

## ANT NEWS

### ANeT INDIA Meeting October 2017

MEENAKSHI BHARTI AND HIMENDER BHARTI

Department of Zoology & Environmental Sciences, Punjabi University,  
Patiala, Punjab, INDIA



From how contemporary tools and resources can complement studies of the Formicidae or how going digital can help understand complex system of ants, to finding ways to fight the fire ant invasion in Japan, the 11<sup>th</sup> ANeT meeting held in Patiala, India delved upon the trending topics in the field of Myrmecology. The meeting was held under the aegis of Department of Zoology and Environmental Sciences, Punjabi University, Patiala from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The conference was attended by sixty delegates from seven countries. Dr. Himender Bharti hosted the

11<sup>th</sup> ANeT meet, with the support of Dr. Hashimoto (University of Hyogo, Japan), Dr. Adam Cronin (Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan), Dr. David Lubertazzi (Harvard University, USA), Dr. Dirk Mezger (antbase.net, Germany), Dr. Masashi Yoshimura (Okinawa Institute of Science and technology, Japan), Dr. Dmitry Dubovikoff (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia) and Dr. Meenakshi Bharti (Punjabi University, Patiala). A total of 46 research papers were presented during the conference, covering a wide range of topics. A highlight of the meet was the participa-



tion of a twelve-year-old student of ninth class, Vaibhav, who presented his work on the use of ants as a deterrent to keep the elephants from venturing into human habitats.

The conference also served as the venue for the meeting of the ANeT core committee on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017, to ponder upon different issues and challenges faced by the organization. Dr. Bharti (President) appraised the members with the present status of ANeT, though noted that many influential members who were once part of the ANeT have slowly withdrawn themselves from the active participation. Furthermore, it was noted that the current administrative structure of the organization was in need of some revitalisation. Taking cognizance of the above stated facts, the members present at the meeting constituted a steering committee (Himender Bharti, Dirk Mezger, Adam Cronin, David Lubertazzi, Samana Annagiri and

Dmitry Dubovikoff) to find ways to revamp the organization. During the meeting it was decided to revive the ANeT Newsletter and Dr. Annagiri Sumana (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata) was given the editorial responsibilities for the same. Lastly, Dr. Dmitry Dubovikoff offered to host 12<sup>th</sup> ANeT meeting in Novosibirsk City, Russia, whereas Dr. Hashimoto, on behalf of Dr. Decha offered to host it in Kasetsart University, Thailand. Dr. Dmitry as well as Dr. Decha will submit an informal proposal to the ANeT committee soon and the venue will be confirmed following this. The India meeting was a great success, with many new partnerships formed, old ones renewed, and a great arena for students to interact with ant researchers from around the world.

We hope you can join us at the 12<sup>th</sup> ANeT in Novosibirsk – or Thailand!

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