

SEH News

Report of the treasurer 2017

The report of the treasurer for the financial year 2017 is provided by the current officeholder Tom Kirschey (treasurer since 2018), based on the information provided by the former treasurer Susanne Hauswaldt.

The number of members is stable since 2013 (table 1). However, the number of “Ordinary” memberships and thus the number of members interested in *Amphibia-Reptilia* (AMRE) decreased. The highest increase is within the category “15 EUR”; these members do not receive AMRE either in printed form or as an online edition. The increase in “Student” members is presumably due to the special offer (60.00 EUR for a two-year membership, incl. AMRE).

The income category “Diverse” (EUR 23 940.45) includes EUR 9210.00 reimbursement of the SEH European Congress of Herpetology in Salzburg, as well as EUR 14 730.44 transfer from the SEH PayPal-account and the closure of an additional account for PayPal payments: DE60600100700954299705 (= savings).

Due to a change in bank accounts and in consequence wrong transfers, the printing costs for

Brill in 2016 seem to be very high (see financial report 2016), the actual printing costs were EUR 11 953.00, thus similar to 2017’s printing costs. The cost categories “Conservation funds” and “Mapping Committee” outline the grants paid to the following members: Da Silva (EUR 2235.00), Bellati (EUR 1992.00) and Zinenko (EUR 506.00).

Expenses in the category “Diverse” include reimbursements of travel costs to the SEH council meeting in Belgrade (in total EUR 1198.80), a payment to Museum Zmajski for jars (EUR 501.50), the maintenance of the SEH website, an abstract from the associations register and the layout of Herpetology Notes (EUR 621.00). Additionally, EUR 1380.00 for the layout of Herpetology Notes was paid via the bank account DE60600100700954299705, hence the total amount paid for the layout in 2017 was EUR 2001.00.

The differences between “Saldo per 31.12.2017” and the closing balance (see table 2) is due to additional EUR 317.85 in cash from the Veszprém auction and additional EUR 0.25 interests for the bank saving account.

The closing balance at the end of 2017 was **EUR 25 879.16** (table 2).

Table 1. SEH-memberships 2013–2017.

	Ordinary	Students	Online	Corporate	Honorary	Lifetime	15,-	Affiliated	Total
2013	146	13	23	8	3	3	50	2	245
2015	134	19	22	7	3	4	59	3	251
2017	108	24	31	7	2	4	74	3	253

In 2017, members were from 36 countries, with the Top 5 countries Germany (61), Italy (22), The Netherlands (17), USA (15) and Slovenia (13).

Table 2. Statement of Finances 2017.

Statement of our finances	Income	Expenses
1/1/2017–31/12/2017 (EUR)		
Balance brought forward from 2016	€ 10 861.29	
Membership fees	€ 10 261.00	
Bank interests	€ –	
Donations to SEH	€ 125.00	
Sales of SEH publications	€ –	
Diverse (e.g. Transfer Savings-regular account etc.)	€ 23 940.45	
Printing cost (Brill)		€ 12 189.10
Postal bank charges: account, cheques, postage		€ 133.98
Office materials, fax, stamps, phone		€ –
Notary costs		€ –
Conservation funds		€ 2498.00
IUCN		€ 162.00
Mapping Committee		€ 2235.00
Diverse (e.g. Transfer Savings-regular account, etc.)		€ 2408.60
Total	€ 45 187.74	€ 19 626.68
Saldo per 31.12.2017		€ 25 561.06
The balance of EUR is covered by the following account assets:		
Bank saving account		€ 4307.61
Postal giro account		€ 21 165.29
Cash		€ 406.26
Total		€ 25 879.16
Date: 15 Feb. 2018		

Report of the treasurer 2018

The report of the treasurer 2018 is provided by Tom Kirschey, who is in charge since the beginning of 2018. Taking over the responsibilities from the former treasurer Susanne Hauswaldt, Tom Kirschey checked the account and cash balances: SEH paid EUR 0.06 capital taxes for the bank saving account on 01.01.2018, resulting in EUR 4307.55 at the end of 2018 (see table 1).

