

Society for European Lepidopterology (SEL)



General Secretary

Richard Mally

Czech University of Life Sciences
Prague

richardmally@seznam.cz

+420 735 500 393

Prague, 03 August 2024

Dear council members,

Please find below the final agenda for the forthcoming Council Meeting.

SEL Council Meeting at the venue for the proposed 2025 SEL Congress, Svatý Jan pod Skalou on **Monday 5th August 2024**, start 09:30 CET (for those attending in person) or 13:00 CET (for the Council Meeting).

Schedule

- 9:30 – 11:30 Meeting at the monastery in Svatý Jan pod Skalou (*in-person only*),
Inspection of the facilities, infrastructure, accommodations
Meeting with director of the Protected Area around Svatý Jan pod Skalou
- 11:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13.00 – 15:00 Meeting of Council members (*in-person & online*)
Zoom link: <https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/67246355241>
- 15:00 – 15:45 Tea/coffee break and leg stretcher
- 15:45 – 18:00 Meeting continues (*in-person & online*)
- 19:00 Dinner

Agenda

1. Welcome, apologies for absence (Dominic, Marianne).
2. Minutes of the last council meetings in Orléans, France, 25–26 and 28 September 2023. See below.
3. Matters arising from those minutes.
4. Secretariat (Richard).
 - correspondence
 - status of registration of new Statutes
 - Communication amongst council members: dedicated platform or email?
5. Evaluation of 2023 Congress in Orléans (Carlos).
6. Preparations for SEL Congress 2025 in Svatý Jan pod Skalou (Zdeněk).
 - subsidy for students, poor members
 - student competition – needs to be organised differently (too much work last time)
 - workshops
 - icebreaker night on 1st day for “firstcomers” (students, ...)
 - extend congress to weekend to make attending more attractive to people having to work during the week?
7. Report of the Treasurer (Wolfgang) for 2023 and the Auditor’s report. See report below.
 - Discussion about what to do with Russian and Chinese members who cannot pay their membership fee due to being locked out of international banking systems.
8. Report of the membership secretary (Hossein). See report below.
 - Share up-to-date list of members before the meeting.
9. Report on Publications: News (Dominic). See report below.
10. Report on Publications: Nota (David, Théo). See report below.
11. Report on SEL Website, Social media (Richard). See report below.

- Producing new logo?
12. Search for candidates to replace council members.
- Auditor: to replace Axel Steiner

 - Discussion about SEL archive:
We should dispose of part of the 10 full sets of Nota that take too much space. How many to keep? Just 1 set? Selling to or via Erich Bauer?
13. Future congresses. Proposals so far:
- Krakow (Łukasz Przybyłowicz)
 - Lund (Jadranka)
 - 2026 field congress for the 50th SEL anniversary, potentially held in Croatia?
14. Brainstorming about the future.
- Suggestion by Toomas: establish a country-level network of volunteers to help other lepidopterists with legal aspects and picking collecting localities; members-only approach, encouraging others to become SEL members
15. Next council meetings.
- Jadranka suggested to start having online meetings (~2 hours long) every few months so that we don't need to have such long meetings. We could have 2–3 online meetings before next year's Congress:
 - November 2024 (online meeting)
 - March 2025 (online meeting)
 - June 2025 (online meeting)
 - August 2025 (SEL Congress in Svatý Jan pod Skalou, CZ)
16. Any other business.

The 23rd European Congress of Lepidopterology & 11th Forum Herbulot, 25-29 September 2023, Orléans, France

The congress was organised by Carlos Lopez-Vaamonde and his team from Le Studium at Musée des Beaux Arts (oral presentations) & Hôtel Dupanloup (poster sessions), in the center of Orléans.

<https://www.lestudium-ias.com/events/conservation-ecology-and-systematics-lepidoptera-changing-world>

There were 129 participants (24 students) from over 30 countries, with 50 oral presentations and 24 posters. We had nine plenary lectures starting with Marc Holderied who talked about the acoustic arms races between moths and bats Eric Warrant who showed us how Australian bogong moths use the stars and the earth's magnetic field as compasses for long-distance navigation at night. Johanna Mappes gave a fascinating talk on the drivers of colour polymorphism in the wood tiger moth

We had the conference dinner in a restaurant in the old town of Orléans. The winners of the student competition were: Laura Torrado (University of A Coruña, Spain) for the best oral presentation and Raphaëlle Gladieu (Natural History Museum, Paris) for best poster.

