

**9th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MYRIAPODOLOGY
PARIS 26-31 JULY 1993**

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The three yearly international congresses are enjoyable and valuable occasions to meet people from all over the world and talk about Myriapods. That in Paris in 1993 proved no exception and as we have come to expect, a wide range of countries were represented. It was good to meet colleagues from South Africa, Algeria and Japan for the first time and to renew acquaintances with those from other parts of the world. France was well represented with an enviable number of Myriapodologists. However, unfortunately the United States was poorly represented.

The presentations are too numerous to mention individually but topics ranged from the history of myriapodology, population biology and zoogeography to taxonomy and phylogenetics, physiology and functional morphology. Undoubtedly the best talk (for which was awarded the newly established prize for the best presentation!) was that by Mandy Barnett who presented evidence for sperm competition in Spirostreptids from South Africa. Her visual aids and subject matter were fascinating and opened up a whole new subject area in Myriapodology.

The formal sessions were interspersed with social events including a walking tour of the Evolution Gallery of the Museum which was still under construction (and is now open) and the conference dinner.

The day excursion to Fontainebleau Forest provided a more informal atmosphere for getting to know other participants, and allowed us time to escape from the city while seeing some of the more natural areas around Paris.

As with all the Myriapod Congresses I have attended I look back upon Paris with fond memories (and indeed also this time some souvenirs in the form of a CIM tee shirt and some hand painted *Glomeris* earrings!). The only disappointment is the so far lack of signs of any proceedings being published, but there is still time for this to be rectified.

Many thanks to the organising committee for all their hard work and we look forward to Copenhagen in 1996 with anticipation.