



FIRST CIRCULAR AND EXTENDED CALL FOR SYMPOSIA Nov. 2024

Dear members of the DBG, section Biodiversity & Evolution

It is a great pleasure to announce our 2025 **section meeting in Heidelberg**. We are looking forward to welcome you to our international section meeting from August 27th to 30th 2025 at Heidelberg University.

Founded in 1386, Ruperto Carola is the oldest university in today's Germany and one of Europe's leading research institutions and since its foundation Heidelberg University has brought forth many persons of renown – as researchers, teachers and graduates. The Faculty of Biosciences at Heidelberg University is one of the most attractive faculties for life science in Europe in terms of research and teaching. It covers a broad spectrum of research areas from molecular biosciences to biodiversity. Research questions are addressed with the help of all conceivable experimental and computer-based methods from structural biology to systems biology.

Botanical science has a long tradition in Heidelberg and founded in 1593, the Botanic Garden Heidelberg is among the oldest botanic gardens in the world. Major scientific works by Heidelberg botanists are inextricably linked to the garden, and its research and conservation collections are renowned around the world. To this can be added an herbarium harboring 350.000 specimens.

"**Frontiers in Plant Systematics and Evolution**" is the topic of our meeting and participants will have ample room and possibilities to meet their colleagues to discuss the broad spectrum of plant evolution, techniques and concepts, theories and prospects of applied and basic research. Nevertheless, there will be time for social interaction and extensive networking opportunities for graduate students, postdocs, established scientists, and others. The annual meeting of the Section Biodiversity & Evolutionary Biology of DBG will bring our members together and we hope that we all will explore current frontiers in plant systematics and evolution.

The meeting itself is structured by **plenary/public talks** (confirmed: Herbert Hurka, Osnabrück; Kirsten Bomblies, ETH Zurich) and **four thematic symposia** (open call):

Symposia:

1. Reticulate Evolution (C. Oberprieler et al.)
2. tba
3. tba
4. tba
5. Symposium „open topics“

Workshops (3 hours):

1. tba (27th August)
2. tba (30th August)



We are now asking for proposals of symposia. The program comprises **four** thematic symposia, which are open to be suggested. Please send a title, short abstract and concept, name of chair/co-chair and two speakers (one introductory, one keynote) who at best should be members of the section. Symposia consists of five to max. six oral contributions.

We are planning to provide space (room and schedule) for **1-2** Workshops (~3-4 hours). Please make suggestions if you are interested to organize such a module (20-25 participants).

The original deadline was communicated to be 15.11.2024, **this is now extended to 20.12.2025.**

The venue is the large lecture hall at the Centre for Organismal Studies (COS), Heidelberg University, Im Neuenheimer Feld 230, 69120 Heidelberg (coordinates 49.41802, 8.67403). Car parking is difficult in the area and on campus. However, parking garages are available in 5-15 minutes walking distance (max. rate per day 10 €). The venue is easy to reach via public transport. It is also recommended to arrange accommodation early, because Heidelberg is pretty well booked during the summer.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SYMPOSIUM AND/OR WORKSHOP PROPOSAL TO:

Prof. Dr. Marcus Koch, Heidelberg University
marcus.koch@cos.uni-heidelberg.de

We will distribute a second circular in Jan./Feb. 2025 providing a more detailed schedule and the titles and organizers of the individual symposia.

We intend to open the abstract submission portal for oral and poster contributions by the end of **February 2025** with a submission deadline set to end of **April 2025**.

By submission of your **abstract by end of April 2025** (max. 100 words), you can indicate to which symposium your poster or talk (15 min. slots) should contribute. Open topics will be also possible. Of course, as in previous years we expect to receive more abstracts for talks than we can present, and we have to shift talks to posters. Consequently, there is not only ample room for a general poster presentation with opportunities for intensive discussion but there will be also the possibility for a 1-slide poster short talk (90-120 seconds).

Unfortunately, the space is limited to c. 150 participants to allow and we may have to fill these places on a first come/first serve base. But details will follow, when registration is open in 2025. We are planning to close registration latest end of May 2025.

Currently we expect the following fees: Students (Bachelor/Master) max. 25 €/Ph.D. Students 50 € (Members of DBG 30 €)/normal participants 100 € (Members of DBG 80 €).

You will soon find any further information including the submission of the abstracts and registration on: https://www.cos.uni-heidelberg.de/de/DBG_Sektionstagung2025. At this link



you will also find some further information on travel, accommodation, and location of the conference venue. Please book by yourself, organizers will not arrange travel or accommodation.

Local organizing committee: Marcus Koch, Christiane Kiefer, Nora Walden, Markus Kiefer, Claudia Hauber