



BIOLOGY CENTRE CAS

Institute of Entomology

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Entomology, BC CAS

Organisation: Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences, v. v. i. – Institute of Entomology (ENTÚ)

Date: 25 February 2026

Venue: Institute of Entomology, BC CAS, Branišovská 1160/31, 370 05 České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Format: in person

Time: 13:00–15:30

Members present: Martin Moos, David Doležel, Martin Volf, Pavel Sroka, Pavel Šebek, Petr Nguyen

Apologies: Aleš Buček

Guest: Aleš Bezděk

Agenda:

1. Increasing the representation of women in the Institute's leadership (gender balance in managerial positions)
2. Preparation of the Election Rules and Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Council
3. Proposal to merge departments: Molecular Biology and Genetics + Biochemistry and Physiology (proposal for a new department)
4. Incorporation of the Laboratory of Analytical Biochemistry and Metabolomics into the newly established department
5. Restructuring of ENTÚ entomological collections (transfer of inactive collections; maintaining curatorship of active collections)
6. Establishment of an International Advisory Board (IAB) of ENTÚ – role definition and composition
7. Establishment of a Project Manager position (pre-award) focused on European grants (Horizon Europe)
8. Support for the preparation of an ERA Chair (ERACH) project – establishment of a team and scientific focus of the project

The Chair of the Scientific Council opened the meeting, confirmed that the Scientific Council was quorate (all members present except for one member who sent apologies), and presented the draft agenda. The agenda was approved.

Minutes taken by: Martin Moos

1) Increasing the representation of women in the Institute's leadership

Item proposed and moderated by: Martin Volf

The Scientific Council discussed increasing the representation of women and broader support for gender balance at the level of laboratory leaders, departments, and the Institute as a whole, including its governing bodies. The current situation—where, for example, the Scientific Council itself consists exclusively of men is not desirable. The discussion highlighted the need for an active approach by the Institute's management and senior staff, particularly when planning personnel changes, making nominations to managerial and decision-making roles, and creating conditions that enable a wider range of female employees to apply for leadership positions.

Conclusion / position of the Scientific Council: The Scientific Council agreed that it is desirable to actively support gender balance at all levels of the Institute's management.

2) Preparation of the Election Rules and Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Council

Item proposed and moderated by: Petr Nguyen

The Scientific Council noted that the Election Rules and Rules of Procedure are currently missing. In order to clearly define the rules for elections, convening and conducting meetings, adopting resolutions, and other procedural requirements, the Scientific Council agreed to prepare both documents.

Conclusion / position of the Scientific Council: The Scientific Council decided to prepare the Election Rules and the Rules of Procedure and subsequently submit them to the Institute's management for discussion and approval.

Responsible person: Petr Nguyen (preparation of the draft documents).

3) Proposal to merge two ENTÚ departments

Item proposed by: Martin Moos

Subject: merger of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics (Head: Marek Jindra) and the Department of Biochemistry and Physiology (Head: Dalibor Kodrík)

The Scientific Council discussed a proposal to organisationally merge two departments of the Institute of Entomology, BC CAS: the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics and the Department of Biochemistry and Physiology. The main reasons cited were the small number of laboratories within the Department of Biochemistry and Physiology and the thematic overlap between the research profiles of both departments.

Conclusion / position of the Scientific Council: The Scientific Council recommends merging the above departments into a newly established Department of Molecular Physiology and Genetics, to be led by Marek Jindra.

Vote: 6 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

4) Incorporation of the Laboratory of Analytical Biochemistry and Metabolomics into the newly established department

Item proposed by: Martin Moos

Subject: incorporation of the Laboratory of Analytical Biochemistry and Metabolomics (Head: Ing. Martin Moos, Ph.D.) into the newly established Department of Molecular Physiology and Genetics

The Scientific Council discussed a proposal to organisationally incorporate the Laboratory of Analytical Biochemistry and Metabolomics into the newly established Department of Molecular Physiology and Genetics. The discussion emphasised that the laboratory is a fully-fledged research unit with an independent research programme, whose main purpose is to develop and apply bioanalytical approaches within the Institute's research topics, rather than to operate as a service or routine analytical facility.

Conclusion / position of the Scientific Council: The Scientific Council recommends organisationally incorporating the Laboratory of Analytical Biochemistry and Metabolomics into the Department of Molecular Physiology and Genetics.

Vote: 6 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

5) Restructuring of the entomological collections of the Institute of Entomology

Item proposed by: Martin Moos

The Scientific Council discussed the current status of the entomological collections and options for their future organisational and professional curation. The discussion focused on distinguishing between actively used collections (used long-term for research, identifications, biodiversity documentation, and loans) and inactive collections that are not currently being systematically managed or specifically utilised by the Institute's research teams. The Scientific Council agreed that, in order to preserve the long-term value of the collection material, it is essential to ensure a curation regime that prevents gradual deterioration while enabling meaningful use within the national collection infrastructure.

Conclusion / position of the Scientific Council: The Scientific Council recommends arranging the transfer of inactive collections to the National Museum by way of a free-of-charge transfer, as the National Museum has suitable facilities for long-term professional curation, conservation, and access to this type of material. At the same time, the Scientific Council does not recommend abolishing the entomological collections as a separate organisational unit. The Scientific Council requests that the the position of curator for the active collections remaining at the Institute is maintained. The members of the Scientific Council agreed that without systematic professional care by a curator, significant deterioration of the collection material could occur within a few years (e.g., worsening conservation status, loss of oversight of storage and records, and reduced accessibility). There are also concerns that without curatorial capacity, it may become practically impossible to provide collection loans to external research institutions, which would substantially limit the use of the

collections for research and collaboration and could also adversely affect ENTÚ's standing within the scientific community.