Furthermore, there was a discrepancy in cash balances: the actual cash balance in the beginning of 2018 was EUR 436.26, resulting in a balance brought forward from 2017 of EUR 25 909.16. In total, EUR 434.26 of cash was deposited into the Postal giro account, thus at the end of 2018 there were EUR 2.00 in cash left.

Additionally, the table “Statement of finances” was extended by PayPal related categories (PP):

Balance brought forward from PP
 Membership fees PP,
 Herpetology Notes PP and

Total paypal balance at the end of 2018.

“Herpetology Notes PP” is referring to the publication fees in Herpetology Notes paid by the authors.

Since the PayPal balance at the beginning of 2018 and incomes via PayPal were listed separately, money transfers from PayPal to the Postal giro account are no longer counted as income.

In 2018 SEH had 214 members. As already noticed by the former treasurer over the last years: in years of meetings, people join SEH (mostly type EUR 15,-) but then do not keep up their membership in the following year. In 2018, 10 members joined SEH (3: 15,-, 3: Student, 2: Online, 2: Ordinary), but 49 members left; primarily members within the membership category 15,- (27). In 2018, members were from 35 countries, with the Top 6 countries Germany (52), Italy (22), USA (14), The Netherlands (10), Switzerland (9) and Austria (9).

The increase in costs for setting the layout of Herpetology Notes can be explained with the

Table 1. SEH membership 2017–2018.

	Ordinary	Students	Online	Corporate	Honorary	Lifetime	15,-	Affiliated	Total
2017	108	24	31	7	2	4	74	3	253
2018	102	20	30	9	1	4	47	2	215

Table 2. Statement of Finances 2018.

Statement of our finances	Income	Expenses
1/1/2018–31/12/2018 (EUR)		
Balance brought forward from 2017	€ 25 909.16	
Balance brought forward from 2017 PP	€ 4414.76	
Membership fees	€ 7902.94	
Membership fees PP	€ 3041.93	
Herpetology Notes PP	€ 5694.86	
Bank interests	€ –	
Donations to SEH	€ 125.00	
Sales of SEH publications	€ –	
Diverse (e.g. Transfer Savings-regular account, etc.)		6480.00
Printing cost (Brill)		€ 10 725.00
Herpetology Notes		€ 3565.00
Postal bank charges: account, cheques, postage		€ 102.66
Office materials, fax, stamps, phone		€ –
Notary costs		€ –
Conservation Committee		€ –
IUCN		€ 952.16
Mapping Committee		€ 2548.98
Diverse (e.g. Transfer Savings-regular account, etc.)		€ 82.80
Total	€ 47 088,65	€ 17 976.60
Saldo per 31.12.2018		€ 29 112.05
The balance of EUR is covered by the following account assets:		
Bank saving account		€ 4307.55
Postal giro account		€ 18 130.95
Paypal		€ 6671.55
Cash		€ 2.00
Total		€ 29 112.05
Date: 15 Feb. 2019		

significant increase in articles published. The significantly higher amount paid for IUCN is due to the fact, that in 2017 the payment only covered the European Habitat Forum (EHF) fees, IUCN membership fees were already paid in 2016. The 2018 payment includes EHF fees for 2018, as well as the IUCN fees for 2018 and 2019.

SEH grants (see expenses “Mapping Committee”) were paid to the following members: Federica Lucati (EUR 2000.00), Giacomo Rosa (EUR 500.00) and Edvárd Mizsei (EUR

506.00). Because of wrong bank account details, the grant for Edvárd Mizsei could not be paid in the first attempt; the money has been returned in the amount of EUR 457.02 (charging fees) and transferred again from the treasurer’s private PayPal account (EUR 500.00). Hence in 2019, additionally to the legitimate grants, treasurer needs to be reimbursed at one point.

Expenses in the cost category “Diverse” were for the maintenance of SEH-website.

The closing balance at the end of 2018 was **EUR 29 112.05** (table 2).

