



INTERNATIONAL ROTIFER XV

S Y M P O S I U M

Since 1976, an International Rotifer Symposium has taken place every three years, providing 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 aspects of rotifer biology.

- Those interested in attending the 15th IRS should contact rotifer15@gmail.com (and cc: wallacer@ripon.edu) so that we can send you future information.

ABOUT UTEP & EL PASO: Located on the culturally vibrant US-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 includes science, engineering and health, and brings in more than \$83 million per year. El Paso is a bicultural community of 800,000 people, and the safest large city within the United States. The city is adjacent to the state of New Mexico and the country of Mexico, making it the nation's leading area for cultural diversity and border health research. El Paso is the sixth largest city in Texas and 19th largest city in the US. The 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 River flows through the Rio Grande Rift. This river defines the border between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez to the south and west until it 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 the 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 rain as the summer monsoon season begins.

SYMPOSIUM SITE & ACCOMMODATION: The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso. Accommodation costs depend on single or double occupancy and range from \$25 (UTEP dormitories) 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 campus. Accommodation costs depend on single or double occupancy and range from \$95 to \$140 US Dollars plus tax per person, per night (book early for cheapest rates). Shuttles may be arranged depending upon number of guests registered at outlying hotels.

The dormitory rooms are single with up to 4 guests per suite. Each room has a unique key. More information on the dorm layout is available on the website at this [link](#). Unfortunately, rooms must be booked for the full week; partial dates cannot be accommodated.

INTERNET: Available in conference rooms, on campus, and in dorms.

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 American, Thai, Middle Eastern); coffee/tea houses and grocery stores are within walking distance of campus.

CURRENCY: The US Dollar is the official currency. Places such as the El Paso Airport provide money exchange facilities for international visitors. On 5 January 2018, the exchange rates (per US Dollar) for widely used currencies were:

0.74 British Pound	112.99 Japanese Yen	0.83 Euro
6.49 Chinese Yuan	63.23 Indian Rupee	19.18 Mexican Peso

REACHING EL PASO: El Paso International Airport is approximately 6 miles (10 km) from the UTEP campus. Shuttle information will be provided in the 4th circular. Most airlines from Canada, Europe, Mexico, and Central and South American countries have regular flights to El Paso. For those who would prefer to drive to El Paso, maps and additional information are available upon request.

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.

INVITATION LETTERS: Letter of invitation can be provided; please request one when you register for the Symposium.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO US: If necessary, please go to the following link for information on how to obtain a Tourist Visa to the USA:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit.html>

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO MEXICO: Travellers from most countries (e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, USA and the European Union) do not need a visa to enter Mexico. Also, persons holding a valid US visa can travel to Mexico without an additional Mexican Visa. However, we advise that you check visa requirements yourself, before you travel.

SESSION THEMES WITH INVITED REVIEW TOPICS:

- 1. Theme: Biogeography – dispersal in space and time, phylogeography, biodiversity patterns**
Invited review: Status of rotifer biodiversity: past, present, and future – Diego Fontaneto
- 2. Theme: Long-term ecological studies – decadal or more**
Invited review: Long-term ecological studies – Linda May
- 3. Theme: Experimental ecology and evolution**
Invited review: Invertebrate predators on rotifers – S. Nandini
- 4. Theme: Genomic approaches at any level**
Invited reviews: Genome size evolution - Claus-Peter Stelzer; Comparative genomics of monogonont rotifers – Jae-Song Lee
- 5. Theme: Evolutionary biology**
Invited review: Age-related gene expression and maternal effects – Kristin Gribble
- 6. Theme: Examining the border between acanthocephalans and rotifers**

Invited reviews: Highly specialized rotifers: The inner and outer morphology of endoparasitic Acanthocephala – Holger Herlyn; Variability in the Acanthocephala – Omar Amin

7. Theme: Applied research

Invited reviews: Using non-brachionid rotifers in larviculture – Atsushi Hagiwara; Bioconcentration of toxicants in rotifers – Roberto Rico-Martinez

KEYNOTE CONTRIBUTIONS: Topics of these special contributions will be announced on the website.

WORKSHOPS: Up to three two-hour workshops are planned. Your suggestions for these are welcome. Also, we are considering holding a workshop on Laser Micro-dissection, and establishing a working group to correct misidentifications of rotifers on the internet.

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 onto the website anonymously, no more than 5 images per participant. A vote of participants will determine the winners of the contest, and these will be announced at the closing dinner event.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: The official language of the conference is English. All manuscripts submitted for potential publication, and all posters and oral presentations, must also be in English.

REGISTRATION COSTS: COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS

CATEGORY	EARLY REGISTRATION (OPENS SEPT 30, 2017)	REGULAR REGISTRATION (OPENS JAN 31, 2018)
REGULAR	\$425	\$500
STUDENT: US	\$375	\$450
STUDENT: INTERNATIONAL *SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE	\$250*	
ON-SITE (during event):	----	\$575
ACCOMPANYING PERSON(S)	\$150	\$225 (ON-SITE:\$400)

Information on the mid-conference and post-conference excursions and local sightseeing for accompanying persons are given below.

DEADLINES: *Payment for registration is listed below. (NB: Participants must pay all banking fees.)*

- Early registration opens: 30 September 2017
- Regular registration opens: 31 January 2018
- Registration closes: 13 May 2018
- Submission of abstracts closes: 31 January 2018
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 3 March 2018
- Submission of manuscript: no later than 15 July 2018

ABSTRACTS: Abstracts (≤200 words) may be submitted via rotifer15@gmail.com (cc: wallacer@ripon.edu) until 31 January 2018. Please use the 'Word Count' function in Word to check the length of your abstract before submission. Also indicate your preference for an oral presentation or poster. The scientific committee will make final determination based

programmatic fit. Abstracts will be reviewed prior to acceptance; notification of acceptance will be made by 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; please ensure that your USB drive is virus free. Your presentation will be loaded onto the conference computer before your session and will be removed afterwards. A projector and laptop/computer will be provided for presentations. It will not be possible to use your own computer.

