



# The Ecdysiast

The Newsletter of The Crustacean Society

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Dear TCS-colleagues,

As I step into the role of President of The Crustacean Society, I am aware that I do so following a line of dedicated and thoughtful colleagues. It is both challenging and exciting to take on this responsibility, and I will do my best to keep pace with the standards set by previous presidents while working for the continued growth and health of our Society and its journal, meetings, and membership programs.



First, I would like to thank Amanda Windsor for her leadership during her presidential term. Amanda has guided TCS through an active and productive period, and her work has strengthened the society in many ways, from our meetings and regional activities to our publishing and outreach efforts. I am glad that she will continue to serve TCS as Past President, where her experience and perspective will remain valuable to the Executive Committee and the broader community.

I also wish to thank Paula Araujo for her service as Latin America Governor. Paula has worked to promote TCS across Latin America, helping to build connections among carcinologists, support regional initiatives, and ensure that students and early-career researchers in the region feel engaged with the Society. At the same time, it is a pleasure to welcome Jessica Colavite as our new Latin America Governor. Jessica brings experience in regional networking and capacity-building, and I am confident she will further develop TCS activities in Latin America.

It is also my pleasure to welcome Jason Williams as the new President-Elect, who is at present also continuing to serve as Treasurer, accumulating both functions during this transition period. Jason has played a central role in ensuring the financial stability of TCS, including leading the negotiations and implementation of our renewed publishing contract with Oxford University Press and overseeing the Society's investments and budgeting. His willingness to carry this dual role reflects his commitment to TCS, and I appreciate his continued support and collaboration in the Executive Committee.

Of course, TCS relies on the efforts of many individuals. I want to thank all members of the Board, our regional Governors, and our various Liaison Officers and committee members for their work and ongoing support of the Society. From maintaining and growing our membership, to delivering scholarships and travel awards, stewarding the Journal of Crustacean Biology, organizing and supporting meetings, and maintaining our social media and communication channels, TCS continues to operate thanks to volunteers who contribute their time and expertise. I look forward to working closely with all of you over the coming years.



For my term, I see three main priorities, which build directly on the initiatives highlighted in this and recent issues of *The Ecdysiast*. First, we will continue to strengthen support for students and early-career researchers through our fellowships, travel awards, and opportunities to participate in TCS-supported meetings and courses. Second, we will work to enhance regional balance and inclusion across all continents, with particular attention to maintaining strong links in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, and to supporting collaborations that connect our members across regions. Third, together with our editorial team and Oxford University Press, we will support the visibility and impact of the *Journal of Crustacean Biology* as a central venue for high-quality crustacean research, including by using new resources to develop activities such as symposia, workshops, and thematic issues.

Looking ahead, we have a full calendar of events and initiatives already underway or in preparation, including our 2026 mid-year meeting in Stellenbosch, South Africa, continued participation in SICB, and support for several specialized and regional conferences, workshops, and training activities, as detailed in this issue of *The Ecdysiast*. These activities, alongside our grants and awards programs, are central to our mission of supporting crustacean research and researchers worldwide. I hope many of you will be able to participate in these events, submit news and opportunities, and encourage your students and colleagues to join or renew their membership so that our community continues to develop.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. I am honoured to serve as President of The Crustacean Society and will work to listen carefully, act transparently, and collaborate on behalf of our global community of crustacean biologists. Please feel free to contact me if you have ideas, concerns, or suggestions for how TCS can better serve you and support our field.

With warm regards,

**William Santana** — President, The Crustacean Society





# Thank you to our benefactors

Consider becoming a TCS Patron Member where you support the membership of at least one other member/student. **Thank you** to you all!


  
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 Les Watling





# The Crustacean Society Board Members, 2026

## President

William Santana  
Universidade Regional do Cariri, Brazil  
email: [willsantana@gmail.com](mailto:willsantana@gmail.com)

## President-elect

Jason Williams  
Hofstra University, New York, USA  
email: [jason.d.williams@hofstra.edu](mailto:jason.d.williams@hofstra.edu)

## Past-President

Amanda Windsor  
US Food and Drug Administration, Maryland, USA  
email: [amwindsor@gmail.com](mailto:amwindsor@gmail.com)

## Treasurer (Interim)

Jason Williams  
Hofstra University, New York, USA  
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## Secretary

Javier Luque  
Cambridge University, UK  
email: [jl2351@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jl2351@cam.ac.uk)

## Program Officer

Emma Palacios Theil  
University of Łódź, Poland  
email: [emma.palaciosheil@biol.uni.lodz.pl](mailto:emma.palaciosheil@biol.uni.lodz.pl)

## Executive SICB Liaison Officer

John Zardus  
The Citadel, South Carolina, USA  
email: [john.zardus@citadel.edu](mailto:john.zardus@citadel.edu)

## Europe Governor

Anne Helene Tandberg  
University Museum of Bergen, Norway  
email: [pansdamen@gmail.com](mailto:pansdamen@gmail.com)

## Africa Governor

Savel Daniels  
Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
email: [srd@sun.ac.za](mailto:srd@sun.ac.za)

## Asia Governor

Bee Yan Lee  
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email: [tmslby@nus.edu.sg](mailto:tmslby@nus.edu.sg)

## Indo-Pacific Governor

Rachael Peart  
NIWA, New Zealand  
email: [Rachael.Peart@niwa.co.nz](mailto:Rachael.Peart@niwa.co.nz)

## Latin America Governor

Jessica Colavite  
Brazil  
email: [jessica.colavite@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.colavite@gmail.com)

## North America Governor

Megan Porter  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
email: [mlporter@hawaii.edu](mailto:mlporter@hawaii.edu)

The Ecdysiast is published twice yearly in May and November and it is available in electronic form at <https://www.thecrustaceansociety.org/ecdysiast.php>. All the past issues are also available from the same web site.