***Amphibia-Reptilia* – editorial report 2017**

In 2017, 220 manuscripts were submitted, which is higher than in the previous year (+14% compared to 2016). The manuscripts originated from all continents with the majority from Europe (36%), South-America (33%) and Asia (20%), and less from North-America (7%), Oceania (2.7%) and Africa (1.3%). We noticed a large increase of manuscripts from South-America (+13%), and a slight decrease from North-America (−7.5%). Corresponding authors came from 43 countries, of which the top five are Brazil (36), Argentina (22), USA (15), China (17), and Germany (12). In Europe manuscripts originated from Austria (2), Belgium (4), Bulgaria (2), Croatia (1), Czech Republic (2), Denmark (1), France (5), Georgia (1), Germany (12), Hungary (3), Israel (2), Italy (7), The Netherlands (2), Poland (5), Portugal (7), Russian Federation (2), Serbia (2), Spain (9), Switzerland (5), Turkey (1), Ukraine (2) and the United Kingdom (1).

According to the classification criteria chosen at submission, 111 manuscripts dealt with amphibians, 108 with reptiles, and one with both. Research underlying submitted manuscripts has been conducted in Central or South-America (49), Europe (38) and Asia (31) and less in North America (8) and Oceania (4). Thirteen studies were based on metadata on a global scale.

In terms of subject area, most studies focused on ecology (98) or conservation (82), the remaining manuscripts focused on evolution (37), genetics (33), biogeography (31), morphology (31), systematics and phylogeography (29), technical advances (25), ethology (23), statistical modelling (19) and physiology (14). Please, note that not all manuscripts can be unambiguously classified, thus these data are only tentative.

After reaching the highest value of ISI impact factor in 2015 (1.396) and a slight decrease in 2016 (1.287), the ISI impact factor showed a further decrease to 1.105. This is not surpris-

ing as the relatively high values in 2015 and 2016 were mainly influenced by the high citation numbers of the Atlas paper in 2014. The 5-year impact factor is stable with 1.162 and ranks *Amphibia-Reptilia* among the top herpetological journals.

Out of the 220 submissions, 54 were accepted (25%) for publication, 161 were rejected (73%), and 5 (2.2%) were withdrawn. The decreasing number of acceptations is related to the growing number of submitted manuscripts we experienced in the last years. Most of the manuscripts were rejected without external reviews by the editors or after the first round of external reviews. Only a few manuscripts were rejected at a later stage.

On average, co- and associate editors took 56 days to provide the first decision, and 85 days for the full turnaround (from receipt to final decision). Reviewers replied to the editorial invitation either by agreeing or declining the invitation responded within 2.7 days on average. Those, who agreed sent their comments within 22.7 days. A total of 57 articles and three SEH news were published in 2017.

We would like to thank the Associate Editors (G. Blouin-Demers, J. Brito, M. A. Carretera, L. Luiselli, T. Madsen, J. C. Marshall, M. Denoël, S. Dubey, G.F. Ficetola, U. Fritz, C.R. Gabor, J. Glos, B. Hossack, A. Ivanovic, J. Lea, A. Martel, M. Mazerolle, D. B. Provete, R. Sacchi, M. Stöck, G. Velo-Antón) for their rapid and efficient work. Dr. Margarita Cuevas Gozalo, journal editor at Brill, did a great job to manage the fast production of accepted manuscripts.

We are grateful for the internal (13) and the external (238) reviewers for their quality work on evaluating the manuscripts: Chloe Adamopoulou, João Paulo Almeida, Giovanni Amori, Carl Anthony, Angélica Arenas-Rodríguez, Huseyin Arikan, Stevan Arnold, Jan Arntzen, Mark Auliya, Wieslaw Babik, Simon Baeckens, Sergio A. Balaguera-Reina, Diego Baldo, Raluca Bancila, Adriana Bellati, Jihéne

