



12th International Symposium on Syrphidae
Průhonice, Czech Republic
2–7 September 2024

Dear Fellow Syrphidologists,

it is a great pleasure to invite you to 12th International Symposium on Syrphidae (ISS12). The Symposium will take place in Průhonice near Prague (Czech Republic), in [Průhonice Castle](#), with accommodation in [Hotel Floret](#), located in the immediate vicinity of the castle.

The symposium will start on 2nd September 2024 (Monday) in the evening and will end on 7th September 2024 (Saturday) in the morning. The schedule of the symposium is following:

Arrival	2 nd September 2024
Symposium	3 rd – 5 th September 2024
Field excursion	6 th September 2024
Departure	7 th September 2024

Contact address:



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Charles University, Viničná 7,
128 43 Praha 2, Czech Republic
Web: <https://web.natur.cuni.cz/zoologie/syrphidae/>
E-mail: Syrphidae12@gmail.com

Venue address:

Průhonice Castle
Zámek 1
252 43 Průhonice
GPS: 50.00060N, 14.55725E

Hotel Floret
Květnové náměstí 391
252 43 Průhonice
GPS: 50.00066N, 14.55972E

Registration

The registration for the ISS12 starts immediately. For the final registration, please fill in the registration form available [here](#). You will receive payment instructions on your e-mail within 3 days after filling in the form. You can now take advantage of a reduced rate for early registration until the end of May. Please note that your registration will be considered valid after we receive the required payment of fees. Periods for registration categories and costs per delegate are following:

Student Early Registration	22th April – 31st May 2024	350 €
Student Late Registration	1st June – 30th June 2024	400 €
Regular Early Registration	22th April – 31st May 2024	400 €
Regular Late Registration	1st June – 30th June 2024	500 €

The registration of a student / regular delegate includes:

- entrance to the Průhonice Castle and surrounding park
- delegate package
- coffee breaks in Průhonice Castle
- lunches and dinners in Hotel Floret
- gala dinner

The **student registration** is available for pre-graduate students as well as Ph.D. students. Students must submit a letter from their supervisor / advisor / head of department on a University letterhead confirming their status as full-time students. Such letter / certificate must be sent at the time of registration by e-mail to Syrphidae12@gmail.com, with subject “**Student_YourName_Surname**”.

For **accompanying persons** (family members of delegates etc.), we offer to select one of two possibilities: accompanying persons may either join delegates for lunches and dinners in Hotel Floret (“**Accompanying Person A**”), or they can make their own program and register just for accommodation, without lunches and dinners (“**Accompanying Person B**”). The registration fees are following:

Accompanying Person A Early	22th April – 31st May 2024	350 €
Accompanying Person A Late	1st June – 30th June 2024	400 €
Accompanying Person B	22th April – 30th June 2024	0 €

The registration of Accompanying Person A includes:

- entrance to Průhonice park
- lunches and dinners in Hotel Floret
- gala dinner

The registration of Accompanying Person B includes:

- entrance to Průhonice park

The registration fee does not include accommodation and excursion. For more information about accommodation and excursion, see below.

Accommodation

Organising committee strongly recommends staying in Hotel Floret, which is in the immediate vicinity of the Průhonice Castle. Accommodation fee in Hotel Floret also includes breakfasts and entrance to a hotel swimming pool in the morning and evening hours. The prices are following:

bed in a shared twin room	42 € / night	(210 € per 5 nights)
bed in a shared triple room	35 € / night	(175 € per 5 nights)

In the registration form, you can let us know who you want to be accommodated with. Unfortunately, due to the limited capacity of the hotel, we cannot offer single rooms in Hotel Floret at the moment. Nevertheless, in the proximity (500–800 m) of Průhonice Castle and Hotel Floret, there are several other accommodation possibilities, such as:

Parkhotel Průhonice

web: www.park-hotel-prague-pruhonice.cz/en/

Penzion Pod Zámkem

web: <https://www.booking.com/hotel/cz/penzion-pod-zamkem-pruhonice.en-gb.html>

Pohostinství V Holi

web: <https://www.booking.com/hotel/cz/pohostinstvi-v-holi-pruhonice1.en-gb.html>

Hotel Tulipán

web: <http://www.tulipan.cz/en/>

Delegates that are not accommodated in Hotel Floret will still have lunches and dinners in Hotel Floret.

Binocular microscopes will be available for delegates wishing to examine specimens in the Průhonice Castle as well as in the Hotel Floret.

Excursion

The excursion will be held in **Milovice Nature Reserve**, between towns Milovice and Benátky nad Jizerou (GPS: 50.237117N, 14.885812E). Milovice Nature Reserve is a part of the “Natura 2000”, a network covering Europe's most valuable and threatened habitats and species. In the past, Milovice Nature Reserve used to be a military training area. Nowadays, it hosts a range of habitats, with semi-natural dry grasslands being the most dominant. It has been used as an experimental site for rewilding projects of large herbivores since 2015 in collaborative project of several Czech universities and Czech Academy of Sciences. Today, the area hosts herds of **European bison**, **Exmoor ponies**, and **aurochs-like cattle** and a huge diversity of plants and insects, including several endangered species of lepidopterans, plants and birds.

The excursion will consist of guided tour in the **strictly protected areas** with large herbivores, where insect collecting is prohibited. The excursion will be guided by **Miloslav Jirků** (the head of the reintroduction program for large herbivores) and by **David Storch** (professor of ecology from Charles University).

During the excursion, we will also explore habitats in the surrounding of the grazed reserve. These surrounding habitats are **suitable for insect collecting** and should host at least some hover flies even in September. **No permits** are needed for collecting insects in the Czech Republic, except for protected areas and apart from collecting species that are protected by the national law (no dipteran species is protected by law in the Czech Republic).