A general public lecture in French was given by David Demerges (Oreina) at the Natural History Museum of Orléans. At the end of the conference, we organized a light trap session at forêt de Chanteau, near Orléans.

Treasurer's report for 2023

Cash audit

The financial statements for 2023 were audited by Dr. Robert Trusch from Karlsruhe and Axel Steiner from Wöschbach without objections (see appendix).

The table "Receipts/Expenses Report" shows the income, expenses and balances for 2023 compared to the previous year.

Use of funds

The funds available to SEL in 2023 came exclusively from membership fees. There were no donations or income from the sale of older *Nota Lepidopterologica* volumes.

The costs for providing the journal *Nota Lepidopterologica* as open access by Pensoft were the same as in the previous year. The VAT for this is now charged by Pensoft. As a result, SEL no longer has to pay this separately to the tax office and the previously required advance VAT payments and tax declarations are no longer necessary. In the meantime, SEL's VAT ID has been deleted.

The costs for printing and mailing the *Nota* booklets were extremely high in 2023. There are 2 reasons for this:
1. the 2022 *NOTA* issue (volume 45) was not completed until the beginning of 2023 and the costs for this were due.
2. this *NOTA* issue was particularly extensive (362 pages).

The printing and postage costs for volume 45 totaled €10,039.36. Volume 46 was completed on time and cost €5,993.19 with 154 pages. The loss of € 9,740.33 reported for 2023 roughly corresponds to the additional costs of the 2022 edition of *NOTA* (volume 45).

Further expenses can be found in the 'Receipts/Expenses Report' table.

Forecast for 2024 (as of 31 July 2024)

The account/cash balances totaled € 16,966.58 on the reporting date.

Unfortunately, many members only pay their contributions after being requested to do so. Around 150 membership fees are still outstanding. Due to the change of account, no reminders have yet been sent. Reference to the new account will be made in the next *SEL News*. The printing and postage costs and those of *NOTA* will be due by the end of the year.

Due to the new contribution structure, the circulation of *NOTA* will only be around 200 copies in 2024 (450 in the previous year), and printing and postage costs will be significantly lower in 2024 if the volume remains below 200 pages. A break-even balance is therefore expected for 2024.

Following the takeover by Deutsche Bank, Postbank doubled its account management fees and severely restricted its service for small customers. As a result, SEL opened a new current account with Deutsche Skatbank - a branch of VR-Bank Altenburger Land eG - and the Postbank account is to be closed this year.

Bericht des Schatzmeisters für 2023

Kassenprüfung

Der Abschluss für das Jahr 2023 wurden von Dr. Robert Trusch aus Karlsruhe und Axel Steiner aus Wöschbach ohne Einwände geprüft (siehe Anhang).

Die Tabelle „Receipts/Expenses Report“ zeigt die Einnahmen, Ausgaben und Salden für 2023 im Vergleich zum Vorjahr.

Mittelverwendung

Die der SEL zur Verfügung stehenden Mittel stammten 2023 ausschließlich aus Mitgliedsbeiträgen. Es gab keine Spenden oder Einnahmen aus dem Verkauf älterer Nota Lepidopterologica-Bände.

Die Kosten für Bereitstellung der Zeitschrift Nota Lepidopterologica als Open Access durch Pensoft entsprachen denen im Vorjahr. Die Mehrwertsteuer hierzu wird jetzt von Pensoft in Rechnung gestellt. Dadurch muss die SEL diese nicht mehr separat an das Finanzamt abführen und die früher notwendigen Umsatzsteuervoranmeldungen und Steuererklärungen und entfallen. Inzwischen wurde die Umsatzsteuer-ID der SEL gelöscht.

Die Kosten für Druck und Versand der Nota-Hefte waren 2023 extrem hoch. Das hat 2 Gründe:

1. Das NOTA-Heft 2022 (Volume 45) wurde erst Anfang 2023 fertig und die Kosten hierfür fällig.
2. Dieses NOTA-Heft war besonders umfangreich (362 Seiten).

Die Druck- und Versandkosten für Volume 45 beliefen sich auf 10.039,36 €. Volume 46 wurde pünktlich fertig und kostete mit 154 Seiten Umfang 5.993,19 €. Der ausgewiesene Verlust 2023 in Höhe von 9.740,33 € entspricht etwa den Mehrkosten durch NOTA-Heft 2022 (Volume 45).