Ben Hassine, Nathan Bendik, Wouter Beukema, Molly Bletz, Mark Blooi, Serge Bogaerts, Lucio Bonato, Xavier Bonnet, Leo Borkin, Amaël Borzéé, Wolfgang Böhme, Laura Brannelly, Thomas Broquet, Patricia Burrowes, Mariana Cabagna Zenklusen, João Campos, Vincent Careau, Gerardo Carfagno, Daniel Carpenter, Salvador Carranza, Miguel Carretero, Riccardo Castiglia, Andrej Cernansky, David Chapple, Michael Cherry, Emilio Civantos, Dan Cogalniceanu, Grant Connette, Courtney Cook, Andrew Corbin, Luca Cornetti, Bradley Cosentino, Adam Crane, Jelka Crnobrnja-Isailović, Pierre-Andre Crochet, Jon Davenport, Christina Davy, Thiago de Carvalho, Philip de Pous, Dmitry Dedukh, Ester Desfilis, Massimiliano Di Vittorio, Michel Domínguez, Sylvain Dubey, Christophe Dufresnes, Louis duPreez, Meheregagan Ebrahimi, Carla Eisenberg, Kathryn Elmer, Daniel Escoriza, Fatemeh Fakharzadeh, Eduardo Ferreira, Gentile Francesco Ficetola, Ernesto Filippi, Enrique Font, Antoine Fouquet, Petra Frydlova, Daniel Gaillard, Brian Gerber, Megan Gibbons, Javier Goldberg, Maurício Gomes, Carola Gómez-Rodríguez, Thiago Gonçalves-Souza, Eva Graciá, Patrick Gregory, Fabio Maria Guarino, Václav Gvoždík, Mattias Hagman, William Halliday, Bálint Halpern, Brian Halstead, Takashi Haramura, Masato Hasumi, Peter Havas, Stephen Hecnar, Brian Henen, Dávid Herczeg, Arlo Hinckley, Margaretha Hofmeyr, Christopher Howey, Julio Hoyos, Mattia Iannella, Samanta Lop, David Jandzik, Uthpala Jayawardena, Robert Jehle, Dušan Jelić, Evelyn Jensen, Ulrich Joger, Pierre Joly, Igor Luis Kaefler, Antigoni Kaliontzopoulou, Nancy Karraker, Osamu Kishida, Shawn Kuchta, Alexander Kupfer, Antonieta Labra, Anssi Laurila, Hervé Lelièvre, Wen Bo Liao, Francesco Lillo, Si-Min Lin, Spartak Litvinchuk, Katarina Ljubisavljević, Olivier Lourdais, Jeffrey Lovich, Stefan Lötters, Priscila Lucas, Enrico Lunghi, Alannah Lymburner, Amy MacLeod, Thomas Madsen, Glib Maepa, Dirk

Maes, William Magnusson, Raoul Manenti, Raúl Eduardo, Aneyro Landó, Sarah Mângia, Fernando Martínez-Freiría, Iñigo Martínez-Solano, Emília Martins, Glenn Marvin, Masafumi Matsui, Antonios Mazaris, Marc Maze-rolle, John Measey, Shai Meiri, Béla Mester, Peter Mikuliček, Leandro Moraes, Alessandro Moraes, Cy Mott, Mario Moura, David Muñoz, Renato Nali, Fida Nassar, Yoshihiro Natuhara, Aidin Niamir, Göran Nilson, Lauren O'Connell, Annemarie Ohler, Manuel E. Ortiz-Santaliestra, Dario Ottonello, Maciej Pabijan, Gemma Palomar García, Frank Pasmans, James Paterson, Lucy Patterson, Christopher Pearl, Paola Peltzer, Valentin Perez Mellado, Fábio Perin de Sá, Fabio Petrozzi, David Pike, Pedro Pinna, Juan Pleguezuelos, Jörg Plötner, Katja Paboljsaj, Jessica Powell, Vitor Prado, Ivan Prates, Andres Quinteros, Tijn Raaijmakers, Mehdi Rajabizadeh, Aurelio Ramírez-Bautista, Martha Patricia Ramírez-Pinilla, Edoardo Razzetti, Helen Rees, Brendan Reid, Sean Reilly, Timm Reinhardt, Eva Ringler, Ariel Rodriguez, Kim Roelants, Alexandre Roulin, Sean Rovito, Jeffrey Row, Elizabeth Roznik, Samantha Rumschlag, Katharina Ruthsatz, Travis Ryan, Roberto Sacchi, Fran Sandmeier, George Sangster, Diego José Santana, Xavier Santos, Ben Scheele, Benedikt Schmidt, Josef Friedrich Schmidler, Silke Schweiger, Ori Segev, Kyle Shaney, Donald Shepard, Emma Sherratt, Matt Shirley, Molly Shuman-Goodier, Neftali Sillero, Fernando Silva, Devora Silvano, Melina Simoncini, Ulrich Sinsch, Pavel Siroky, Jiri Smid, Mirco Solé, Florina Stanescu, Aaron Stoler, Bryan Stuart, Heiko Stuckas, Jennifer Stynoski, Emina Sunje, Robin Suyesh, Paul Székely, Natasa Tomasevic Kolarov, Piotr Tryjanowski, Mariana Tsianou, Emilio Valbuena Ureña, Melita Vamberger, Peter Paul vanDijk, Miguel Vences, Elin Verbrugge, Vanessa Verdade, Olivier Verneau, Leonardo Vignoli, Laura Vogel, Jiří Vojar, Philipp Wagner, Helga Wieder-

