeography, molecular genetics and its applications, species status and distributions of mammals in Europe. The second topic “Wild ungulates: ecology, conservation, and management”, will feature studies on ungulates, a taxonomic group which represents the most prominent wildlife in modern Europe. Ungulate species are among the most widely distributed; economically important and most intensively managed in Europe. Because of their sheer size and numbers, they have large impacts on their ecosystem structure and function, and have therefore become increasingly important from a management and conservation perspective.

We hope that the planned social program will be a pleasant and enjoyable experience for all the participants. Welcome party will be accompanied by a photo exhibition on mammals, with contributions from the staff and students of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences. A visit to the Prague ZOO is also being organized for the meeting participants. The conference will conclude with a farewell dinner and a concert of hunting music organised in the picturesque castle owned by the university in the town of Kostelec n. Černými Lesy situated near Prague. A post conference excursion to Doupovské Mountains with teeming wildlife and ecologically valuable habitats is also planned and recommended.

We hope that all participants will enjoy the experience of interesting presentations (both oral and posters), a pleasant and friendly atmosphere, and many opportunities to share their knowledge, which hopefully will be of great benefit to the further development of their research.

Prague, July 2013

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