

Dear PolSynd members,

You are invited to submit abstracts for oral / poster presentation in the symposium

**"Pollinator-mediated selection in floral evolution",**

which will be held in the ESEB meeting in Turin, Italy, at August 29th 2009.

Please submit your abstract through the website <http://www.eseb2009.it/>

. Deadline for abstract submission and early registration - 15 February 2009.

Symposium description:

Pollination biology is an exciting field at the nexus of evolutionary genetics, ecology, behavior and plant and animal phylogenetics. Many pollination studies have accumulated in the last century on many plant species, and researchers are starting to bridge the gap between population-level processes (e.g., pollinators and plants communities), lineage-scale phenomena (e.g., adaptive divergence, male/female function), and the molecular genetics underlie them. It is an ideal time to assess the progress to date in developing a cohesive framework for understanding the role of pollinators in floral evolution and to lay the groundwork for future research directions.

There is a solid evidence for selection on floral traits that is mediated by pollinators' preferences and flower-pollinator fit. Evolution in response to pollinator-mediated selection is a multi-layer process. First, it depends on the flower's ability to evolve – the genetic variation of floral traits and its constraints. Second, pollinators' preferences and behavior is influenced by many factors, some of which are floral traits. Finally, phylogenetic and biogeographical patterns affect both floral divergence and plant-pollinator communities. In short, pollination should be considered as an evolutionary process that involves many components simultaneously – from quantitative genetics to community ecology. This symposium will bring together researchers whose work represents methodological and theoretical advances in the discipline. It will provide a forum for the synthesis of the results from several areas of evolutionary research, and will produce comprehensive view of the evolutionary aspects of pollination. First, the genetic basis of floral evolution will be examined from the plant point of view. Second, the interface of floral traits, pollinator's behavior, and selection will be investigated. And third, pollination systems will be explored in the broad context of phylogeny and biogeography.

Invited speakers:

Thomas Hansen, University of Oslo, Norway

Rebecca Irwin, Dartmouth College, USA

Symposium organizers:

Scott Armbruster, University of Portsmouth, UK. [scott.armbruster@port.ac.uk](mailto:scott.armbruster@port.ac.uk)

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