

IMC-10 Symposium: Intra-guild Competition in Small Carnivores - Call for Posters

Dear Colleagues,

The 10th International Mammalogical Conference will take place next August in Mendoza, Argentina. We are inviting additional presentations in poster format to our Symposium on *Intra-guild Competition in Small Carnivores*. Please note that deadlines for early registration (6th March) and abstract submission (30th April) approaching rapidly.

CONCEPT: An emerging fundamental of carnivore ecology is intra-guild competition. Larger species typically out-compete smaller ones for food, displacing or even killing them. While hitherto the research focus was on meso and large carnivores, such as lions and spotted hyenas out-gunning cheetahs and African wild dogs, research on smaller carnivores is less prominent. Competition, hostility, and aggression between sympatric small carnivores are important forces in their biology. Interference competition, in the form of aggression and killing between different small carnivore species has been widely documented (e.g., red foxes kill kit and Arctic foxes, bobcats and coyotes kill martens, Iberian lynxes kill European genets). Exploitative competition is thought to have even more widespread effects. Competition may at times determine the geographical range of a species, reduce abundance of the subordinate, and segregate smaller species to interstices between territories of the larger competitor. In order to avoid competition, niche segregation may evolve within the carnivore guild (via trophic, spatial or temporal segregation), and in some communities character displacement may develop with populations segregating themselves by size. Whereas in natural guilds modified by humans, subordinate species may become more abundant following the disappearance of the dominant carnivore in the guild.

Participants to this symposium, including senior scientists, younger colleagues with significant accomplishments, and students, will provide a suitable forum to discuss the latest thinking in this exciting field of mammalian ecology and its consequences for small carnivore conservation. A poster session will accommodate additional presentations.

We encourage you to register to the IMC and confirm your interest to participate in our Symposium. Please note that is necessary to complete your registration and payment before the submission of your abstract.

Registration and abstract forms are available at:
<http://www.cricyt.edu.ar/imc10/registration.html>

Payments can be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or bank transfer. For graduate students from developing countries, this site provides details on financial assistance to help defray travelling and accommodation costs.

The conference organizing committee is working on putting together information on accommodation, conference activities, local tours, and post-conference tours. For current and future updates on what is available you can check:
<http://www.tripsmendoza.com/imc10/imc10.html>

For questions on accommodation and tours, please contact Daniel Ganum:
trips@ciudad.com.ar.

Hope to see you in Mendoza next August.
Best wishes

Mauro Lucherini & Claudio Sillero