Submissions for the May newsletter should be received by mid March, while those for the November newsletter should be received by mid September. All types of crustacean-related contributions are encouraged, including announcements of upcoming workshops and meetings, regional updates, meeting summaries (with photos!), new publications and any other crustacean news.

Send all material directly to the Editor:

**Kareen Schnabel**, [kareen.schnabel@earthsciences.nz](mailto:kareen.schnabel@earthsciences.nz)



# The Crustacean Society Liaison Officers, 2026

## The Chinese Crustacean Society

**Liaison Officer:** Jianhai Xiang  
CAS Institute of Oceanology, China  
email: [jhxiang@qdio.ac.cn](mailto:jhxiang@qdio.ac.cn)

## International Association of Astacology

**Liaison Officer:** Kohei Murakami  
Japan  
email: [fanmail@koheimurakami.com](mailto:fanmail@koheimurakami.com)

## The Brazilian Crustacean Society

**Liaison Officer:** Fernando Mantelatto  
University of São Paulo, Brazil  
email: [flmantel@usp.br](mailto:flmantel@usp.br)

## The Carcinological Society of Japan

**Liaison Officer:** Akira Asakura  
Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, Kyoto  
University, Japan  
email: [asakura.akira.6w@kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:asakura.akira.6w@kyoto-u.ac.jp)

## The World Association of Copepodologists

**Liaison Officer:** Rony J. Huys  
Natural History Museum, London, UK  
email: [r.huys@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:r.huys@nhm.ac.uk)

## International Research Group on Ostracoda

**Liaison Officer:** Renate Matzke-Karasz  
University Munich, Germany  
email: [r.matzke@lrz.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:r.matzke@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

## Latin American Carcinologist Association

**Liaison Officer:** Michel Hendrickx  
Unidad Academica Mazatlan, Mazatlan, Mexico  
email: [michel@ola.icmyl.unam.mx](mailto:michel@ola.icmyl.unam.mx)

## Colloquium Crustacea Decapoda Mediterranea Group

**Liaison Officer:** Enrique Macpherson  
Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Blanes, Spain  
email: [macpherson@ceab.csic.es](mailto:macpherson@ceab.csic.es)

## Terrestrial Isopod Biologists Group

**Liaison Officer:** Jasna Strus  
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia  
email: [jasna.strus@bf.uni-lj.si](mailto:jasna.strus@bf.uni-lj.si)

## Large Branchiopod Working Group

**Liaison Officer:** D. Christopher Rogers  
University of Kansas, Kansas  
email: [branchiopod@gmail.com](mailto:branchiopod@gmail.com)

## Amphipod Group

**Liaison Officer:** Anne Helene Tandberg  
University Museum of Bergen, Norway  
email: [pansdamen@gmail.com](mailto:pansdamen@gmail.com)

## German Carcinologists

**Group Liaison Officer:** Sebastian Klaus  
Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
email: [klaus@bio.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:klaus@bio.uni-frankfurt.de)

## Follow The Crustacean Society on social media



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@crustaceansociety.bsky.social



## Treasurer's Report for May 2026

As of April 27th, TCS had 343 renewed members (201 Regular members, 7 Financial hardship members, 10 Amateur members, 21 Patron members, 93 Student or Postdoc members, and 11 Financial hardship Student or Postdoc members). Our numbers are up slightly from the same time last year (335 in 2025). That's good news but please continue to encourage your students and colleagues to join: <https://scienceserv.com/tcs/membership/membership.php> or they can contact Elizabeth Terry-Humen ([eterry-humen@burkinc.com](mailto:eterry-humen@burkinc.com)) directly if there are any issues with payments.

TCS has now officially renewed with Oxford University Press (OUP) for publishing the Journal of Crustacean Biology (JCB). This is a 5-year contract (January 2027 to December 2031) and OUP projects an average return of approximately \$30,000 per year to TCS, which is in line with prior years. The new contract also expands benefits to TCS members, including members no longer being capped at having 12 pages waived. Through OUP, JCB content was used in AI Licensing (i.e., for LLM training) and proceeds from this use totalled over \$67K, shared equally with OUP. It is the intention of the TCS Executive Committee (President William Santana, President-Elect and Acting Treasurer Jason Williams, Secretary Javier Luque, and Program Officer Emma Palacios Theil) to use the additional proceeds for new membership (symposium or workshop development) awards in upcoming cycles. The Executive Committee approved supporting the Brazilian Carcinological Congress (Brazilian Carcinological Society) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2026 (\$800 in support of students' registration and \$200 for student awards) and Larval Biology Symposium (The Larval Biology Society) held in Woods Hole, MA, USA in September 2026 (\$750 for student awards plus membership for winners).