POSTER FLASH TALKS: Posters will be introduced at the beginning of each poster session by a 2-minute flash talk of no more than 2 slides. (Presentations must be compatible with MS PowerPoint, Apple, or PDF; please ensure that your USB drive is virus free).

POSTER PRINTING: Posters can be printed on-site for ~\$35 US Dollars. Please send them to the organizers in PDF form at an appropriate resolution. Organizers are not responsible for the quality and resolution of posters created from electronic files provided by authors. You may print your poster at registration. Please follow the instructions below to print posters that fit our posters stands.

1. Dimensions: 90 cm x 120 cm (36" x 48")
2. Orientation: VERTICAL (PORTRAIT)
3. Posters exceeding the specified dimensions may not fit on the easels.

PROCEEDINGS: The proceedings of the conference will be published as a special issue of *Hydrobiologia*, following the editorial policies of the journal. The main aim of the journal is to publish high quality papers, with significant novelty, and that are relevant to a wide and international scientific audience.

FULL TEXT OF THE MANUSCRIPT: Deadline for submission 15 July 2018 (*without exception*)

MID-CONFERENCE EXCURSION (INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION FEES): (ACTIVE EMBEDDED IN LIGHT BLUE)

WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT (WSNM): Rising from the heart of the Tularosa Basin WSNM is one of the world's great natural wonders - the glistening white sands of New Mexico. Comprising the world's largest gypsum dune field, WSNM preserves a major portion of a unique, 275 square mile region of gypsum desert along with the plants and animals that live here. We will visit ancient Lake Lucero, see mammoth tracks, desert soil crusts, and more.

POST-CONFERENCE EXCURSION (NOT INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION OR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS FEES) REQUIRES SEPARATE PAYMENT: (ACTIVE EMBEDDED IN LIGHT BLUE)

SATURDAY: CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK, NM. Hidden beneath the surface of an ancient seabed are more than 119 caves—formed when acid dissolved limestone leaving behind caverns of all sizes. We will tour the caverns and have lunch at Rattlesnake Springs, a top birding site in New Mexico, take small hikes, and stay for the fly out of millions of Mexican free-tailed bats at dusk.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS TOURS: INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION FEES FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

MONDAY: MISSION TRAIL, EL PASO. The two mission churches of Ysleta and Socorro and the presidio chapel of San Elizario, located along the El Paso Mission Trail, stand as enduring symbols of the long and rich history of their respective communities, as well as the nations of Spain, Mexico and the United States. All three are privately owned by the Catholic Diocese and are actively supported by their local parishes. These landmarks and their environs are listed in the National Register Historic Places.

TUESDAY: RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS, EL PASO. Rio Bosque Wetlands is a 372-acre park in the city of El Paso that is managed by UTEP. Wetlands and riverside forests once graced the banks of

the Rio Grande in the Paso del Norte region. They were the most productive natural habitats in the region, but today they are virtually gone. The Bosque abuts the international border with Mexico.

THURSDAY: OLD MESILLA, NM. Mesilla Plaza was declared a state monument of New Mexico because of its historical significance in both the history of the state and the history of the United States. Mesilla's Historic district was added to the National Registry in February, 1985. Today, quaint gift shops, galleries, and world-renowned dining and drinking establishments occupy the Plaza and its surrounding historical buildings. Outlaws such as Dutch Hubert, Nicolas Provencio and Billy the Kid frequented many of the bars and dances in town. It was at the jail and courthouse on the southeast corner of the plaza that Billy the Kid was tried and sentenced to hang in 1881.

FRIDAY: WYLER AERIAL TRAMWAY & ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, EL PASO. The tramway at Franklin Mountains State Park features an aerial cable car situated on 196 acres of rugged mountain and rock formations on the east side of the Franklin Mountains. The El Paso Museum of Archaeology presents 14,000 years of prehistory in the El Paso area, the greater Southwest, and northern Mexico. You'll see dioramas and exhibits of American Indian lives and their material culture from the Paleoindian hunters of the Ice Age to their modern Indian descendants. Walk nature trails on our 15 acres with more than 250 varieties of Chihuahuan Desert native plants, outdoor exhibits and an Indian Garden.

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, which will also include Diego Fontaneto (Associate Editor of *Hydrobiologia*)

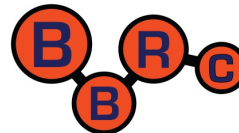
Steven Declerk (Netherlands)*
Holger Herlyn (Germany)
Rick Hochberg (USA)*
Linda May (Scotland)
S Nandini (Mexico)

Roberto Rico-Martínez (Mexico)
SSS Sarma (Mexico)
Terry Snell (USA)*
Liz Walsh (USA)
Bob Wallace (USA)

CORRESPONDENCE: For conference correspondence, please use rotifer15@gmail.com and cc: wallacer@ripon.edu

WEBSITE: <http://www.utep.edu/science/rotiferaXV/>

SPONSORS:



Questions?

Elizabeth J. Walsh
Department of Biological Sciences
500 W. University Ave.
University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, TX 79968
Office: 915-747-5421

Robert L. Wallace
Department of Biology
Ripon College
300 Seward Street
Ripon, WI 54971
Office: 920-748-8760