hecker, Ben Wielstra, Laurane Winandy, Ilan Yandi, Oleksandr Zinenko, Marco Zuffi.

The Editors:
 Sebastian Steinfartz
*Full Professor –
 University of Leipzig*
 and
 Judit Vörös
*Senior Curator of Herpetology –
 Hungarian Natural History Museum*

Announcement of proposal of changes for the Statutes and by-laws

A decade ago, *Herpetology Notes* was launched by SEH as a sister journal of *Amphibia-Reptilia* to fill a publication niche not covered by our flagship journal, and to focus mainly on natural history and the distribution of amphibians and reptiles. This journal has shown an increasing success and is now receiving many manuscripts, representing an important body of work for its editors and the organization. However, according to our statutes, there is currently no representation by an editor of *Herpetology Notes* on the SEH Council. Similarly, there is a need for a third co-editor of *Amphibia-Reptilia* to cope with the high number of manuscripts submitted, and journals and their editors should hold equal representation on the Council. We therefore propose to change the statutes to allow two additional co-editors to serve on the council. According to the needs, SEH will appoint editors for *Herpetology Notes* or *Amphibia-Reptilia*. However, there will still be at least two co-editors for *Amphibia-Reptilia*.

Although SEH is an international organisation aiming to bring herpetologists together, it currently lacks specific official conventions with national societies. We therefore propose to improve connections between national or regional European societies and SEH by creating the European Board of Herpetological Societies. This collaboration will facilitate communication and make mutual promotion possible (e.g., advertising of society membership, congresses, publications) as well as providing fee waivers to some members of partner societies. This will be a step by step process, hopefully with increasing mutual benefits. To make this possible, a new membership status needs to be created (Partner Member).

The fees for members without access to *Amphibia-Reptilia* are low, as are those for affiliated membership. On the other hand, student member fees are relatively expensive for the Society and impose a heavy management workload or the risk of having long-term student

membership. The membership fee without the journal remains an attractive solution for students as well as for affiliated members, particularly to receive membership benefits other than *Amphibia-Reptilia* (*Herpetology Notes* is open-access). As a consequence, the status of student and affiliated members is no longer needed.

In particular, we propose to amend the following paragraphs of the statutes and by-laws by adding (hereafter: not crossed and underlined) or removing (hereafter: crossed and underlined) the following statements from the last version. These changes will be officially submitted for approval to the Assembly during the 20th OGM in Milan (Italy), after which both English and German versions will be sent to the Registry in Bonn (Germany).

English version of the statutes

3.3.2 Membership is only valid for the year(s) for which membership fees have been paid. If the membership dues have not been paid within ~~a two months~~ after the treasurer has sent out ~~the~~ invoices, ~~the~~ membership is automatically terminated. No reminders ~~have to will~~ be sent out on behalf of SEH.

4.5. At every General Meeting, minutes, will be taken and signed by the chairperson of the meeting and the person taking the minutes. The minutes will ~~be~~ announced by publication in “*Amphibia-Reptilia*”, ~~the bulletin~~ “*Herpetological Notes*”, and on the SEH website.

5.1. The Council consists of: President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Vice-Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer, and the ~~first two~~ editors of “*Amphibia-Reptilia*”, four co-editors.