TCS investments in Schwab accounts now exceed US\$1 million. While this is an encouraging milestone, it does not yet place TCS in a position to fully fund our expenses (primarily student scholarships and management fees) through dividends alone. Thus, we remain dependent on membership support and JCB income, although this progress brings us closer to that long-term goal. In the upcoming months I will be working with BAI and the TCS Executive Committee on the proposed 2027 budget.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jason Williams** — TCS President-Elect and Acting Treasurer

*A running reminder: Be aware of PHISHING scams: no TCS Executive Committee would ever request money from our members! If you receive a suspicious email along these lines, please let me know of the issue ([jason.d.williams@hofstra.edu](mailto:jason.d.williams@hofstra.edu)) and flag it as SPAM. Unfortunately, these scams are getting more savvy (specific details mined from the web) with the use of AI.*



## Editorial Report for Volume 44 (2025)

### Highlights:

- Decrease in the number of submissions (82 in 2025 vs. 102 in 2024)
- Increase in the number of articles published (75 in 2025 vs. 70 in 2024)
- Increase in the percentage of submissions rejected (29.3% in 2025 vs. 24.2% in 2024)
- Impact factor: recent information from Oxford: "ImpCiteScore™ (Scopus) of 2.2, a new Impact Factor of 1.2"

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Submissions	118 (-8.5%)	104 (-11.8%)	104	102 (-1.9%)	<b>82 (-19.6%)</b>
Accepted	73 (71.6%)	49 (54.0%)	72 (75.8%)	69 (75.8%)	<b>58 (70.7%)</b>
Rejected	29 (28.4%)	41 (46.0%)	23 (24.2%)	22 (24.2%)	<b>24 (29.3%)*</b>
In peer-review by 31 Dec	16	14	9	11	<b>12</b>

\*all rejected by Associate Editors following peer-review except two (as "out of scope") by Editor-in-Chief. Two submissions have been accepted for the January-March issue.

### Number of articles by subject

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ecology	20	17	17	12	19	<b>20</b>
Phylogeny & Taxonomy	16	20	17	18	18	<b>20</b>
Reproductive Biology	6	5	5	1	6	<b>10</b>
Functional Morphology	2	6	–	–	–	<b>6</b>
Genetics & Genomics	3	5	5	7	4	<b>6</b>
Research Notes	4	10	3	9	1	<b>4</b>
Behavior	4	4	6	9	3	<b>3</b>
Paleobiology	3	1	3	2	1	<b>3</b>
Physiology	12	4	6	3	5	<b>2</b>
Reviews	2	2	2	2	3	<b>1</b>
Developmental Biology	6	–	1	1	5	–
Special Sections (symposia)	15	–	6	11	5	–
Aquaculture	2	3	–	6	–	–
Historical Memorials	–	1	–	–	–	–
Fisheries (exclusive of aquaculture)	1	–	–	–	–	–
Techniques & Methods	1	–	–	–	–	–
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>



### Home nations of authors (all authors per article) from the top ten nations

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
United States	76	97	72	57	68
China	22	40	27	14	55
Japan	20	10	22	18	25
Brazil	15	13	14	19	24
Spain	2	19	1	2	18
Canada	4	19	12	2	14
Korea	9	na	5	2	7
France	6	na	0	5	7
India	9	5	7	12	6
Taiwan	10	na	11	10	6

JCB invites organizers and presenters at conference symposia to propose a special issue of our journal. Oxford University Press will waive page charges as long as at least half of the authors are members of The Crustacean Society.

The current issue of [Volume 46 \(issue 2\)](#) cover features the shrimp, *Zenopontonia rex* (Kemp, 1922), associated with nudibranch. **Photo by Zhi Wan Tan (National University of Singapore), first prize winner of 2026 The Crustacean Society Photo Contest!** See [page 14](#) for more details.

**Peter (Pedro) Castro**  
 Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Crustacean Biology*  
[JCB@cpp.edu](mailto:JCB@cpp.edu)



**Consider publishing in the JCB, page charges are waived if 50% of authors are TCS members at time of submission**



## The Social Media Corner

Dear Crustacean Society Members,

It is always encouraging to see how lively and supportive our online spaces have become. Over the past months, many of you have taken the time to interact with posts, share updates from your own work, and help showcase the diversity of crustacean research to a broader audience. That continued involvement helps strengthen our community and keeps crustacean science visible to researchers, students, and the public alike. Thank you for being such an active part of these efforts.



### Community Growth Highlights:

Our social media presence has continued to grow, with a total increase of 339 followers across all platforms during this reporting period. Instagram showed particularly strong growth, and we were excited to pass the 1,000 follower milestone, now reaching 1,059 followers. Facebook remains our largest community with 1,128 followers, while X (formerly Twitter) has increased to 885 followers. Bluesky is also gradually gaining momentum and continues to grow steadily.



### Recent Top Post:

One of our most widely seen posts recently was the announcement of the upcoming mid year meeting 2026 in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The post reached more than 2,800 people, and it has been fantastic to see such a positive response and enthusiasm for the society. We are very much looking forward to welcoming many of you in South Africa for what promises to be a great meeting.



### Help Us Showcase Crustacean Research!

We are always keen to showcase the work and experiences of our community. If you have crustacean-related content you would like to share, such as images or videos from fieldwork or research cruises, announcements for upcoming events, or highlights from new publications, we would love to hear from you! You can get in touch with us anytime at [thecrustaceansociety@gmail.com](mailto:thecrustaceansociety@gmail.com).