Weitere Ausgaben finden Sie in Tabelle „Receipts/Expenses Report“.

Prognose für 2024 (Stand 31. Juli 2024)

Die Konto-/Kassenstände betragen am Stichtag 16.966,58 €.

Leider zahlen viele Mitglieder ihren Beitrag erst nach Aufforderung. Es stehen noch ca. 150 Mitgliedsbeiträge aus. Aufgrund des Kontowechsels erfolgte bisher noch keine Mahnaktion. In den nächsten SEL News wird auf das neue Konto hingewiesen. Bis zum Jahresende werden die Druck- und Versandkosten und der der NOTA fällig. Durch die neue Beitragsstruktur wird die Auflagenhöhe der NOTA 2024 nur noch etwa 200 Exemplare sein (450 im Vorjahr) und die Druck- und Versandkosten werden 2024 deutlich niedriger sein, wenn der Umfang unter 200 Seiten bleibt. Somit ist eine ausgeglichene Bilanz für 2024 zu erwarten.

Die Postbank hat nach der Übernahme durch die Deutsche Bank die Kontoführungsgebühren verdoppelt und ihren Service für Kleinkunden stark eingeschränkt. Daher wurde ein neues Girokonto der SEL bei der Deutschen Skatbank – Zweigniederlassung der VR-Bank Altenburger Land eG – eröffnet und das Postbankkonto soll vor Jahresende aufgelöst werden.

Bericht des Schatzmeisters für das Jahr 2023 / Treasurer's Report on the year 2023

	2023	2022
Einnahmen / Receipts	20.515,74 €	22.113,93 €
Ausgaben / Expenses	-30.256,07 €	-23.030,35 €
Saldo / Balance	<u>-9.740,33 €</u>	<u>-916,42 €</u>
Kontostände am 1. 1. / Account balances on 1. 1.	26.886,77 €	27.803,19 €
Kontostände am 31. 12. / Account balances on 31. 12.	17.146,44 €	26.886,77 €
Saldo / Balance	<u>-9.740,33 €</u>	<u>-916,42 €</u>

Frankfurt am Main, den 20. Januar 2024



Dr. W. Eckweiler



Prüfvermerk der Kassenprüfer / Statement of the Auditors

Der Bericht des Schatzmeisters für 2023 und die Ordnungsmäßigkeit der Konten wurden **ohne Einwände** geprüft.

The Treasurer's report for 2023 and the regularity of the accounts were audited **without any objections.**

Die Kassenprüfer / The Auditors

Karlsruhe, den 23.1. 2024



Dr. Robert Trusch

Karlsruhe, den 23.1. 2024



Axel Steiner

Receipts/Expenses Report

Receipts	2023	Δ 2023-2022	2022
Membership Fees	20.515,74 €	-826,76 €	21.342,50 €
Donations	0,00 €	-26,00 €	26,00 €
Other Receipts	0,00 €	-745,43 €	745,43 €
total receipts	20.515,74 €	-1.598,19 €	22.113,93 €
Expenses	2023	Δ 2023-2022	2022
Pensoft	-12.007,10 €	-1.917,10 €	-10.090,00 €
VAT	0,00 €	1.917,10 €	-1.917,10 €
Print Nota	-16.032,55 €	-10.960,13 €	-5.072,42 €
Postage	-16,49 €	3.660,77 €	-3.677,26 €
Office supplies	0,00 €	560,23 €	-560,23 €
Bank charges	-241,38 €	-0,84 €	-240,54 €
Webhosting	-108,00 €	0,00 €	-108,00 €
Council	-1.043,93 €	319,37 €	-1.363,30 €
Congress	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
Scientific Supports	-648,35 €	-648,35 €	0,00 €
other	-158,27 €	-156,77 €	-1,50 €
total expenses	-30.256,07 €	-7.225,72 €	-23.030,35 €
Balance	-9.740,33 €		-916,42 €

Accounts	31.12.2023	Δ 2023-2022	31.12.2022
cash	779,51 €	-365,10 €	1.144,61 €
PayPal	7.347,36 €	1.779,91 €	5.567,45 €
Postbank	9.019,57 €	-11.155,14 €	20.174,71 €
Skatbank	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
Bank and Cash Accounts	17.146,44 €	-9.740,33 €	26.886,77 €