5.2. The members of the Council will be elected for a period of four years, or reelected for a period of no more than a further four years for the same Council position, with exceptions only as stated in §5.6. Election will be by secret written ballot for each office, and will be carried by a simple majority of the members present at a General Meeting. Members of the Council will be elected for staggered terms,

viz., Vice-President, General Secretary, Vice-Treasurer and First, ~~Third and Fourth~~ Co-Editor of “*Amphibia-Reptilia*” during one meeting, President, Vice-Secretary, Treasurer and ~~Second~~ Co-Editor of “*Amphibia-Reptilia*” during the next. ~~The First and Second~~ Co-Editor are editors of “*Amphibia-Reptilia*”. ~~The Third and Fourth~~ Co-Editors give support for the publications of either “*Amphibia-Reptilia*” or “*Herpetology Notes*”.

English version of the by-laws

2.1. The association consists of ordinary members receiving the journal “*Amphibia-Reptilia*” in print and via online access or only via online access, according to their membership fee, as well as of members ~~and affiliated members~~ who do not receive access to the journal, and ~~of student members who receive the journal in print and via online access at a reduced membership fee,~~ of corporate members, ~~partner members,~~ Life members and honorary members.

2.2. ~~Affiliated members are those members who live with a full member. They pay a reduced fee consisting of the membership dues of an ordinary member minus the sum paid by SEH to the publisher.~~ Partner members are those national or regional herpetological societies, based in Europe, who have signed an agreement of collaboration with the association. They pay the fee of a full member receiving the printed or on-line version of “*Amphibia-Reptilia*” augmented by an amount decided on by the Council as part of the agreement with the regional or national society.

3.4. Only members who have paid the corresponding annual membership fee (except honorary and Life members) will ~~receive access to the associations journal~~ “*Amphibia-Reptilia*”, and will be entitled to vote at General Meetings (see §4.1 of the Statutes).

6.8. The Editor of “*Herpetology Notes*” is responsible for managing this on-line, open-access bulletin of the association. Manuscripts are submitted via the on-line submission sys-

tem directly by the authors and are directed to a specific section editor or managed directly by the Editor. Section Editors are not part of the Council and have no vote at Council Meetings.

6.89. The Council is entitled, in exceptional cases, to distribute the duties of Council members different from what is laid out in §6.1-6.7 of the By-Laws. This can only take place upon unanimous agreement of all Council members, and under the provision that proper bookkeeping and transfer of all necessary documents to new Council members is granted. In any case, legal responsibilities of all Council members remain as laid out in the Statutes and By-Laws.

Prepared by the President,
Mathieu Denoël
FNRS Research Director
University of Liege (Belgium)

Curricula vitarum of candidates nominated by the Council for election at the 20th OGM, 1-7 September 2019 in Milan, Italy

Vice-President: Dušan Jelić (Croatia; born in 1982; PhD in Reptile Biology-Ecology) is the President of Croatian Institute for Biodiversity and director of BIOTA Ltd. His work includes different aspects of Fish, Amphibian and Reptile research, like distribution, ecology, morphology, taxonomy, phylogeny, phylogeography, conservation, etc. He started his PhD in Reptile ecology (focusing on biogeography and species ecological niche overlap) in 2009 and has successfully defended his thesis in October 2013. He worked for 5 years in State Institute for Nature Protection as expert for Amphibians and Reptiles and during this time he edited the second “Red book of Amphibians and Reptiles of Croatia” and worked as expert in designation of Natura2000 ecological network in Croatia (important sites for Amphibians and Reptiles). He has been working as visiting researcher in Nepal (National Trust for Nature Conservation), Armenia (University of Yerevan) and most of the countries of Balkan Peninsula. During his

career he was a project leader in over 50 biodiversity projects and some of the longest herpetofauna monitoring projects in Croatia (long term population studies). His work on conservation of herpetofauna was recognized internationally when he was asked to film wildlife documentary “In too Deep” with Animal Planet and later “Attenborough Ark” with BBC. He was the founder and first editor in charge of journal HYLE – herpetological bulletin (2011-2015). In 2012 he was awarded fellowship of Zoological Society of London and in 2017 became affiliate fellow. Acts as reviewer in many scientific journals, author of 7 books and 64 scientific papers dealing with amphibians, reptiles and fish. Further information and all publications can be found on his websites: <http://scholar.google.hr/citations?user=Bp11AxgAAAAJ> and https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dusan_Jelic

