

**Succulent plants in the XXI Century:
systematics, ecology and conservation**

**32nd Congress of the
International Organization for
Succulent Plant Study**



**July 3 - 6, 2012
Havana, Cuba**

Succulents are a diverse group of plants, variously adapted by means of storage tissue to withstand seasonal drought and other adverse conditions.

Most succulents are widely enjoyed for their intriguing shapes and colourful flowers. Many species are grown as ornamentals or used for medicine. Furthermore, several of them are dominant constituents of dry ecosystems.

Due to degradation of natural habitats and overharvesting, many succulents have become endangered or extinct. Therefore, it is important to engage in multi-disciplinary studies to conserve and rescue the rare and endangered succulents, and to protect the already abundant ones.



32th IOS Congress background

This Congress aims to provide an international forum for academics, researchers and amateurs to exchange ideas in the field of biology of succulents and related topics.

The congress expects to foster networking and collaboration among participants to advance the knowledge and identify major priorities in the field that contribute to conservation of succulents worldwide.

Congress organisers

The National Botanic Garden, Cuba (JBN) is devoted to the study and conservation of Cuban flora, to raise public awareness on Cuban plant diversity and to provide education to undergraduate and postgraduate levels.



The International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) promotes the study and conservation of succulent and allied plants and encouraging collaboration among professionals and amateurs.



BGCI is an international organisation that exists to ensure the world-wide conservation of threatened plants, the continued existence of which are intrinsically linked to global issues including poverty, human well-being and climate change.



Congress topics



Systematics, phylogeography and evolution
Morphology and anatomy
Molecular biology, cytology and phytochemistry
Conservation
Ecology and physiology
Cultivation, propagation and breeding
Gardening and landscaping



Scientific committee

Dr. Nigel Taylor (UK)

Dr. Jaffet Nassar (Venezuela)

Dr. Alfonso Valiente (México)

Dr. Jorge Gutiérrez (Cuba)

Dr. Leia Scheinvar (Mexico)

Dr. Daniela Zappi (Brasil)

Prof. Len Newton (Kenya)

Dr. Erika Edwards (USA)

Dr. Héctor Hernández (Mexico)

Dr. Alicia Rodríguez (Cuba)

Dr. Allan Ellis (South Africa)

Dr. Reto Nyffeler (Switzerland)

Dr. Colin Clubbe (UK)

Dr. Urs Eggli (Switzerland)

Dr. David Hunt (UK)

Organizing committee

Professor Len Newton (IOS President, Kenyatta University, Kenya)

Dr. Héctor Hernández (IOS Vice-President, UNAM, México)

Dr. Sara Oldfield (IOS Treasurer, BGCI, UK)

Dr. David Hunt (IOS Secretary, UK)

Mr. Rainer Mecklenburg (IOS Assistant Secretary, Germany)

MSc. Alejandro Palmarola Bejerano (JBN, Cuba)

MSc. Lenia Robledo Ortega (JBM, Cuba)

MSc. Jesús Matos Mederos (CITMA, Cuba)

MSc. Alelí Morales Martínez (JBN, Cuba)

Lic. Duniel Barrios Valdés (JBN, Cuba)

Secretary Executive

Dr. Luis Roberto Gonzalez Torres (JBN, Cuba)

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General program

Tuesday 3 Welcome, lecture session & welcome dinner

Wednesday 4 Lecture session

Thursday 5 Mid-conference field trip

Friday 6 Lecture session, poster session & farewell ceremony

Saturday 7 - Wednesday 11 Post-congress field trips

Note: IOS Board Meeting on Monday, July 2nd.

Congress venue

Hotel Ambos Mundos

It enjoys one of the most privileged locations in the Old Havana. The Del Monte meeting room can accommodate conferences for as many as 100 people. It was the hotel where Hemingway stayed and wrote one of his novels.

(<http://www.hotelambosmundos-cuba.com/>)



Mid-congress field trip



(covered by the registration fee)

It includes visits to two of the richest plant communities of Cuba: the serpentine thicket and the dry tropical forest. Both of them are plenty of xeric endemic plants.



Some succulents you will see: *Agave legrelliana*, *A. offoyana*, *Dendrocereus nudiflorus*, *Harrisia eriophora*, *Melocactus matanzanus*, *Opuntia dillenii*, *Pilosocereus robinii* y *Selenicereus grandiflorus*.

Post-congress field trips



(please, refer to page 6 for post-congress field trips fees)

This all-around trip will cover most of Cuban plant communities from the coast to the mountains, from the very wet communities to the driest ones.

Some succulents you will see: *Agave brittoniana*, *Consolea millspaughii*, *Cylindropuntia hystrix*, *Escobaria cubensis*, *Leptocereus maxonii*, *L. santamarinae*, *Mammillaria prolifera*, *Melocactus acunae*, *M. harlowii*, *M. holguinensis*, *Pilosocereus millspaughii* y *Stenocereus peruvianus*.