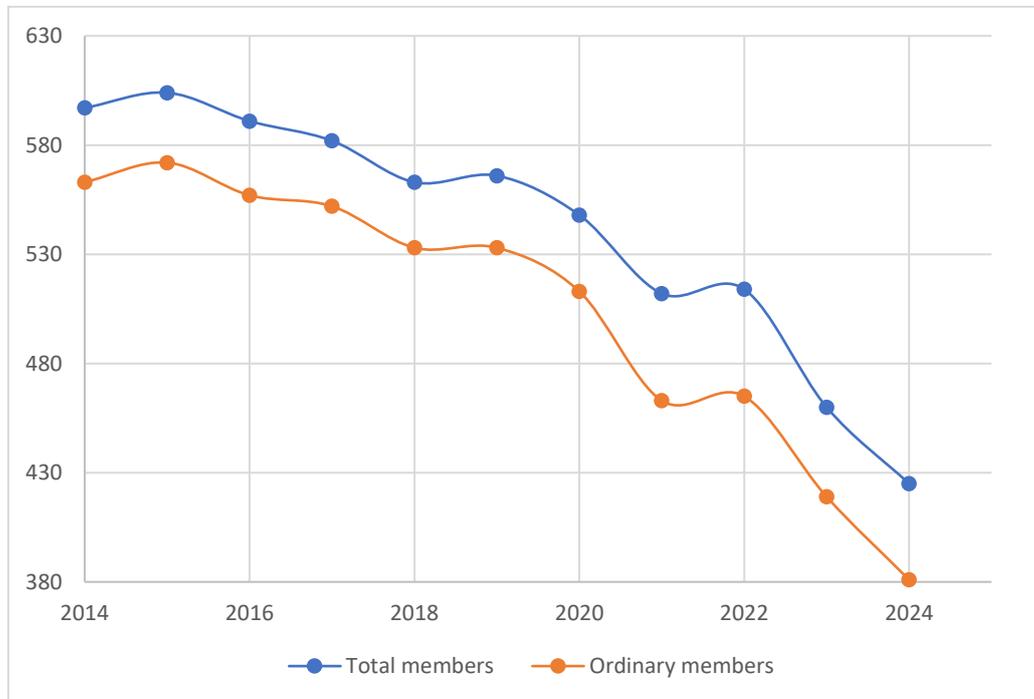
Receipts/Expenses until 31st July 2024

Kategorie	Anzahl	Betrag	
Einnahmen		12.047,06	100,00 %
Einnahmen			
Mitgliedsbeiträge	242	12.047,05	100,00 %
Spenden	1	0,01	0,00 %
Ausgaben		12.215,80	100,00 %
Ausgaben			
Publikationen	1	12.007,10	98,29 %
Bankgebühren	19	123,40	1,01 %
Webpräsenz (Strato)	2	66,00	0,54 %
Vorstand	2	19,30	0,16 %
Gewinn/Verlust		-168,74	-1,40 %

Membership

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of four of our members: Matti Ahola (January 2024); Eric Metzler (December 12, 2023); Paul Opler (December 11, 2023); and Kimmo Silvonen (October 2023).

As of July 30, 2024, our total membership stands at 425, including 381 ordinary members, down from 460 members in 2023. This decrease is primarily due to the removal of several long-standing non-paying members.



SELEpidoptera NEWS Editor's Report – August 2024

Since the last SEL general meeting in Orléans, France, on September 28, 2023, Issue 69 was published in July 2024 with a total of 20 pages. It included a welcome message from our new President, information on the SEL Congress in the Czech Republic, details about the next Forum Herbulot Congress, four contributions by SEL members, and two book announcements.

Nota Lepidopterologica: Editor's Report / Council meeting, Prague, Monday 5 August 2024

David Lees, Théo Léger

David Lees (DL) and Théo Léger (TL) currently share effectively the task of Editor-in-Chief of Nota Lepidopterologica. David plans to step down at E-i-C by the Prague SEL in 2025 and Martin Wiemers seems open as one candidate to replace him. Collaboration with Pensoft staff is still going well and they have been very helpful in resolving problems.