Secretary: Antigoni Kaliontzopoulou. Auxiliary Researcher at CIBIO/InBIO, University of Porto, Portugal. Born in Athens, Greece, in 1980. Studied biology in the University of Crete, and obtained her PhD from the University of Barcelona, Spain, in 2010, on the proximate and evolutionary causes of morphological diversification in *Podarcis* wall lizards from Iberia and North Africa. Her research focuses on the evolution of phenotypic diversity, and she is at present the leader of the Phenotypic Evolution research group in CIBIO/InBIO. She combines field observations, experimental approaches and quantitative analytical tools to investigate the proximate and evolutionary mechanisms that drive phenotypic diversification at different temporal and spatial scales. She address questions such as how developmental processes shape morphological variation; how sexual and natural selection drive sexual phenotypes; what determines the geographic structure of intraspecific diversity; which is the influence of environmental variation on the phenotype; how variation in morphology translates into differences in functional performance and ecology; and how the combination of these processes determines phenotypic diversity at the

individual, population, and macroevolutionary scales. She mainly uses amphibians and reptiles from the Mediterranean region as model organisms, and she combines tools like geometric morphometrics, multivariate statistics, and phylogenetic comparative methods to provide a better understanding of the links between morphology, ecology, and selection, and to decipher the evolutionary meaning of biodiversity. In addition to her empirical research, she develops quantitative methods and tools for measuring phenotypic diversity and testing hypotheses on its causation. She has published over 50 papers in international journals, which have received over 1100 citations (h-index = 20). She has been the vice-president of SEH since 2015. More information on her research activities can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/view/akaliontzopoulou/>.

Vice-Treasurer: Eva Ringler. Messerli Research Institute, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. Nationality Austrian, born 1984. She received her PhD in 2011 at the University of Vienna with a thesis on the genetic mating system and reproductive success in the dendrobatoid frog *Allobates femoralis*. Her current research spans over behavioural ecology, molecular ecology and animal cognition in amphibians, with a particular focus on Neotropical poison frogs. In 2012 she and her team founded two experimental *A. femoralis* populations, a naturally confined population on a river island in French Guiana, and a laboratory population at the University of Vienna. In her team they integrate various methodology, such as behavioural monitoring, behavioural experiments, genetic analyses, spatial tracking, and acoustic recordings and playbacks, to study various aspects in the social behaviour of amphibians. She received several honours, awards and prestigious fellowships for her work. Beside communicating her research findings to the scientific community, she is also highly engaged in public outreach activities and tries to share her passion for research and teaching at public lectures and science communication events. She is member of the ÖGH

(Austrian Herpetological Society) since 2009. For the SEH, she has served as member of the Advisory Editorial Board since 2011.

First Co-Editor (*Amphibia-Reptilia*): Salvador Carranza (Barcelona, Spain) was born in Barcelona, Spain in 1968. He studied Biology at the University of Barcelona, Spain and obtained his PhD at the Genetics Department, University of Barcelona in December 1997. Between 1998 and 2004 he was a postdoctoral Fellow at the Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom, funded by contracts from the Spanish Ministry of Education, The prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie program and the National Research Council (NERC). During his postdoctoral period, Dr. Carranza worked together with Dr. E. N. Arnold on the phylogeny and evolution of several reptile groups, with a special interest on island biogeography and the evolution of arid adapted faunas from North Africa and Arabia. In 2004 he obtained a Ramón & Cajal Fellowship from the Spanish Government and established his own group at the Department of Animal Biology, University of Barcelona, devoted to the study of reptiles and amphibians. In 2008, he obtained a position of “Científico Titular” at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) to work at the newly funded Institute of Evolutionary Biology (CSIC-UPF), Barcelona, Spain. In 2018 he was promoted to “Investigador Científico” and since September 2018 he is the vice-director of the Institute of Evolutionary Biology (CSIC-UPF). Dr. Carranza has published more than 135 papers in SCI journals, has been the principal investigator of 17 projects and has participated in other 16. He has supervised a total of 11 PhD, 17 MSc and 13 undergraduate students. Since 2016 he is Associate Professor of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, where he teaches Zoology to 1st year students on the Human Biology degree. He is member of SEH since 2011 and currently Associate Editor of *Amphibia-Reptilia*.

