

6th Conference of Asian Society of Arachnology

Kochi, India. 23rd - 26th November, 2020.



First Circular

The sixth Conference and Meeting of the Asian Society of Arachnology (ASA) will be hosted by Sacred Heart College and Deva Matha College under Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee we are pleased to invite you and accompanying persons to participate in this prestigious annual conference of Asian arachnologists to be held on 23rd - 26th November 2020.

We welcome participation by students and faculty members from all fields of arachnological research, such as taxonomy and systematics, evolutionary biology, behaviour, ecology, biogeography, physiology, developmental biology, molecular biology, conservation biology, and many others

Venue:

The conference will be taking place at the Kochi Marriott Hotel, a 5-star hotel situated in Kochi city. (<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cokmc-kochi-marriott-hotel/>). Located within the Kochi Lulu International Shopping Mall campus, just 30 minutes away from the airport, the hotel has convenient proximity to the city attractions and the city center. It has an outdoor pool, a spa and wellness center and three dining options including two specialty restaurants – the 'Kochi Kitchen' that serves Indian, Asian and Arabian delicacies and the 'Cassava' that serves authentic regional delights. The cozy and comfortable rooms feature air-conditioning, flat-screen satellite TV and a mini-bar. The private bathroom is equipped with bath or shower facilities, bathrobe and free toiletries.

Events

The Talks and mid-meeting excursion will be arranged on four days. The excursion will take the participants and accompanying persons to the forests of Western Ghats around Vazhachal reserve forests.

Post conference symposium: A symposium on invertebrate diversity of Western Ghats will be conducted on 27th November 2020.

Post conference Western Ghats sightseeing trip: A sightseeing trip to major attractions in Kerala located in Western Ghats such as Munnar (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munnar>), nicknamed as the Kashmir of South India, and Thekkady (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thekkady>) will be conducted after the conference.

Travel grants:

A few travel grants will be available to students and retired scientists. Details will be posted later.

Registration costs: Registration cost will include participation fee, airport transfer, conference kit, accommodation, breakfast, lunch and dinner at Marriot Hotel, Kochi.

Twin sharing (all meals and accommodation)

Regular participant USD 550

Accompanying persons USD 550

Triple sharing (breakfast and lunch only+ accommodation)

Student/others USD 500

Single occupancy (all meals and accommodation)

Regular participant USD 900

Accompanying persons USD 900

Local participant (lunch only)

Regular participant USD 350

Accommodation will be provided in the deluxe rooms of the hotel. Those requiring executive rooms can contact the organizers for special rates.

Preregistration: Please register your details in advance to include in the email list (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUMa9iQLboOBRbok6mvz8uQ_8gW0_FSTGY2YMM6SH18HizPQ/viewform). Online registration will be opened around early January, 2020.

Transportation

Kochi, also known as Cochin, is a major port city on the south-west coast of India. It is part of the district of Ernakulam in the state of Kerala and is often referred to as Ernakulam.

By Air: The air gateway to Kochi is the Cochin International Airport (CIAL) located at Nedumbassery, which is about 28 km (17 mi) north of Kochi city, and handles both domestic and international flights. The Cochin airport provides direct connectivity to popular international destinations in the Middle East, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Maldives and to most major Indian cities. It is also the fourth busiest airport in India in terms of international passenger traffic.

By Train

The city has four major railway stations – Ernakulam Junction, Ernakulam Town (locally known as the South and North railway stations respectively), Aluva and Tripunithura. The South station is one of the busiest railway stations in South India, with more than 128 scheduled train services daily. The North station caters mostly to long distance services that bypass the South station.

Metro: The Kochi Metro is a metro rapid transit system serving the city of Kochi. The metro system has 22 stations connecting the suburban towns of Aluva and Pettah while passing through downtown.

By Road

The major bus terminals in the city are Ernakulam Town, Ernakulam Jetty and the private bus terminal at Kaloor. An integrated transit terminal namely The Mobility Hub at Vytilla acts as a hub for long distance bus services away from the city center, and also as a converging point for different modes of public transport, namely bus, metro and ferry.

Contact:

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We look forward to seeing you in Kochi