Our board of Subject Editors currently amounts to 14 (plus Ole Karsholt, who asked not to be profiled). We get requests occasionally for additional subject editors but at present are well served by this team. They cover a wide scope of taxa and subjects: **David Lees** (Micropterigidae; Catalogues and Checklists; Molecular systematics; Faunistics & Distribution; Identification key; Taxonomy; Phylogeny; Systematics; Madagascar; **Théo Léger** (Pyraloidea, Lepidoptera); **Maria Heikkilä** (Lepidoptera, Systematics); **Erik van Nieuwerkerken** (Nepticuloidea; Adeloidea); **Carlos Lopez Vaamonde** (Gracillarioidea; Phylogeny; Molecular genetics; Biological Invasions); **Jadranka Rota** (Choreutidae, Lepidoptera, Molecular systematics; Phylogeny; Biogeography); **Bernard Landry** (Alucitidae; Pterophoridae; Pyraloidea); **Lauri Kaila** (Taxonomy, Systematics); **Sven Erlacher** (Geometroidea); **Axel Hausmann** (Geometridae); **Alberto Zilli** (Lepidoptera; Noctuoidea); Thomas Schmitt (Biogeography, Population genetics, General ecology); Zdeněk Fric (Lepidoptera; Lycaenidae; Faunistics & Distribution; Taxonomy); **Roger Vila** (Papilionoidea, Biogeography, Phylogeny), and **Martin Wiemers** (Papilionoidea). We have asked for some of the taxon names on the subject editor lists to be updated as some were out of date or do not reflect SE specialities. Our team of linguistic editors comprises David Agassiz, Stella Beavan, Bob Heckford, Malcolm Scoble, Sir Anthony Galsworthy and Colin Plant. DL currently does the final copy editing.

In response to discussion at the last council meeting, we have had two paragraphs added to the Nota Lepidopterologica guidelines for authors, and this is helping author's compliance to online data ethics:

Fig. 1 shows that Nota Lepidopterologica's impact factor is currently flat at 0.7 (its peak was 0.794 in 2020). It is not clear how we could improve it. However, according to Scopus, Nota's 2023 Cite Score that is released in early June 2024, is 1.7, up from 1.3 the previous year (<https://nl.pensoft.net/news/627>). [To estimate the CiteScore, Scopus counts the citations of five types of peer-reviewed publications received in the last four complete years, before dividing the number by the same document types published during this period]. Submissions are up for the first two quarters of 2024 compared with 2023 (Fig. 2). Issue 47 (as of 28/07/24) has had 12 papers so far published with a total of 162 pp, already in excess of the rate for the rather slim Issue 47, and eight mss are currently active on the system (Table 1). The acceptance rather than rejection rate for the first two quarters of 2024 is quoted as 45.5 and 27.3% respectively (Table 2, Fig. 2) but these stats are complicated by rejections which were re-received as invited resubmissions and one author asked his article to be withdrawn (four research article submissions were rejected in 2024 so far, with an additional three with submission re-encouraged). Turnaround has improved since 2023 with substantial declines in assignment and decisions and a highly respectable 64 days average to ms acceptance (Fig. 3). Article views are up to over 56,000

overall (Fig. 4) and total online mentions remain quite variable so far in 2024 less than 100 per quarter (Fig. 5).

We continue in any case to be very happy with the quality of the articles we have published, continuing to expand beyond a European remit. In issue 47 so far we had three papers published with a first author outside the EU (Japan, China) – see also Fig. 6 reflecting most contributions from authors Czech Republic, Finland and Germany.

Printing of issue 47 will be arranged with Wolfgang as before around November 2024. We might perhaps anticipate perhaps under 300 pages based on currently active mss.

We should assess the success of the new financial model in affording the printing costs, with options to receive online journals only, with a discount of 20 euros from the 70 euros for non-student members.

Table 1 Current submissions

Date	Active	Under review	In copy editing	In layout	Awaiting publication	Published
28/7/24	8	6	1	0	1	12 in Issue 47

Table 2 Rejection rate

Date	Acceptance rate	Rejection rate	Desk rejection rate
2023	52.6	42.1	15.8
2024	45.5	27.3	18.2

