



ASA Board Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom, 31 Jan 2025, 11:00-12:00 Eastern

In attendance:

- Executive Board Members: Orlando Combita Heredia (President), Emilie Demard (President Elect), Kaitlin Campbell (Secretary/Treasurer), Board Members: Marielle Berto, Livia Ataide, Denise Navia, David Nielson, Andrew Jansen, Marcello De Giosa
- Student Representative: Paola Villamarin
- Social Media Manager: Allan Busuulwa
- Past President: Alexandra Revynthi (Past President)

- Not in Attendance: Sofia Gonzalez (Social media manager)

Minutes recorded and submitted by Kaitlin Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Introductions: please make a brief introduction for the group.
2. Website, transition between Emilie and Allan-Sofia (social media managers)
 - a. All our information needs to be updated on the ASA webpage (https://acarologicalsoc.org/?page_id=53)
 1. X and Facebook- Allan and Sofia have shared responsibilities
 2. **Action item:** Kaitlin Check if Sofia has access to the website.
 3. **Action item:** Updates needed Denise picture, David, Sofia
 4. They have divided up the roles- social media and website
3. Symposia: enough topics to make two-day session? Symposia, workshops or organizing are **due March 14th** (Title, speakers and titles of talks)
 - a. Can we make it two days instead of just one? Morning and afternoon sessions each day.
 - b. Theme for this year: “**Entomology 2025: Bridging Generations with Innovation, Legacy, and Passion**”
 - c. Keep in mind that people may be hesitant if they want to present in another symposium because they can only present in one. ESA restricts so we can only do a presentation and a poster. **Action item:** Emilie can you confirm with Becky to verify that this is true, or whether someone could do an outreach/arts related one in addition to a research data presentation.
 - d. **Current Advances-** Organized by Orlando & Emilie
 - e. Ideas:
 1. **Med-Vet Acarology:** Ticks, chiggers, *demodex*
 1. Many tick people do not know we exist and are presenting in the regular ESA sections. **Action item:** Emilie reach out to Patricia Shahid Karim, Patricia Pietrantonio (and new hire). **Action item:** David Nielson will be primary organizer.
 2. Mites as vectors- pathologists working on virus/vector interactions (Denise might know some people who work on this) Maybe also Brevipalpus. Medical entomologists in the navy/army/DoD (David could help with this)
 2. **Varroa and honeybees** maybe also parasites if needed (Judy Chen is bee researcher in Beltsville- Andrew knows her and could connect) also Cameron Jack would be a good person to collaborate with **Action item:** Andrew and Orlando will work on this symposium
 3. Other options
 1. Special Collection on Methods in acarology – Orlando & any volunteer was well attended last year



2. Soil Mites
 3. Plant mites
 4. Managing collections of mites
 5. Microscope methods
 6. Rearing techniques
 7. Agricultural Acarology
4. Student competition materials- Submit tentative titles for the presentations, but abstracts were not required until later for the competition.
1. **Action item:** Kaitlin will look over the timeline from last year and put together the next abstract competition document to be sent out.
5. Keynote Speaker- Acarologist: Alexandra was voted for speaker.
- a. ESA picks out the speaker, no proposal.
 - b. Lorena has shared CV and information to share information with the committee to gain interest.
 - c. **Action item:** Orlando will reach out to Lorena to see if this is still an option and what is needed.
6. ASA Latin American Society of Acarology Collaboration-
- a. Strengthen this relationship to unite American acarologists
 - b. Joining up with seminars – they are in Spanish/Portuguese but could be in English with subtitles
 - c. Symposium in October Latin American meeting- ASA members could attend and connect the two groups together, this is the time now to be get into the program
Action item: Orlando contact President to see about putting in a symposium.
 - d. Suggestion: Reserve a spot in the abstract competition for a South American student? Problem with the timeline for South American presentations.
 - e. Engage with our social media
 - f. Could we reallocate the SAA journal funding more appropriately and potentially fund someone from South America to attend our meeting as a guest?
 1. If we want to cut this from our budget and it is in our bylaws/constitution we would need to complete a vote from the society members to change it.
 2. **Action item:** Kaitlin will put together an email and survey to see who is actually using the journal and if it is worth keeping around. Maybe to a smaller degree for those that really use it.
 - g. There is a lot of similarity between the two societies- Could the two societies be merged? South American- meet every month and have a lot of workshops/talks. Money is the biggest issue with the South American society since Bank accounts are frozen and not accessible. Could the two societies have a representative on each side that goes between the two boards? **Action item:** Orlando mention this idea when you talk with the president of the other society.
7. Other Business
- a. X (Twitter) and other social platforms. Allan-Sofia
 1. Suggest a verified account for society, more professional and trustworthy. Cost = \$89 per year.
 2. Concerns about the political leanings of X right now. May want to hold off on leaving X or paying anything to remain more neutral and not lose our current people. Cost isn't that much from a treasury perspective if we want to do it in the future.



3. Could explore other platforms that are more neutral/less controversial as well. Could open an account on another neutral outreach community like LinkedIn, bluesky etc.? **Action item:** Allan will explore these options can do a vote in google
4. Takes a lot of time to publish the number of papers that are put out each week Do all papers need to be tweeted? It is backlogged so things aren't the most recent things being released.
 1. Could reduce the number by randomly drawing numbers to pick them? Could get additional people on the twitter to manage it?
 1. **Could pick 1 paper from each discipline?- this was the best idea**
- b. Tabled until next time- Shirts and Merch to sell, magnets, print images, 3D printed mites, any other ideas?
- c. Tabled until next time- Mite art gallery!
- d. Sponsor affiliation for a person who has not been able to pay
 1. **Action item:** Kaitlin will send an email about someone who is not able to pay membership to do a potential free sponsored membership for them.
- e. **Action item:** Denise will send an advertisement for upcoming Montpellier ICA conference 2026.