



# INTERNATIONAL ROTIFER XV

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## S Y M P O S I U M

Since 1976, the International Rotifer Symposium has taken place every three years and represents a unique opportunity for researchers, students, and other rotifer enthusiasts from around the globe to gather together for scientific exchange and friendship. The International Rotifer Symposium is the largest scientific forum that provides an up-to-date perspective on all topics related to rotifer biology.

### **ABOUT UTEP & EL PASO:**

Located on the culturally vibrant U.S.-Mexico border, The University of Texas at El Paso is a national research university with more than 24,000 students. The University's rapidly growing research portfolio in the sciences, engineering, health fields, and other areas brings in more than \$83 million per year. El Paso is a highly livable, bicultural community of 800,000 people. It is the safest large city in the United States. The city of El Paso is adjacent to both the state of New Mexico and the country of Mexico, making it the nation's leading area for cultural diversity and border health research. Comprising 248 square miles, El Paso is the sixth largest city in Texas and 19<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. The 24,000-acre (9,700 ha) Franklin Mountains State Park, the largest urban park in the United States, lies entirely within the city of El Paso. The Rio Grande Rift, located around the southern end of the Franklin Mountains, is where the Rio Grande flows. The river defines the border between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez to the south and west until the river turns north of the border with Mexico, separating El Paso from New Mexico.

### **CLIMATE:**

Shielded by mountains on three sides, El Paso experiences >300 days of sunshine annually. The city's elevation is 1,200 m (3,800 ft), with North Franklin Mountain being highest peak in the city at 2,192 m (7,192 ft). Temperatures in June can be warm (>35°C; 90-100°F) and there is the chance of occasional rains as the summer monsoon season begins.

### **SYMPOSIUM SITE & ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso. Accommodation costs depend on single or double occupancy. Costs range from \$25 (UTEP dorms) to \$140 US dollars per person per night. The most convenient accommodation is the [Hilton Garden Inn El](#)

[Paso / University](#), located at the entrance to the campus. Accommodation costs will depend on single or double occupancy. Costs will range from \$95 to \$140 US Dollars +tax per person, per night (prices may vary, as the date approaches).

### **FOOD:**

Continental and traditional Mexican dishes are available for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at \$10 to 20 US Dollars (alcoholic beverages not included) per person. Less expensive options are available at the University cafeteria, food outlets, and local restaurants (including traditional American, Thai, Middle Eastern), coffee/tea houses, and grocery stores are within walking distance of campus.

### **CURRENCY:**

The US Dollar is the official currency. El Paso has places such as the El Paso Airport that acts as money exchangers for international visitors. As of June 11, 2017, the current exchange rate for widely used currencies is as follows:

1 US Dollar = 0.789 British Pound	1 US Dollar = 110.3 Japanese Yen
1 US Dollar = 6.80 Chinese Yuan	1 US Dollar = 64.39 Indian Rupee
1 US Dollar = 0.89 Euro	1 US Dollar = 18.17 Mexican Peso

### **REACHING EL PASO:**

El Paso International Airport is located approximately 6 miles (10 km) from the UTEP campus. Most airlines from Canada, Europe, Mexico, and Central and South American countries have regular flights to El Paso. For those who would like to drive to El Paso, information about route maps will be available in the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular.

### **ELECTRICITY:**

Domestic supply is 110 volts. Those who would like to use laptop computers are advised to bring appropriate adaptors. Electrical adaptors are also available locally in the commercial centers.

### **VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO USA:**

As necessary, please go to the following link to review information on how to obtain a Tourist Visa: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit.html>

### **VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO MEXICO:**

Travelers who wish to visit Mexico should know that citizens of most nations (e.g., USA, Canada, Japan, USA, and European Union Member States) do not need a Mexican entry visa. Persons holding a valid US visa can also travel to Mexico without an additional Mexican Visa. However, we advise you to be in contact with the nearest Embassy in your country for visa requirements. For those who need a Mexican visa, a special invitation letter will be mailed upon registration.

