

The rise of SOL - Sociedad(e) de Odonatología Latinoamericana

Javier Muzón¹, R. Guillermo-Ferreira² & F. Lozano¹ [odonatasol@gmail.com]
¹BioGeA – UNDAV, Argentina, ²DHb – UFSCar, Brasil

In the last decades, odonatology in Latin America has had a notable improvement in the number of researchers and students from within Latin American countries studying Odonata biology, ecology and systematics. This improvement together with the overwhelming diversity of the region not only has consolidated the integration among Latin American countries, but also made possible the integration of Latin America into the international scenario. This is evidenced by the election of two Latin American cities as venues for the International Congress of Odonatology (Xalapa, Mexico in 2009, and Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2015).

Informal conversations during ICO2013 in Freising were the starting point for the creation of a new Society that would gather Latin American odonatologists. Two years later, thanks to the resounding assistance of Latin American colleagues to ICO2015 in La Plata, the drafting process of the statutes began. Finally, the first meeting of the *Sociedad(e) de Odonatología Latinoamericana - SOL* was held from 14-16 August 2016 at Jundiá, Brazil, located approximately 55 km west of the city São Paulo. This meeting was successfully organized by Rhainer Guillermo Ferreira and his team: Leandro Juén, Aurélio FajarTonetto, Diogo Silva Vilela, Gabrielle C. Pestana, Thais Caromano, Leonardo Ricioli, and Rafael Tavaes. It involved the participation of researchers and students from Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, and Spain.



Figure 1. Members of the first Board of Directors of Sociedad(e) de Odonatología Latinoamericana (SOL). (From left to right): Rhainer Guillermo-Ferreira, Jenilee Montes Fontalvo, Javier Muzón and Federico Lozano. Photo credit: Enrique Gonzalez Soriano.



Figure 2. Organisational meeting held during ICO 2015 at the city of La Plata, Argentina.



Figure 3. Participants at the First Sociedad(e) de Odonatología Latinoamericana (SOL), 14-16 August 2016, held at Jundiá, Brazil. Photo credit: Enrique González Soriano.

SOL is a scientific and non-profit organization which seeks to promote odonatology among members of Latin American countries in terms of both scientific research and scientific outreach, to facilitate and promote contacts and exchange of experiences among people interested in odonatology, to develop outreach and educational activities through university training programs, scientific meetings, publications, etc., to promote research activities in the field of Latin American odonatology, and encourage the protection and conservation of Odonata and their habitats.

The purposes of the first SOL meeting were: (1) to hold the Constituent Assembly; (2) to perform an IUCN Red List training workshop and to schedule the assessment of 100 species; (3) to hold a scientific meeting. The Constituent Assembly was coordinated by Joachim Hoffman (Peru) and Adolfo Cordero Rivera (Spain) with the aid of Pablo Pessacq and Danielle Anjos-Santos who were in charge of taking the minutes. A total of 29 assistants were in charge of electing the Board of Directors. Javier Muzón (Argentina) was chosen as President, Rhainer Guillermo Ferreira (Brazil) as vice-President, Cornelio Bota Sierra (Colombia) as Secretary, Jenilee Montes (Colombia) as Treasurer, and Federico Lozano (Argentina) as Vocal. Additionally, during the Assembly the annual membership amount was decided (15 US\$ for professionals; 5 US\$ for students) and the statute was discussed and amended. All those interested in joining and paying the annual fee may do so as soon as the Society is registered in Colombia and the corresponding bank account is opened. All this information will be updated in the Society webpage



Figure 4. SOL meeting. (Left to right): Héctor Ortega Salas, Enrique González Soriano, Joachim Hoffmann, Javier Muzón, Jenilee Montes Fontalvo and Jonathan Vivas. Photo credit: Jenilee Montes

[<http://www.odonatasol.com/>] which is still under construction. For any doubt you can contact the Society via email to odonatasol@gmail.com

The IUCN Red List Training Workshop is part of a joint cooperation between SOL and IUCN aimed at evaluating the conservation status of Neotropical Odonata. It was conducted by Marcelo Tognelli (IUCN) and financed by IUCN. During the workshop the species to evaluate in the following months were chosen and working teams for evaluations were organized.

The scientific program opened with the session “Endemic species, species at risk and status of conservation” during which the following six plenary talks were given:-

- Odonata from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. State of knowledge, strengths and weaknesses. Javier Muzón.
- The Odonata from Perú - Endemic species, species at risk and status of conservation Joachim Hoffmann.
- Priorities and challenges in the conservation of Odonata from Colombia. Jenilee Montes.
- Brazilian list of threatened species: An objective approach based on geographic distribution data. Paulo de Marco Jr.
- Odonata from México: endemic species and their distribution. Enrique González-Soriano.
- Current knowledge of the Odonata from Venezuela: taxonomic diversity and distribution of endemic species. Jonathan Vivas.

Apart from this eight oral presentation and 12 posters were also communicated. During the meeting, two SOL awards were given in order to pay tribute to Angelo Barbosa Monteiro Machado (who could not attend the meeting due to his current health conditions) and Frederico Augusto de Atayde Lencioni; both of them have contributed greatly to improving our current knowledge on Neotropical odonate species and are responsible for the formation of a generation of students who shared their interest and passion in odonatology



Figure 5. SOL meeting. Fred Lencioni receiving his award. Photo credit Enrique González Soriano.



Figure 6. IUCN Red List Training Workshop. From left to right: Adolfo Cordero Rivera, Marcelo Tognelli and Deborah Soldati. Photo credit Enrique González Soriano.