The excursion fee is **40 €**, which includes a bus from Hotel Floret to Milovice and back, entrance into the Nature reserve, and a lunch package.

Many of you also expressed interest in visiting **historical center of Prague**. For those, who are interested, we will arrange an unofficial excursion after the Symposium, on Saturday 7th September. More information will be announced later.

Abstract submission and presentation details

Abstract submission starts immediately. Abstracts are required for both oral and poster presentations. They must be submitted by e-mail to Syrphidae12@gmail.com, with subject "**Abstract_YourName_Surname**". Please, send the abstracts in an attached file in an editable format (e.g. doc, docx, odt) until **30th June 2024**.

Each abstract has a limit of 250 words (only text, excl. names and affiliations). Only registered delegates abstracts will be considered for presentations. The abstracts will be proceeded to Scientific Committee for a review. We primarily recommend to present just **one contribution per delegate**. If you have more topics to present, let us know via e-mail and Scientific Committee will make the decision.

Oral presentations should take 10 minutes followed by a 5 minute discussion. Presentations should be in Microsoft PowerPoint format saved as ppt or pptx, or in a pdf file.

Posters can be in formats up to A0. Poster boards and mounting materials will be available in the Průhonice Castle during the first day of the symposium.

Location

The symposium will take a place in **Průhonice**, which is a little town (with about 2800 inhabitants) closely adjacent to Prague city, about 15 km from the centre of Prague.

Průhonice are mostly known for the **castle** (where the symposium will take place, GPS: 50.00060N, 14.55725E) and for the park in the surrounding of the castle. Průhonice **park** and Průhonice castle are considered one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Průhonice town and Průhonice castle have relatively long **history**. The town was probably established in the 12th century and the oldest monument in the town is a church from 1187, which is located in the neighborhood of the castle (GPS: 50.000605N, 14.558449E). The Průhonice castle was probably built during 13th century as a fortress. Since that, the castle was reconstructed several times: extensive reconstruction was done in the 16th century, when the original medieval fortress was rebuild into the form of a Renaissance palace. Then, it was largely damaged during Thirty Years'

War, repaired again, and damaged again. The current appearance of the castle was formed in 19th century, when the castle was reconstructed by the count Arnošt Emanuel Silva Tarouca, who was the owner of the castle. He reconstructed the castle in Neo-Renaissance style and together with the reconstruction, he established a large park in the surrounding of the castle. As the count Arnošt Emanuel Silva Tarouca was interested in nature (mainly dendrology), the castle park resemble botanical garden. Later, he sold the castle to the Czech state and after the World War II, the castle was provided to the **Institute of Botany** of the Czech Academy of Sciences, which utilises the castle to the present day.

Besides Průhonice Castle Park (situated on the south of Průhonice town), there is also the famous **Průhonice Dendrological Garden** (situated on the north of Průhonice town, GPS: 50.008761N, 14.558936E). The dendrological garden is managed by Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening.

Transport and other practical information

Průhonice town is easily accessible by **public transport** from Prague. It takes about 40 minutes from Prague train station or Prague bus station to Průhonice for a price lower than 2 €. The public transport from Prague Airport to Průhonice is a bit more complicated: it takes about 90 minutes and costs about 3 € by public transport. There is also a faster express bus from the airport directly to the main train station, from where you can easily get to Průhonice. This bus costs 4 €. Taxi from Prague Airport to Průhonice takes about 45 minutes and costs about 50 €. Feel free to ask us for help with managing the public transport.

For those who are coming **by a car** and have an accommodation in Hotel Floret, parking places are arranged in the yard of the hotel (GPS: 50.00066N, 14.55972E). After your arrival, we will give you parking tickets that will enable you to park there for free.

Foreign nationals intending to visit the Czech Republic should familiarize themselves with the **visa** requirements for entry into the country. The Czech Republic is a member of the Schengen Area, allowing citizens of certain countries to enter without a visa for short stays of up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Additionally, the Czech Republic has visa-free arrangements with several other countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and many others. For citizens of EU countries that are not part of the Schengen Area, such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania, no visa is required for short-term stays in the Czech Republic. However, it's important to note that the rules and regulations for entry may differ from those of Schengen countries, and travelers are advised to verify their specific requirements. See the list of states whose citizens needs to apply for visa:

https://mzv.gov.cz/jnp/en/information_for aliens/short_stay_visa/list_of_states_whose_citizens_are/index.html

For detailed information on visa requirements and application procedures, you can visit the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (MFA):

https://mzv.gov.cz/jnp/en/information_for aliens/index.html

The **currency** of the Czech Republic is **Czech Crown** (code: CZK; in Czech: “koruna česká” or “koruna”; commonly used abbreviation: “Kč”). Other currencies (e.g. Euro) are not accepted in the majority of shops, seldom they are accepted, but often with unfavorable exchange rates. **Credit cards** or Debit cards are accepted in almost all shops and in the majority of restaurants and pubs, but some exceptions can be found. Cash machines (**Visa ATM / Mastercard ATM**) are relatively

common on the streets. However, avoid Euronet ATMs (blue with yellow lettering), which charge high fees. In Prague, there are many **exchange offices** where you can buy or sell Czech crowns for various currencies (e.g. EUR, USD, or GBP could be exchanged easily). If you want to exchange a currency, be careful of scammers offering inconvenient exchange rates. The value of 1 Czech Crown is relatively low, the rates are approximately 1 EUR ~ 25 CZK; 1 USD ~ 22 CZK.

More detailed informations about the Czech Republic and tips for travelers will be provided in Third Circular.

Organising Committee

Scientific Committee

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Celeste Pérez Bañón, University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain

Wouter van Steenis, Independent Researcher, Breukelen, The Netherlands

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We are looking forward to meeting you in the Czech Republic!