If you're not already following us, we'd be delighted to have you join our online community. You can support and stay connected with us here:

[@TheCrustaceanSociety](#) on Facebook

[@CrustaceanSoci](#) on Twitter

[@thecrustaceansociety](#) on Instagram

[@crustaceansociety.bsky.social](#) on BlueSky

Warm Regards, **Karlotta Kürzel** — TCS Social Media Coordinator



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## TCS Fellowships and Awards

The Crustacean Society provides a wide range of grants and scholarships for students and postdoctoral researchers. The various options are presented below. Please make sure to apply before the deadlines. If you have any questions please contact the [TCS Program Officer](#).

### TCS Fellowship in Graduate Studies

TCS annually awards up to six US\$1,000 Fellowships in Graduate Studies in any research concerned with the biology of crustaceans. The fellowship is to support the research objectives and career goals of the graduate student. This award requires a letter of support from their faculty sponsor/mentor. Both the student and their faculty sponsor/mentor must be a TCS member at the time of application. Further details and requirements are in the application and can be downloaded [here](#).

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 31 March annually.

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### TCS Early-career, post-Ph.D. Travel Awards

TCS annually awards up to three (3) US\$1,500 travel awards for early-career researchers with a Ph.D. awarded within five years of the application deadline. Extension of up to eight years post- Ph.D. will be considered at the discretion of the Program Officer for applicants having taken a career break for family reasons. The grants shall cover travel to present, preferably in an oral session, results of their research in any field of study involving crustaceans at a TCS meeting (mid-year or SCIB meeting). Preference will be given to applications that will result in a manuscript suitable for publication in *Journal of Crustacean Biology*. The application can be downloaded [here](#).

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 15 March and 15 September annually.

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### TCS Student Travel Awards

TCS awards a maximum of five (5) US\$500 awards twice a year to support student attendance at TCS meetings (TCS mid-year/ICC and SICB) or other meetings taking place from January to May where there is an opportunity to present crustacean-related research. Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program, be the presenter of an oral or poster presentation at the meeting they are attending and demonstrate financial need for TCS support to travel to the meeting. Both the student and their faculty sponsor/mentor must be TCS members at the time of the application. The application can be downloaded [here](#).

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

15 March (TCS summer meeting/ICC) and 15 September (SICB/or other crustacean-related meetings happening from January to May of the next year) annually.

For additional information, please contact:  
**Dr. Emma Palacios Theil, Program Officer**  
[emma.palaciostheil@biol.uni.lodz.pl](mailto:emma.palaciostheil@biol.uni.lodz.pl)  
<http://thecrustaceansociety.org/scholarship.php>



## JCB Best Student Paper

Following the inaugural JCB student paper award in 2024, we are pleased to announce the second award for the best research papers led by students, submitted to JCB in 2025. The winners receive a \$150 gift card/coupon from OUP.

Thank you to the judges: Rachael Peart, John Zardus, Karen Schnabel, Megan Porter, Emma Palacios Theil, Bee Yan Lee, Savel Daniels, Jessica Colavite, Anne Helene Tandberg and Chris Boyko. The assessment covered 10 criteria to arrive at an average score: 1) Abstract clear and concise, 2) Research problem clearly introduced, 3) Introduction addresses how the present research fits into previous crustacean research, 4) Methodology is technically and scientifically sound and well documented, 5) Results clearly and directly address the stated hypothesis or purpose of the research, 6) Discussion addresses how the current research aligns with past research, 7) Conclusions state the most important finding(s); implications for further studies, 8) Figures and tables are clear, informative, and visually accessible, 9) Figure legends and table captions are clear and complete, 10) Overall scientific merit and impact

We congratulate the following winners:

### JCB Best Student Paper First Place

**Andrew G. Cannizzaro** with Corey J Lange & David J Berg (2025) A new species of *Hyaella* Smith, 1874 (Amphipoda: Hyaellidae) from a unique thermal-spring habitat. *Journal of Crustacean Biology*, 45, Issue 1: ruaf004, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcbiol/ruaf004>.

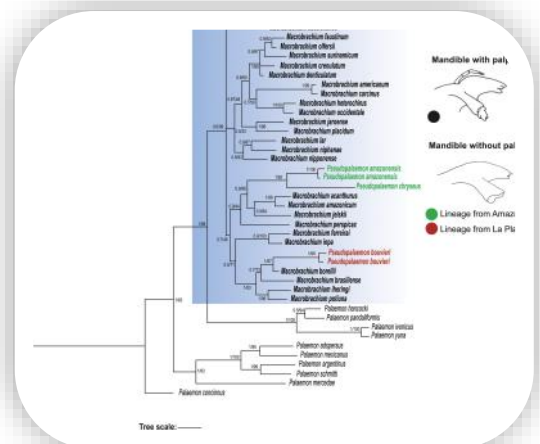
A new epigeal amphipod species, *Hyaella tiburtiniphila* n. sp., was described from a thermal spring in Nevada using morphological and molecular evidence. The species appears highly habitat-specific, occurring only in calcium carbonate crevices within travertine deposits at Hot Creek Spring.



### JCB Best Student Paper Runner-Up

**Thaís A Mota** with Sammy De Grave, & Fabrício L Carvalho (2025) Multigene analysis reveals that *Pseudopalaemon* Sollaud, 1911 is a junior synonym of the widespread genus *Macrobrachium* Spence Bate, 1868 (Decapoda: Caridea: Palaemonidae). *Journal of Crustacean Biology*, 45, Issue 3: ruaf048, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcbiol/ruaf048>.