The Scientific Council further notes that maintaining this agenda is meaningful despite the evident economic non-self-sufficiency of the entomological collections unit, as it represents infrastructure of long-term scientific value and of reputational and societal importance for the Institute. The Scientific Council considers it optimal to maintain the position of curator for the active collections at approximately **0.3 FTE (30%)**.

List of inactive collections proposed for free-of-charge transfer (summary):

A) Dry material

- **Sternorrhyncha:** Coll. Holman – 70,000 slides (1–6 specimens per slide); Coll. Pintera – 3,700 slides (1–6 specimens per slide); Coll. Havelka – 1,050 slides (1–6 specimens per slide)
- **Diptera:** Coll. Olejníček – 6,000 specimens
- **Neuroptera:** Coll. Jiří Zelený – 950 specimens
- **Hymenoptera:** Coll. Aurel Lozan – 14,000 specimens; Coll. Petr Starý – 135,000 specimens

B) Alcohol-preserved material

- **Trichoptera:** Coll. Karel Novák – 27,000 vials; Coll. Jiří Zelený – 1,200 vials
- **Odonata:** Coll. Jiří Zelený – 40 vials (1–5 specimens per vial)

Vote: 6 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

6) Establishment of an International Advisory Board (IAB) of ENTÚ

Item proposed by: David Doležel

The Scientific Council discussed a proposal to establish an International Advisory Board (IAB) of the Institute of Entomology. The intention is to create a platform composed of internationally respected experts who can provide independent feedback on the Institute's research direction and management, bring new impulses and ideas, and support inspiring scientific discussion.

In preparing the IAB, it was emphasised that the goal is not to nominate the closest collaborators with whom the Institute already regularly consults scientific matters and cooperates on projects, but rather to involve a broader circle of relevant contacts (i.e., people known to the Institute and professionally connected, but outside the closest day-to-day collaboration network). It was also noted that financial support for IAB meetings may be available through the VIZE programme. Laboratory heads will be invited to propose suitable candidates via a shared spreadsheet.

A substantial discussion addressed the role of the IAB, in particular whether it should be conceived as a supervisory/evaluative body or as an informational/advisory body. The prevailing view within the Scientific Council is that the IAB's role should be primarily (and ideally exclusively) advisory, i.e., focused on providing recommendations and inputs without a formal evaluative or supervisory function, both at the level of individual teams and at the level of the Institute's overall management.

Conclusion / position of the Scientific Council: The Scientific Council recommends establishing the IAB and defining its role as purely advisory. The Scientific Council further recommends considering reserving one seat on the IAB for an expert in applied entomology.

7) Establishment of a Project Manager position focused on European grants (Horizon Europe)

Item proposed by: Martin Moos

The Scientific Council discussed the need to strengthen support for project preparation and grant submissions, with a particular focus on European funding programmes, especially Horizon Europe. The discussion emphasised that systematic, professionally guided support in the early phases of proposal preparation (pre-award) can significantly increase the Institute's success rate in obtaining international funding while reducing the administrative burden on researchers.

The proposed Project Manager position should cover, in particular:

- active identification of suitable grant opportunities (monitoring calls and trends within European programmes, especially Horizon Europe),
- initial mapping of relevant topics and matching them to the Institute's research capacities,
- methodological support for preparing project concepts, including timelines, formal requirements, and proposal structure,
- coordination of pre-award activities (collection of inputs, consultations with PIs, compliance checks against call requirements, internal review),
- support in drafting and finalising grant applications (including administrative sections and coordination with partners and the project office),
- support for establishing project partnerships and navigating tools and rules of European consortia projects,
- conversely, it is not desirable for this Project Manager to be involved in the administration of awarded projects.

Conclusion / position of the Scientific Council: The Scientific Council recommends establishing this position as part of the THS project office (pre-award support focused on European grants, especially Horizon Europe). At the same time, the Scientific Council asks the Director of the Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre CAS, v. v. i., to discuss this proposal with the directors of the other BC CAS institutes and with the Director of the Biology Centre, in order to coordinate the approach at the level of the entire institution.

8) Support for the preparation of an ERA Chair (ERACH) project

Item proposed by: David Doležel

The Scientific Council discussed the possibility of preparing an ERA Chair project and agreed that it represents a strategic opportunity for further development of the Institute of Entomology, strengthening international competitiveness, and long-term stabilisation of selected research capacities.

Conclusion / position of the Scientific Council: The Scientific Council recommends that the Director of the Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre CAS, v. v. i., create appropriate conditions and provide support for initiating the preparation of an ERA Chair project. As a first step, the Scientific Council proposes establishing a working team that will coordinate this agenda on behalf of ENTÚ and ensure its implementation (in particular: preparation of the project concept, coordination of inputs, communication with relevant partners, and links to project support).

The Scientific Council further recommends that the proposal be developed as a scientifically oriented ERA Chair project, rather than being primarily “management-oriented”. The Scientific Council notes that a number of valuable recommendations have already emerged from IAB discussions at the Biology Centre level, and considers that a scientifically oriented ERA Chair project can provide a clearer framework and capacities for translating such recommendations into concrete actions (e.g., through well-defined scientific goals, responsibilities, and measurable outputs), thereby maximising the benefit of advisory input for the development of ENTÚ and the institution as a whole.

Vote: 6 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.



Approved by: Ing. Martin Moos, Ph.D., Chair of the Scientific Council

České Budějovice, 27 February 2026