

**SYMPOSIUM 42: ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA:
ADVANCES, CRITICAL GAPS AND PROSPECTS**
Bonito, 20th June 2012 (Wednesday)

Thomas M. Lewinsohn (ABECO – Brazilian Association for Ecological Science and Conservation, Brazil)

This symposium is an overview of the current status of ecological research in the Neotropical region. We will bring together presidents of Latin-American ecological societies to present a succinct overview of ecology in their countries, addressing some common issues. Two further presentations will address patterns of international collaboration revealed by coauthorship networks of publications on Neotropical ecology, and collaborative research in Costa Rica. Speakers will consider questions such as: (1) key historical and institutional landmarks; (2) current institutional profile (universities / research institutes / NGOs etc); degrees awarded; production; key strengths, weaknesses, necessities (infrastructure, funding, etc); (3) key research themes, highlighting larger integrated / longterm projects; national or large-scale regional mapping, surveys, collections, if any; (4) major national / international links; and (5) application of ecological research to national environmental problems and policy. Presentations will be selective in facts and figures; instead, the symposium is intended: (1) to offer an enlightening panorama of the development and current condition of ecological research in a representative cross-section of the region; (2) to highlight both singularities and commonalities within the region; (3) to propose ways of strengthening intraregional collaborations based on common interests and also exploring complementary capacities; and (4) to consider possibilities of enhancing the quality, scope and applicability of Neotropical ecological research.

TALKS (Karuha Room, 11h00-12h30)

11h00-11h15 (S42.OC.01) **Ecological science in Brazil: a brief overview and current issues.**

Thomas Lewinsohn

11h15-11h30 (S42.OC.02) **Ecological science in Chile: current status and interfaces with society.** *Bernardo Broitman*

11h30-11h45 (S42.OC.03) **Actions, challenges and perspectives from AsAE (Asociación Argentina de Ecología).** *Leonardo Galetto*

11h45-12h00 (S42.OC.04) **Ecological science in Mexico: a brief overview and current issues.**

Jorge López-Portillo

12h00-12h15 (S42.OC.05) **Ecological sciences in Costa Rica: a meeting point for the Americas.** *Elizabeth Losos*

12h15-12h30 (S42.OC.06) **Cross-national patterns of productivity and collaboration by Latin American ecologists.** *William Hahn*