The sole characters of the presence of a mandibular palp to distinguish the South American genus *Pseudopalaemon* from *Macrobrachium* had long been questioned. New genetic data for three species, including the type species, showed that *Pseudopalaemon* was not monophyletic and nested within *Macrobrachium*.





## TCS Student and Travel awards at the 2026 SICB Meeting

Thank you to the fantastic student contributions and the host of judges at the SICB meeting in Portland, OR. Please consider volunteering to judge student presentations in the future, as many hands make light work. We congratulate this year's student winners

Oral presentations were judged on the following criteria: originality, hypothesis/objectives, experimental design, implementation, validity of conclusions, graphic quality, oral clarity for content and answers to questions.

Poster presentations were judged on the following criteria: abstract, originality, hypothesis/objectives, experimental design, implementation, validity of conclusions, graphic quality, answers to questions, quality of writing and bibliography. The Student Presentation Awards are US \$100.00 each. For more details, see our website link [here](#).

The winners are:

### Best Oral Presentation:

Noah Doeden, Mireille Steck, Megan Porter (University of Hawaii, USA): "Determining the expression patterns of ultraviolet sensitive opsins in *Gonodactylaceus falcatus* "

### Best Student Poster Award:

Dain Kim, Yongsung Park, Sojung Kwon, Taewon Kim (Inha University, Korea): "Range expansion of tropical ghost crabs and its effects on the native ghost crab, *Ocypode stimpsoni*"

## TCS Student Travel Awards

Three travel awards of US \$500.00 each were awarded to cover travel expenses related to travel to the 2026 SICB meeting. The three recipients were:

- Jacquelyn Benson (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
- Sophia Hanscom (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
- Noah Doeden (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

## TCS Early-career, post-Ph.D. Travel Awards

One Early-career Travel grant of US \$1050 was awarded to Pedro Augusto da Silva Peres (Florida International University) to present the following paper at the SICB meeting in Portland: "Extinction risks in deep-sea populations revealed by genomic data and ecological niche modelling"

**Congratulations and wishing success to you from all of us!**



## Upcoming meetings



THE CRUSTACEAN SOCIETY  
MID-YEAR MEETING  
Stellenbosch South Africa 2026

**1–4 June 2026:** TCS mid-year meeting

Stellenbosch, South Africa

For the first time ever, TCS is heading to Africa! Join us in the breathtaking town of Stellenbosch, nestled in the heart of the Cape Winelands, at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), South Africa. Visit <https://tcs2026.com/> for more information.



International  
Symposium on  
Ostracoda  
BEIJING 2026

ISO20

**17–21 August 2026:** 20th International Symposium  
on Ostracoda

Beijing, China.

Visit [www.iso20.org](http://www.iso20.org) for more information.



Larval Biology Society

**27 Sep – 1 Oct 2026:** 2026 International Larval Biology  
Symposium.

Woods Hole, MA, USA

TCS is supporting this conference and is sponsoring student prizes. Visit [the website](#) for more information.

ICWL 2026

International Conference  
and Workshop Lobster  
Biology and Management

October 11–16, 2026



**11–16 October 2026:** 13th International Conference  
and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management

Centre Cultural Cap Vermell of Cala Ratjada,  
Mallorca, Spain

This meeting will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first one held! We are proud to hold it in the Mediterranean Sea, a cradle of cultures and the sea that was the origin of the scientific research on lobsters. Visit <https://icwl2026.com/> for more information



XIII CONGRESSO BRASILEIRO  
sobre CRUSTÁCEOS

● Búzios - RIO DE JANEIRO 2026 ●

**11–13 November 2026:** Rio de Janeiro - Brasil — Carcinology in the Anthropocene

Held at the Beach Búzios Resort, in the coastal city of Armação of Búzios, RJ. An online streaming option is available. Visit [the website](#) for more information



SICB 2027: Pittsburgh, PA, 3–7 January

SICB 2028: Los Angeles, CA, 3–7 January



## In memoriam

### Michael H. Thurston (1937–2025)

The last day of 2025 was a dark and sad day for the Amphipod community. Another one of their giants – Michael (Mike) Thurston - passed away: a deep-sea biologist, taxonomist, mentor and friend to many.

Michael Thurston, Emeritus Fellow at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), a respected oceanographer and world authority on deep-sea amphipods, passed away on 31 December 2025 at the age of 88. He was internationally recognised as a leading authority on deep-sea amphipods and a pioneer in benthic biology.

Mike's research career has taken him in many directions, including overwintering in the Antarctic for two years as part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (now known as BAS) and more than 50 expeditions and programmes. Through it all, he kept loyal to his true fascination: Amphipods. He focused on the taxonomy and ecology of deep-sea amphipods, particularly scavenging taxa. He described more than 75 new taxa, including one superfamily, two families, 13 genera, and 59 species (some remain in press). His name is commemorated in eight taxa, notably the genus *Thurstonella* and the family Thurstonellidae. He authored or co-authored more than 90 scientific papers and reports. His most recent works, even in his late eighties, included papers on revisions of amphipod genera and descriptions of new species from the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, Pacific Ocean and Atlantic abyssal plains, as well as editing key groups for the World Amphipoda Database. His dedication never waned; he continued publishing until 2025.

