

**Proceedings of the ISACC's
Seventh International Meeting
St. Petersburg, Russia
August 28 – September 1, 2005**



PREFACE

The seventh meeting of the International *Sorex araneus* Cytogenetics Committee (ISACC) was held at St. Petersburg, Russia, on 28 August – 1 September 2005. The meeting was organised by Dr. Nina Bulatova on behalf of the ISACC. All the ISACC members, except two — Dr. Vitaly Volobouev, the organiser of the previous meeting in Paris, and Prof. Victor Orlov, Moscow — attended the Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg to participate in the meeting.

The scientific programme of the meeting was based on 41 abstracts obtained via e-mail communications from 49 participants who expressed their wish to attend the meeting. The 3-day working programme of the meeting consisted of 23 oral and 18 poster presentations. This special issue of Russian Journal of Theriology contains 16 papers based on oral and poster presentations of 37 authors.

The organisation of the 7th ISACC meeting and international conference in St. Petersburg was supported by the Russian Academy of Sciences and Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR grant 05-04-58054). Some economic support for travel was obtained from INTAS grant No. 03-51-4030 (coordinator J.B. Searle) for participants involved in studies under this joint international project.

Special thanks are expressed to the administration of the Zoological Institute (Director, Academician Alexander F. Alimov) for their support of the idea and practicalities of the international meeting. The staff of the Mammal Division, Head Prof. Alexander O. Averianov, are gratefully acknowledged for help in many respects. The realisation of this meeting is primarily due to the activity of Dr. Mikhail V. Zaitsev — an insectivore specialist. Unfortunately, he died before the start of the meeting. He fought his illness with great courage. The ISACC community are deeply saddened by this loss of their Russian colleague.

The next meeting will be held in York, UK, and organised by Prof. Jeremy B. Searle in 2008.

The scientific editors of these proceedings were Prof. Jeremy B. Searle and Dr. Nina Bulatova on behalf of ISACC. They are grateful for the hard work of numerous referees. Prof. Pavel Borodin provided valuable assistance at an important phase of production.

The current membership of ISACC is as follows: Nina Bulatova (Moscow), Chair; Pavel Borodin (Novosibirsk); Stanisław Fedyk (Białystok); Karl Fredga (Uppsala); Jacques Hausser (Lausanne); Alina Mishta (Kiev); P. David Polly (Indiana); Jeremy B. Searle (York); Jan M. Wójcik (Białowieża); and Jan Zima (Brno).

