

XXI International Congress of Arachnology
Canterbury, New Zealand
10–15 February 2019

The Second Circular

Dear colleagues,

Hopefully by now you've decided to come to the 21st International Congress of Arachnology and you're ready to register and start booking your accommodation.



Venue update

Due to circumstances beyond the organising committee's control, the dormitories at Lincoln University are now no longer available. Accommodation will be at the Christchurch Central City YMCA in central Christchurch, where there are many more accommodation options available. Transport from the airport to your accommodation will also be much simpler as there are two buses that go regularly from the airport to the central city.

Thus, the Congress will be split between two venues: Christchurch Central City YMCA and Lincoln University.

Accommodation and plenary talks will be in Christchurch at the Central City YMCA. Each day after plenary talks, charter buses will take delegates to Lincoln University for the rest of the day.

The chartered buses will only take about 30 minutes to travel to Lincoln and will give delegates plenty of time to discuss the fascinating plenary talks on the way to Lincoln and the day's regular talks on the way back to the city.



Accommodation

Accommodation is at the [Central City YMCA](#). They have dormitories, standard rooms, deluxe rooms and apartments. Book directly [HERE](#) and use the code **Arach2019** to receive a 10% discount.

If you wish to share a dormitory or rooms with other arachnologists, or have any other special requests, please email Julia at YMCA (julia@ymcachch.org.nz).

Please book accommodation as soon as you can. Rooms are subject to availability and some configurations are limited.

Breakfast can be purchased at the YMCA and is discounted if paid for at reception. Unfortunately, breakfast cannot be purchased online.

Plenary talks will be held at the YMCA each morning before charter buses take us to Lincoln University for the regular talks.

If you don't want to stay at the YMCA, there are plenty of accommodation options in the central city, but February is a busy tourist time, so don't leave it too late.

Registration

Registration fees	Early bird	Regular
ISA member	NZ\$520	NZ\$570
Non-ISA member	NZ\$570	NZ\$620
ISA student/retired member	NZ\$400	NZ\$450
Non- ISA student/retired member	NZ\$450	NZ\$500

Early bird closes 30 October 2018. Registration fee includes the conference programme, coffee/tea breaks, mid-Congress excursion, congress dinner and other social events (welcome reception, poster session, Russian party).

The registration page will be open very soon via a link on the ICA webpage. A registration code will be sent to all paid members of the International Society of Arachnology. This can be entered on the registration page to receive the ISA member registration price. If you haven't already done so, now is a good time to renew your ISA membership. US\$15 or US\$20 membership is cheaper than the additional \$NZ50 (~US\$33) for non-ISA delegate registration. If you have any questions regarding the ISA membership please contact the secretary of the ISA (jason.dunlop@mfn-berlin.de).

Plenary Speakers

We are happy to announce four excellent keynote speakers: Eileen Hebets, Prashant Sharma, Martín J. Ramírez and Klaus Birkhofer. Please see the meeting website for more information!

Symposia

The due date for symposium proposals has closed. Some excellent symposia have been suggested. Details of those accepted by the scientific committee will appear on the webpage and in following circulars.

Excursions

A three-day post-congress excursion in the South Island is still in the planning stage. We are looking to head over to the spectacular West Coast. The idea is to head to Westport via the Lewis Pass on the first day, then down to Franz Joseph Glacier on day two, and back to Christchurch via Arthur's Pass on the third day. This route includes the Great Coast Road, recognised by Lonely Planet as one of the top 10 road trips in the world. Further details and costs are yet to be determined.



Accompanying persons

The fee for accompanying persons has not yet been set as we are still researching costs. We hope to have fees set in the next week.

Accompanying persons, who pay a registration fee, will be welcome to participate at all social events, including the welcome party, mid-congress excursion and the Russian party. We plan to have three day trips. The fee for accompanying persons will include transportation, but will not include lunches or any admission fees. Possible trips include:

- Hanmer Springs, where you can enjoy walking or cycling in the forests and a soak in the thermal pools.
- A walk along part of the Crater Rim Walkway in Port Hills, which overlooks Christchurch, the Canterbury Plains and Lyttleton Harbour.
- An Earthquake tour of Christchurch, which includes a visit to Canterbury Museum's Quake City exhibition and a walking tour of the city.
- A walk in Riccarton Bush, Canterbury's sole remnant of kahikatea floodplain forest that's right in the city, followed by a stroll around the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.
- A wine tour of Canterbury vineyards.

Collecting in New Zealand

This information was in the first circular, but is repeated again as it is very important.

If you want to collect before or after the Congress, apply for a permit as soon as you can! All information can be found at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/research-and-collection/>

The most interesting arachnids in New Zealand are found on Department of Conservation land, which requires a permit. Use the interactive map at <http://maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer/index.html?viewer=docmaps> to see which areas are public conservation areas; just tick the "Public Conservation Areas" box at the bottom left.

Collecting outside of Department of Conservation land does not require a permit but you will require landowner permission if on private land.

The Department of Conservation website mentions species protected by the Wildlife Act, which consists of just two arachnids, *Spelungula cavernicola* and *Latrodectus katipo*. All other New Zealand arachnids are not specifically protected.