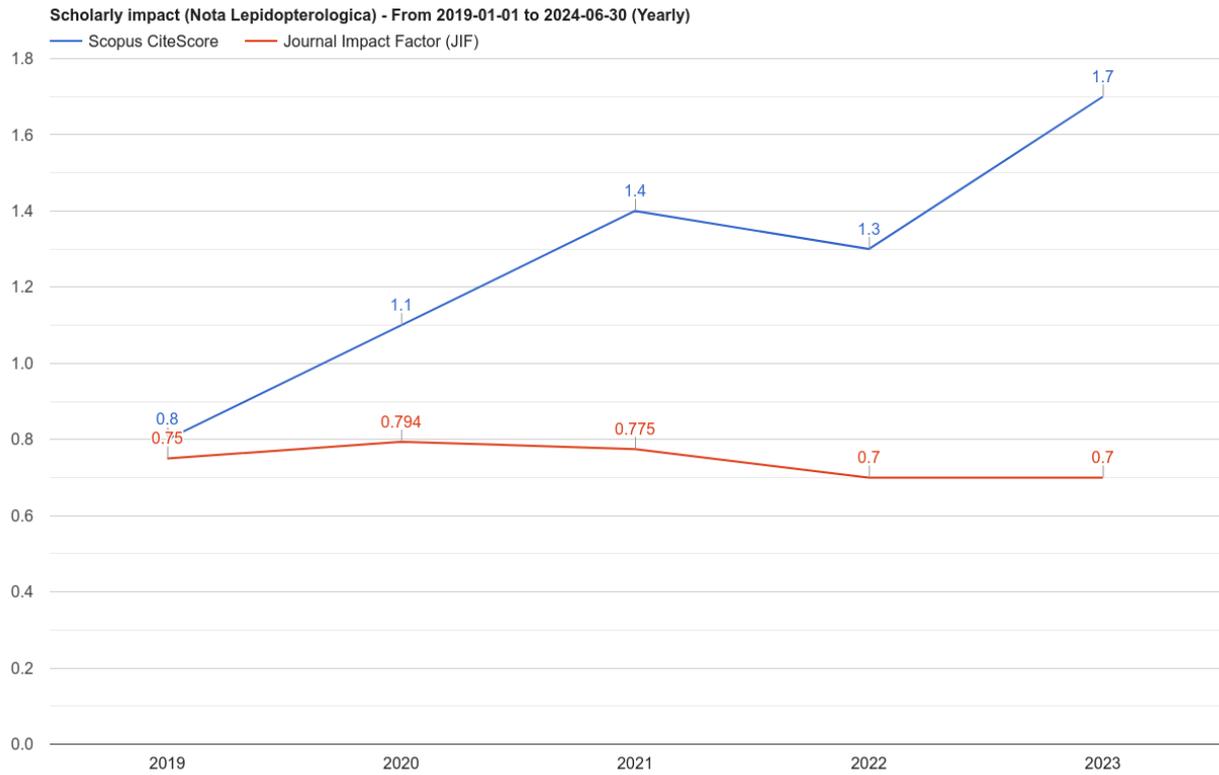


Fig. 1 Impact factor

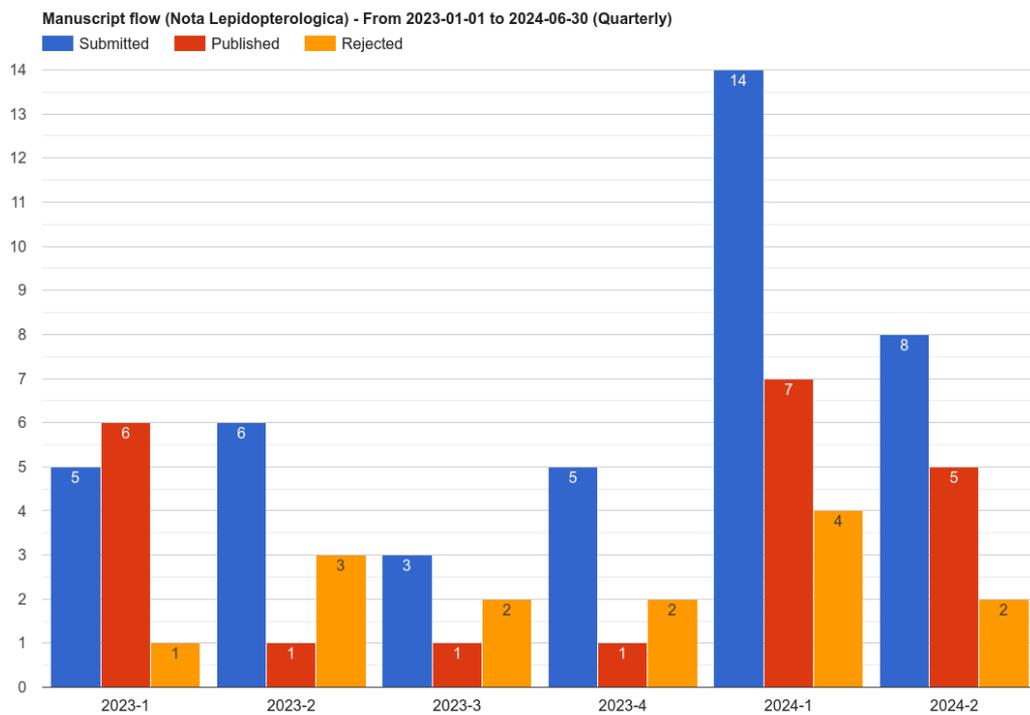


Fig. 2 Ms stats from 1 