National Botanic Garden, Cuba

It displays samples of the Cuban flora as well as plants from other tropical places. The palm collection is a remarkable one with all the Cuban native genera and most of the tropical ones.



The Japanese Garden is one of the main garden attractions together with the adjacent Eco-restaurant. Their vegetarian cuisine was the model for the vegetarian restaurant developed along the whole country.



The glasshouse exhibits a display of xeric plants from Cuba, followed by a large collection of cacti and the African succulents display. It is surrounded by large specimens of arborescent succulents.



Havana city

It is the capital city, major port, and leading commercial centre of Cuba. The city/province has 2.1 million inhabitants.

King Philip II of Spain granted Havana the title of City in 1592 and a royal decree in 1634 recognized its importance by officially designating it the "Key to the New World and Rampart of the West Indies". Present day Havana is the centre of the Cuban government.

Havana is the cultural centre of the country plenty of museums, galleries and theaters. Music is present everywhere, nearly every restaurant and hotel in town has a nice house band playing old favourites.

Havana is quite safe for a large city.

There are not major health issues or poisonous animals neither in Havana nor in Cuba.



Congress field trips

Post-congress field trip

5 days field trip. Fee: 770 CUC* = 670 EUR (minimum 10 persons)

This fee includes:

1. Bus transfer Havana-Cayo Santa María-Holguín-Baracoa-Santiago de Cuba.
2. Airfare Santiago de Cuba-Havana & transfer to the hotels
3. City tours
4. Accommodation (Single rooms) & meals
5. Touristic & scientific guides
6. Authorizations for accessing natural areas & for photo & video recording (not collecting)
7. Visit to National Park Alejandro de Humboldt, the most important centre of biodiversity of the Caribbean Hostpost
8. Visits to Holguín & Santiago de Cuba Botanical Gardens

Alternative post-congress field trip

2 days field trip. Fee: 250 CUC = 218 EUR (minimum 10 persons)

This fee includes:

1. Bus transfer Havana-Pinar del Río (Viñales)-Havana
2. City tour
3. Accommodation (Single rooms) & meals
4. Touristic & scientific guides
5. Authorizations for accessing natural areas & for photo & video recording (not collecting)
6. Visit to Reserve Biosfere Sierra del Rosario, Viñales National Park & Cajálbana serpentine ticket Reserve (the most important centre of biodiversity of West Cuba)
7. Visits to Soroa Ochidearium Botanical Garden



Congress fees & accommodation prices

Registration fees

Developed countries fee

300 CUC* = 260 EUR

Developing countries fee

250 CUC* = 218 EUR

Special fee for students will be available. (Valid student card should be presented)

This fee includes:

1. Congress box (bag, programme & abstract book, t-shirt, notebook, pen).
2. Welcome dinner & cultural entertaining.
3. Coffee breaks and tea breaks.
4. Trip to the National Botanic Garden (includes dinner & music entertaining).
5. Mid-congress field trip to serpentine thicket & tropical dry forest (includes take off snack & lunch at Varadero beach).
6. Farewell dinner & cultural entertaining.
7. Conference facilities.

* Cuban convertible peso

exchange rate: 1.15 CUC = 1 EUR (21/01/2011)



Accompanying person fee

150 CUC* = 130 EUR

This fee includes:

1. Congress box (bag, program, t-shirt).
2. Welcome dinner & cultural entertaining.
3. City tour to Old Havana and to Havana city.
4. Trip to the National Botanic Garden (includes dinner & music entertaining).
5. Mid-congress field trip to serpentine thicket & tropical dry forest (includes take off snack & lunch at Varadero beach).
6. Farewell dinner & cultural entertaining.

Lunch at Congress venue

50 CUC* = 44 EUR

This price includes 3 full meals.

Accommodation

The following prices include:

1. Accommodation (5 nights)
2. Breakfast
3. Airport-hotel-airport transfer

5 Stars hotels (Santa Isabel)¹

Double room 332 CUC (290 EUR)

Single room 508 CUC (442 EUR)

4 Stars hotels (Florida, Prado Ameno, Condes de Villanueva, Ambos Mundos)¹

Double room 232 CUC (202 EUR)

Single room 352 CUC (306 EUR)

3 Stars hotels (Los Frailes, Comendador)¹

Double room 214 CUC (186 EUR)

Single room 304 CUC (265 EUR)

2 Stars hotels (Park View)¹

Double room 178 CUC (155 EUR)

Single room 250 CUC (218 EUR)

¹ The Conference venue (Hotel Ambos Mundos) is quite near to all the other proposed hotels.