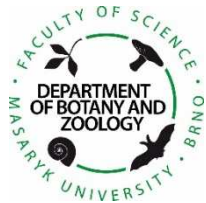


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First Announcement – 5th of February 2025

Dear friends and colleagues,

After it turned out that organizing the ISE at Brno in 2024, as originally scheduled, would not be feasible, and in consideration of the poll among the more regular participants (in August 2024) about preferred dates in 2025, I am now announcing the chosen time-window:

The 15th International Symposium on Enchytraeidae will be held in Brno, between the 2nd and 6th of July (Wednesday – Sunday).

The **exact number of days with the final starting and closing day are subject to a final decision** to be made based on the number of registered participants and strong preferences expressed by them (you!). However, they **should include the 4th and 5th (Friday-Saturday) of July** (availability of lab facilities for the “traditional” enchytraeid identification workshop).

I have chosen the time window with the best response (and best from the organisational point of view), but even so I feel bad about not having gotten everybody on board. I can only hope that the few, who indicated that they would not be available in early July, might still be able to reconsider and rearrange their plans so that they can also participate.

The symposium should include at least one day of an **enchytraeid identification workshop**, possibly preceded by an **excursion** to some nice natural setting (where also samples for the workshop could be taken). However, both will **depend on the level of interest** expressed by the registered participants.

All those interested in the biology and ecology (including more applied fields, e.g., ecotoxicology) of enchytraeids (terrestrial, freshwater or marine), are most welcome.

The ISE has a long tradition but has always been a small meeting as few specialists work on this taxon. The advantage is that it offers a great opportunity to meet among and with most of the active experts in the field, and present own results to a small, friendly group really interested in the topic. Therefore, **physical attendance** has continued to be the primary format of this meeting. However, if there is interest, we can arrange talks to be given and watched **on-line** (as done on the 14th ISE) for those who cannot come to Brno.

We will do our best to keep **costs** low, using our department’s facilities. I envisage a registration fee of ca 150 Euro per person, covering primarily costs for lunches, a social dinner, coffee breaks, and possibly an excursion (pre-registration and further input about the meeting duration will allow us to do a final calculation). On-line participation at the talks sessions would come at 50 Euro (covering costs for a technician on site).

Further information, including registration and payment details will be provided on the ISE 2025 website: <https://botzool.sci.muni.cz/ise> (to be fully set up within a few days and regularly updated).

With best regards (and spread the word!)

Jiří (Georg/e) Schlaghamerský