Jan 2023 to 30 June 2024

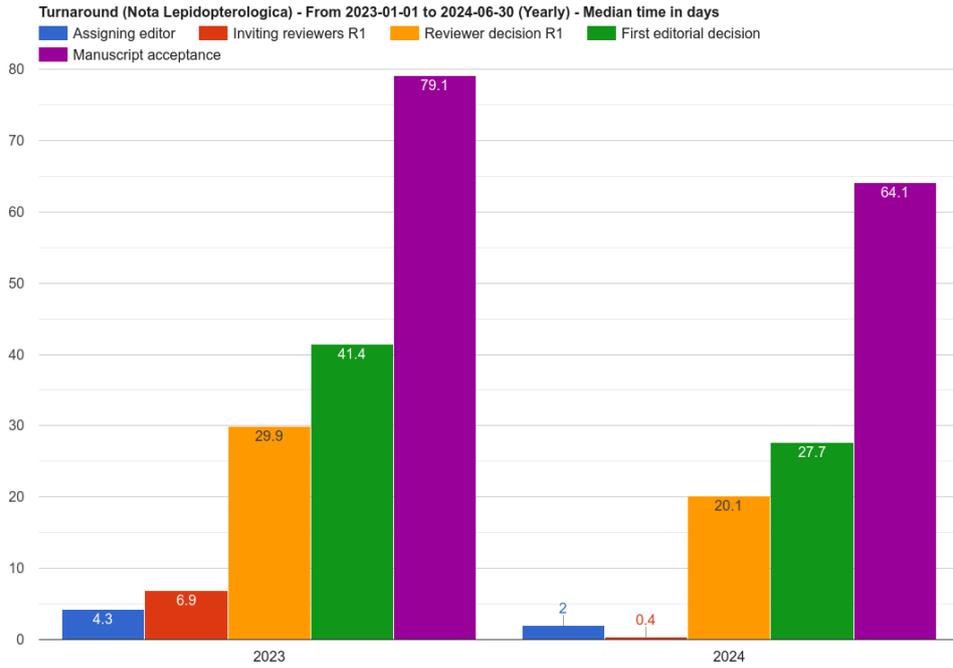


Fig. 3. Turnaround (days) 2024 compared with 2023