Beyond taxonomy, Mike contributed extensively to deep-sea ecology and advancing knowledge of necrophagous communities and abyssal biodiversity. He was also deeply committed to the stewardship of biological collections.

Following his formal retirement in 1997, he remained active as an Honorary/Emeritus Research Fellow at NOC, publishing and mentoring until late 2025. Since 2001, Mike has collaborated closely with Dr. Tammy Horton, our former WoRMS Steering Committee Chair, conducting research on scavenging amphipods at the Porcupine Abyssal Plain and inspiring a new generation of taxonomists.

His full obituary and a list of taxa he described can be found [here](#)



— Written by Tammy Horton, with contributions from Pam Talbot and Howard Roe

More fascinating reflections on Mike's legacy, e.g. remembering 'Forty years beneath the waves' are available on the [NOC Blog](#).





## Announcing the winners of the 2025 TCS Photographic Competition

**Judge panel:** Amanda Windsor, William Santana, Benny Chan, Pedro Castro, Jennifer Wortham, Jason Williams, Anne Helene Tandberg, Paula Araujo

**Number of members participated:** 20

**Total number of entries:** 46

Only one entry per contestant can be selected as a First, Second, or Third Place Winner.

**Theme:** Live crustaceans in their natural (or aquarium) environment

### First – Tan Zhi Wan

*Zenopontonia rex* (Kemp, 1922), is a striking species of pontoniine shrimp belonging to the family Palaemonidae. Found throughout the warm coral seas of the tropical Indo-Pacific waters, it is most famous for its close symbiotic relationship with various organisms, including sea cucumbers, sea stars and large nudibranchs. These shrimp seem ridiculously conspicuous, marked with vivid patterns—usually bright whites, yellows, or oranges—making them stand out brightly. But that’s the exact colour and pattern, that help them blend seamlessly with the colors and textures of the host organisms they inhabit. In this case, a striking individual was photographed atop an equally striking snail (nudibranch) train, in the warm waters of Tulamben, Bali, Indonesia. *Zenopontonia rex* is a fascinating example of adaptation and host-specific living in shallow reef environments. Though it may be small and easily overlooked, it plays a subtle role in the reef ecosystem by cleaning detritus from its host and contributing to the complex web of symbiotic relationships that characterize healthy coral reefs.

(the winning photo graces the current title page of JCB, see [page 7](#))



### Second – Iain J McGaw



A juvenile Puget Sound king crab *Echidnocerus cibarius* was stranded in the kelp at low tide in Bamfield, British Columbia. This species ranges from northern California to Prince William Sound, Alaska. Large adults can reach over 30 cm carapace width and can be recognized by their unusual shaped carapace and vivid red, orange and purple colouration. Puget Sound king crabs diet consists primarily of sea urchins, starfish and sea cucumbers. While adults are predominately found in deeper offshore rocky areas, juveniles tend to seek refuge from predators in the low intertidal zone.



### Third – Mike Kunze



The image shows a male specimen of *Ocypode ryderi* Kingsley, 1880 on a beach on Zanzibar at night. The otherwise black background is illuminated by the lights of a nearby building. Crabs of the genus *Ocypode* Weber, 1795 are among the most common members of tropical and subtropical sandy beaches of the world. During the day, they generally spend most of their time in self-dug burrows, but during the night, they emerge and scavenge the beach for food. If disturbed, they are known to dart for their burrows or the nearby surf in a zig-zag pattern, whereby they can reach exceptional speeds of up to 2.1 m/s, with single specimens recorded at up to 4.0 m/s. This ability to quickly appear and disappear, in combination with their nocturnal lifestyle and their oftentimes pale coloration, earned them their common name of ghost crabs. *O. ryderi*, commonly known as the pink ghost crab, occurs on the Eastern and Southern African coast and can be easily distinguished from other local species in the field by the striking red bands present on the proximal margins of the P1–P5 bases, carpi, and dactyli.



### Honorable mention – Christine White

Ghost crabs (*Ocypode quadrata*) are common on sandy beaches in Georgia, acting as mesopredators. They are important consumers of carrion, recycling nutrients back into the littoral food web. This crab is just coming out of its burrow to start looking for dinner at sunset in November.



## Theme: Laboratory-based crustacean specimen photographs (e.g., light or scanning electron microscopy)

### First – Keiichi Kakui

This is a male copepod of the family Sapphirinidae collected from the northwestern Pacific. It has a flattened body about 2.5 mm long. Its bright blue and red are structural colors revealed by strobe light. Under observation, this male sapphirinid was an agile swimmer like a tiny stunt kite. The Japanese fishermen apparently referred to sea regions where sparkling male sapphirinids gathered as “Tamamizu” or alike, using them as guides for selecting fishing grounds.



### Second – Katharina Kohlenbach



A janiriid isopod has been collected from the Jøtul Vent field in the Arctic Ocean in 3,016.5 m and belongs to a new bi-polar deep-sea genus (Kohlenbach & Linse in press), which currently consists of two species. Species resemble the genus *Jaera* Leach 1814, which occur in shallow waters in the North Atlantic and feed by scraping off bacteria and algae from rocks and fucus.