Third Co-Editor (*Amphibia-Reptilia*): José Carlos Brito (Porto, Portugal) was born in Portugal in 1971. He studied biology at the University of Lisbon and obtained his PhD in 2003 on the ecology and conservation of Iberian vipers. He is Principal Researcher at CIBIO/UP Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources of the University of Porto, heading since 2011 the research group Bideserts, Biodiversity of Deserts and Arid Regions. His research in deserts and arid regions aims at assessing biodiversity distribution patterns, understanding evolutionary and landscape processes related with present-day biodiversity distribution, and developing conservation planning options for biodiversity that ensure sustainable ecosystem-based plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. His research takes place in North Africa, the Mediterranean Basin, and Middle East, and involves collaborations with multiple countries. He completed 35 scientific expeditions to the Sahara-Sahel and Iran since 2000, covering over 250 000 km and 1000 workdays exploring remote and little studied areas. His study organisms are mainly reptiles (lizards, snakes and crocodiles). He published 156 research papers in international journals (H index = 34; >4000 citations), including both herpetological and generalist journals. He has contributed to the advanced training of human resources, including the concluded supervision of 2 post-doctoral researchers and 12 PhD and 22 MSc students. Further information on research activities and publications can be found at <https://bideserts.cibio.up.pt/>.

Fourth Co-Editor (*Herpetology Notes*): Hinrich Kaiser is a German-American herpetologist and educator with a research focus on herpetological diversity and conservation of tropical environments. A passion for scuba diving with experiences in the Arctic and the Tropics led Hinrich to study marine biology at McGill University and the University of Victoria in Canada. After an inspiring semester learning about amphibians and reptiles in David

Green's herpetology class in the Redpath Museum, Hinrich found his true calling and earned his PhD at McGill with a dissertation on the systematics and biogeography of Lesser Antillean frogs. After a Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds postdoctoral fellowship investigating amphibian chromosomes in the lab of Michael Schmid at Würzburg University, Germany, he spent five years teaching at La Sierra University, Riverside, California, USA, before accepting his current position as Professor of Biology at Victor Valley College in Victorville, California, USA. Hinrich also holds an appointment as Research Associate with the United States National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA and was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 2005. His interests in international affairs and music have also led him to memberships on the International Advisory Board of the Foundation for Post-Conflict Development, New York, and on the Advisory Council of the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras. He serves as Board member on the PeaceJam Foundation, representing the interests of Nobel Peace Laureate and former Timor-Leste president José Ramos Horta. Hinrich was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the World Congress of Herpetology. His most recent publications have focused on the herpetofauna of Timor-Leste and nearby areas of Wallacea, particularly dealing with understudied snake genera (e.g., *Cylindrophis*, *Stegonotus*, *Toxicocalamus*). He is also one of the leaders in the effort to defend herpetological taxonomy against taxonomic vandalism and, together with Mark O'Shea, has developed a new research specialty referred to as forensic historical herpetology. His educational specialty is to expose college students to biological, cultural, and historical experiences overseas, including canopy walks in Brunei, cooking classes in Bali, tracking Komodo dragons on Rinca Island, homestays in Cuba, and using drones to survey Pacific atolls. Hinrich has a lot of editorial experience and served as Editor of *Herpetological Natural History* for a decade. As

SEH-appointed Editor-in-Chief of *Herpetology Notes*, Hinrich recently oversaw the reorganization of that journal, boosting its output to well over 1000 printed pages.

Prepared by the President,
Mathieu Denoël

**Preliminary Agenda for the Ordinary
General Meeting, 2019, 2-6 September,
Milan, Italy**

1. Foreword of the President
2. Report of the Treasurer and of the Auditors
3. Report of the Editors *Amphibia-Reptilia*
4. Report of the Editor of *Herpetology Notes*
5. Report of the Mapping Committee
6. Report of the Conservation Committee
7. Report of the Taxonomy Committee
8. Changes of the statutes and by-laws
9. Election of new council members