### **SESSION THEMES:**

1. **Genomic approaches at any level**
2. **Biogeography – dispersal in space and time, phylogeography, biodiversity patterns**
3. **Long-term ecological studies – decadal or more**
4. **Experimental ecology**
5. **New approaches to taxonomy**
6. **Examining the border between acanthocephalans and rotifers**
7. **Applied research**

**KEYNOTE CONTRIBUTIONS:** These invited contributions will be noted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular.

**INVITED REVIEW TOPICS:** Invited oral reviews will start these sessions, which will include both poster and oral presentations.

**WORKSHOPS:** Up to 4 workshops of two-hour duration each are planned:

**IMAGE CONTEST:** Following the success of the contest in the Czech Republic, an image contest will be organized during the poster sessions. You will be able to upload your images on the website. Limit 5 images per participant. A vote of participants will determine the winners of the contest and they will be announced at the closing dinner event.

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** The official language of the conference is English. All participants are advised to prepare their posters or oral presentations in English only.

**REGISTRATION COSTS: COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS**

CATEGORY	EARLY REGISTRATION	LATE REGISTRATION
REGULAR	\$425	\$500
STUDENT: US	\$375	\$450
STUDENT: INTERNATIONAL	SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP DEFRAY COSTS ARE AVAILABLE	
ON-SITE: DURING THE EVENT	----	\$575
ACCOMPANYING PERSON(S)	\$150	\$225

*Information on daily cultural events, mid-conference excursion, post-conference tours, and local sightseeing for accompanying person will be presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular.*

**DEADLINES:** *Information on payment of registration fees and abstract submission will be presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular. (NB: all banking charges must be paid by the participant.)*

- Early registration & information: begins September 1, 2017
- Final registration: begins 31 January, 2018
- Registration closes: May 13, 2018

**ABSTRACTS:** Due via symposium web site by 20 January, 2018. Abstracts of ≤300 words may be submitted via the website. Abstracts will be reviewed prior to acceptance for presentation at the symposium. (Use the WORD Count function in WORD to determine the length of your abstract.) Notification of abstract acceptance 3 March 2018.

**ORAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** Speakers should provide their presentation file on a USB memory - flash drive. Presentations should be compatible with MS PowerPoint, Apple, or PDF. Your presentation will be loaded onto the hard drive of the computer in the lecture room before your session and will be removed afterwards. A projector and laptop/computer will be provided for presentations. It is not possible to use your own computer.

**POSTER FLASH TALKS:** Each poster will be introduced at the beginning of each poster session by a two minute flash talk accompanied by no more than two slides. (Presentations must be compatible with MS PowerPoint, Apple, or PDF.)

**POSTER PRINTING:** Posters can be printed on-site for \$50 US Dollars. Send them to the organizers in PDF form at an appropriate resolution. Organizers are not responsible for the quality and resolution of electronic files obtained from the author. You may print your poster at registration. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Size limits and additional information will be given in the 2<sup>nd</sup> circular.

**PROCEEDINGS:** We expect that the proceedings of the conference will be published as a special issue of *Hydrobiologia*, following the editorial policies of the journal.

**FULL TEXT OF THE MANUSCRIPT:** Due: July 15, 2018

**LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

Liz Walsh (UTEP, USA)  
Carl Lieb (UTEP, USA)

Judith V. Rios Arana (UACJ, Mexico)  
Robert L. Wallace (Ripon, USA)

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE: \* – denotes Editorial Committee**

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**CORRESPONDENCE:** For conference correspondence, please use: [rotifer15@utep.edu](mailto:rotifer15@utep.edu)

**WEBSITE:** (under construction): [www.utep.edu/rotiferaXV](http://www.utep.edu/rotiferaXV)

**SPONSORS:**



**Other questions?**

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