Similarly, this new species supposedly feeds on bacterial mats at the Jøtul vent field (and additional bacteria growing on its antenna, see picture). It is aligned with *J. tyleri*, collected from a whale fall in the Southern Ocean, feeds by scraping of bacteria from whale bones.

Surprisingly, a single specimen of the new species was found in the Amundsen Basin in 4,156 m, where no hydrothermal vent field is reported from. The question remains now, if this specimen was randomly dispersed or if it uses different chemosynthetic environments as “stepping stones” to distribute. In general, literature on isopod species at hydrothermal vents is scarce despite their remarkable adaptive potential and abundance, especially in the deep sea. Therefore, the occurrence of this species, which is closely related to the

shallow-water genus *Jaera*, offers insights into the colonization of deep-sea habitats.

The picture shows the ventral side of the head with bacterial filaments growing on the antenna and was taken with a Leica confocal laser scanning microscope (CLSM) from Senckenberg am Meer, Wilhelmshaven, Germany. After that, the software Photoshop was used just to crop and adjust the brightness levels.



### Third – Victoria Vandersommen



This sub-adult male's spiny armor is one of my favorite features. Some cumacean species can have many tiny spines that they basically turn into natural velcro, letting fine sediment and debris stick to their carapace. It's an easy way to blend in when you live your whole life on soft seafloor mud.

### Honorable mentions – Kristine White

This freshwater amphipod, *Hyaella spinicauda* Soucek & Lazo-Wasem, 2015, was collected from Lake Laurel, Milledgeville, GA. The 3D photo of the live specimen was created by stacking 43 images in different planes of focus using Zerene stacking software. The background was edited to be solid black, but the amphipod is unedited. These amphipods are an important food source, recycle nutrients, and are excellent environmental indicators.



### Honorable mentions – Zackary Graham

Color-related mutations are well known, but bilateral color abnormalities have been reported a total of 7 other times in crayfish (and dozens of other times in marine lobsters), making this by far the rarest crayfish I have seen with my own eyes. There are a few ways this can happen, but it is likely that an error with the first cell division after fertilization led to one set of color-coding genes on the left, and a separate set of the right. Typically, this results in gynandromorphism, where the one side exhibits male characteristics, and the other side exhibits female characteristics. But this individual is fully male.



## Hot off the press & Announcements



### In PurSUIT of Peracarids

The NSF-funded Peracarida PurSUIT project (<https://www.peracarida.org/about>) is building a broadly sampled phylogenetic framework for Peracarida using target-capture phylogenomics and transcriptomics. Our goal is to sample representatives of nearly every peracarid family, and we are actively seeking specimens and collaborators to help fill remaining gaps in our taxonomic coverage. We welcome contributions of extracted DNA, ethanol-preserved, RNAlater-preserved, or cryo-preserved tissues from any peracarid taxa. If you have material from rare, understudied, or phylogenetically important groups—or simply want to see your favorite peracarid included in the project—we would love to hear from you.

Additional information on contributing specimens and current sampling coverage can be found here: <https://www.peracarida.org/contributions>

Please reach out to Kevin Kocot ([kmkocot@ua.edu](mailto:kmkocot@ua.edu)) with inquiries.



### Registration

No course fee. Lodging and food are covered. Accepted students will need to cover their own travel expenses.

### Application

Please e-mail your CV, one letter of recommendation, and a one-page statement explaining your background and reasons for taking the course to: [peracaridabackbone@gmail.com](mailto:peracaridabackbone@gmail.com) by March 15, 2026.

For more information, see <https://www.peracarida.org>

### Instructors

Sarah Gerken, Kevin Kocot & Les Watling

[Learn more and apply >>](#)



# Integrative Systematics Workshop

Los Angeles, California, USA

2027



## Description

The Integrative Systematics Workshop will be incorporating molecular, morphological and fossil data, as well as final identification of challenging specimens.

# Introduction to Ostracoda

Beijing: 12.-16. August 2026

## Course Objectives

Theoretical insights into ostracodology and hands-on training. For early career researchers (MSc & PhD candidates, Postdocs) and industrial staff.

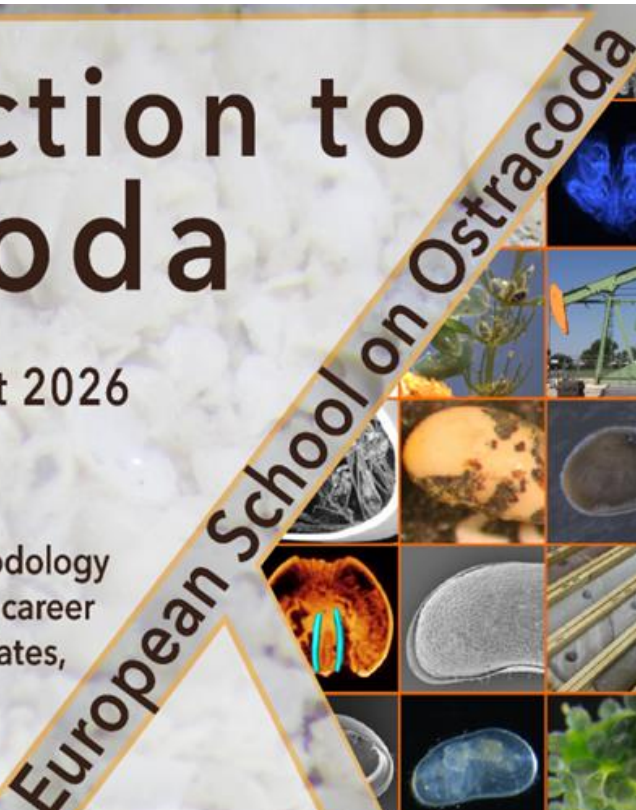
## Course Contents

Taxonomy, morphology, biodiversity, geological history, shell chemistry, (palaeo)ecology, and applied biostratigraphy of Ostracoda

## Course Venue

China University of Geosciences, Beijing

Local Host: Prof Dr Dangpeng Xi





The latest ICES Plankton Leaflet is now available:

Luz Fernández de Puellas, M. 2026. Centropages Krøyer, 1849. ICES Identification Leaflets for Plankton No. 203. 27 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.31016620>

This Leaflet is an update of Plankton Identification Leaflet 11 (G.P. Farran, 1948) in which 5 species were included. This new leaflet includes 17 species and is based on the Vervoort (1964) classification and the key taxonomic diagnosis based in Bradford-Grieve *et al.* (1999), Vives and Shmeleva (2007), Gubanova *et al.* (2014) and the website on marine planktonic copepods by Razouls *et al.* (2002–2025).

## 2026 NF-POGO Open Call for Shipboard Training Fellowships

*Open until 31 December 2026*

The Nippon Foundation (NF) and the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) are pleased to announce the 2026 NF-POGO Open Call for Shipboard Training. Now in its 8th edition, this annual programme aims to offer a number of shipboard fellowship opportunities aboard research vessels throughout the year, subject to confirmation of funding. To make the best use of these opportunities, the POGO Secretariat issues an annual Open Call for applications from early-career scientists, technicians, postgraduate students (PhD or MSc), and postdoctoral fellows who are nationals of, and engaged in ocean sciences research or studies at institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Applicants should complete and submit the online application form accessible via the link below. > [Link](#)



## Let us spotlight crustaceans

Our community is doing great work. Here are some opportunities to nominate our colleagues, or submit our data and images. Let's continue to raise the profile and image of the crustaceans we love.

## L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards

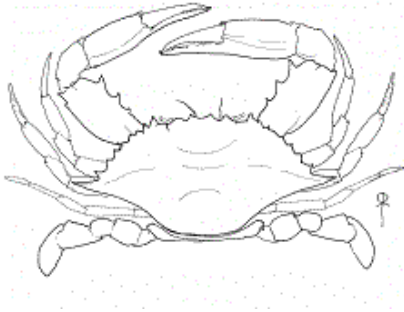


*Deadline 30 June 2026*

The Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO kindly invite you to nominate an eminent woman researcher for the 2027 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards. The 2027 Awards will designate five outstanding researchers in Physics, Mathematics, Computer and Information Sciences, Chemistry, Earth & Related Environmental Sciences, each working in one of the following regions: Africa and the Arab States; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; North America. One candidate will be selected from each of the five regions, eligibility being determined by the place where she has worked for at least 10 years, rather than by her nationality. Each of the five Laureates will receive an Award of €100,000. > [Link](#)



### CRUST-L@VIMS.EDU, the Discussion List for Crustacea



CRUST-L@VIMS.EDU is the email listserver for those interested in Crustacea. CRUST-L is an unmoderated open list, but you have to be a member to post messages to it. It has around 850 members! You can subscribe or unsubscribe to the list by following the links below. Use CRUST-L@VIMS.EDU to post messages to CRUST-L. The sympa software includes several features such as searchable archives, and a digest mode for intermittent mailings. If you have trouble with your subscription or settings, send a help request to [jeff@vims.edu](mailto:jeff@vims.edu).

How to subscribe to list: <https://lists.vims.edu/wws/help/user#subscribe>

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One a different note...

Behind the lobster merch, China's latest tech obsession could be a game changer [Link](#)





# Join/Renew The Crustacean Society!

Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Name (First, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address for Society communications (Please condense to no more than 3 lines, 40 characters per line, maximum)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of membership and annual dues for 2025 (Membership year is January 1 – December 31)

- Member (Online Journal) ..... \$ 100
- Patron Member (Online Journal and subsidize at least one [student] member) ..... \$ 195
- Student or Postdoc Member\* ..... \$ 35
- K-12 Educator or Amateur/Avocational Member ..... \$ 35
- Member in financial hardship\*\* ..... \$ 35
- Lifetime membership ..... \$ 2600
- 20 Year membership ..... \$ 1,400
- Denton Belk Memorial Endowed Fund Contribution ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Student Scholarship Awards Contribution ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Voluntary assessment to support TCS activities ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Individuals claiming student rates are asked to provide your mentor's name. Mentor does not have to be a member.  
 \*\* Individuals claiming financial hardship can apply to anyone, irrespective of rank/status; we request a short letter demonstrating the need for this reduced rate.

Mentor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Email \_\_\_\_\_

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**Send completed application form and payment in U.S. dollars to:**

950 Herndon Parkway, Suite 450  
Herndon, VA 20170

Phone: 703-790-1745; Fax: 703-790-2672  
TCS@burkinc.com

For questions regarding membership contact [awride-graney@burkinc.com](mailto:awride-graney@burkinc.com)

Federal Tax ID: 52-1173036

**Or register online at <http://thecrustaceansociety.org/>  
[here.](#)**