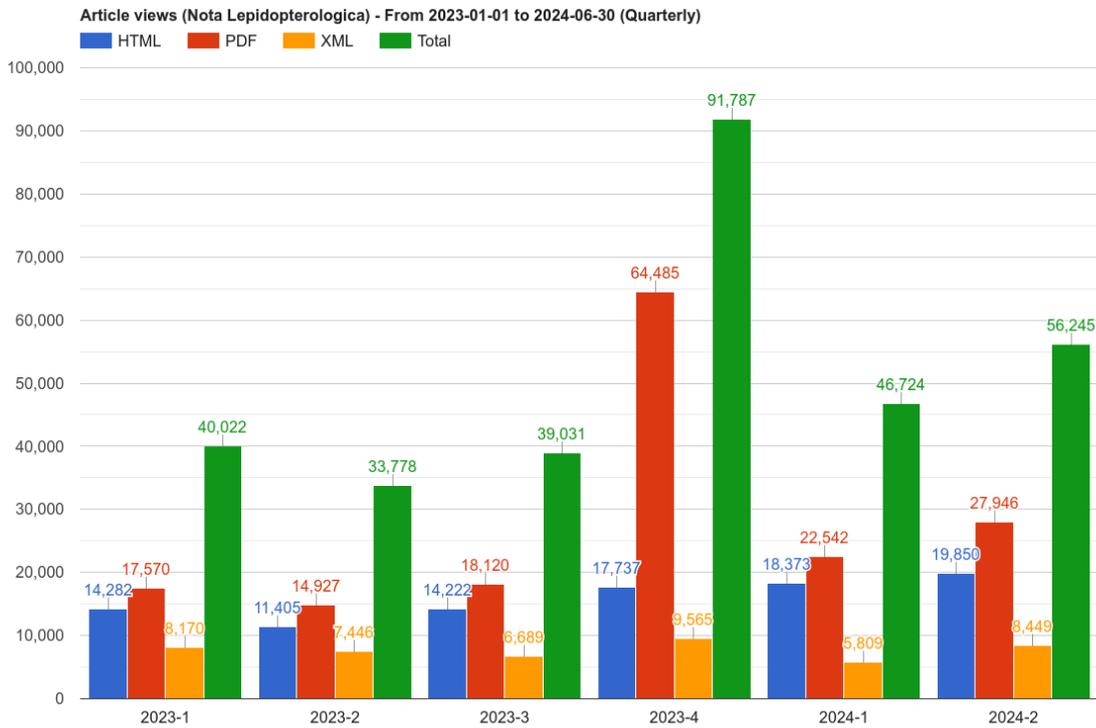


Fig. 4 Article views.

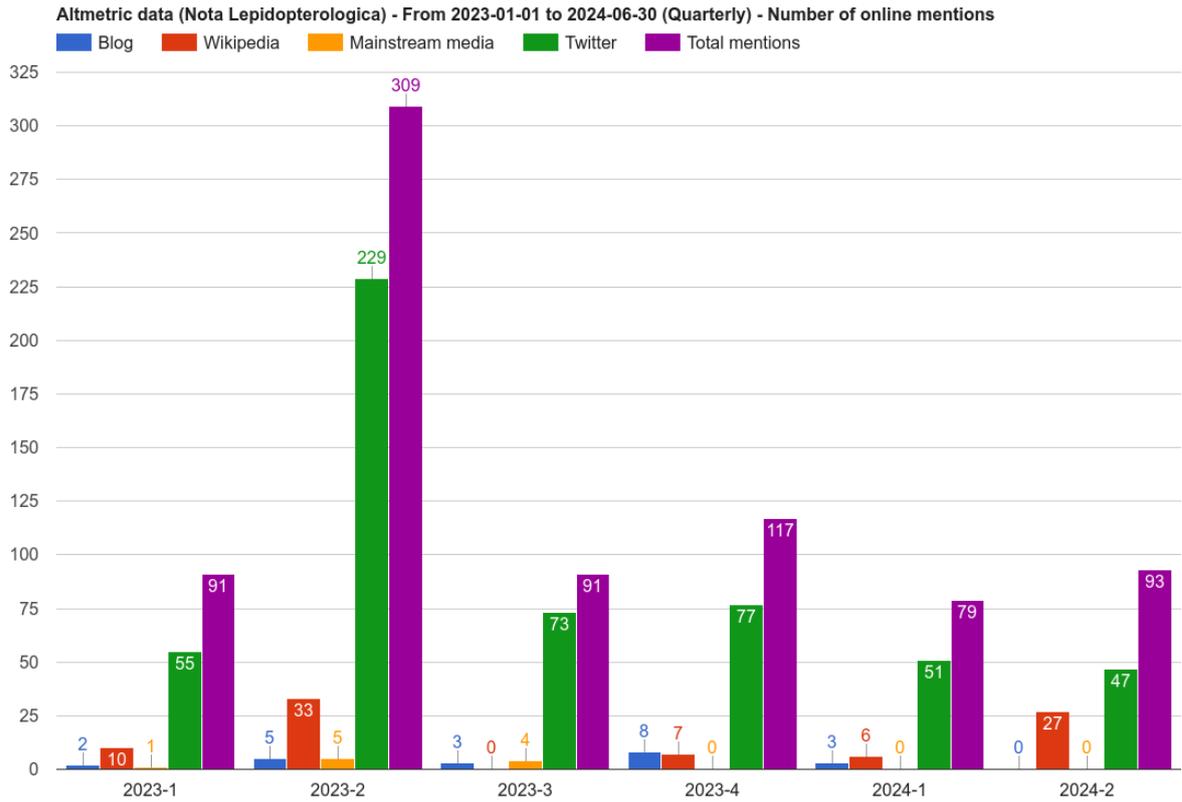


Fig. 45 Altimetrics (online mentions)

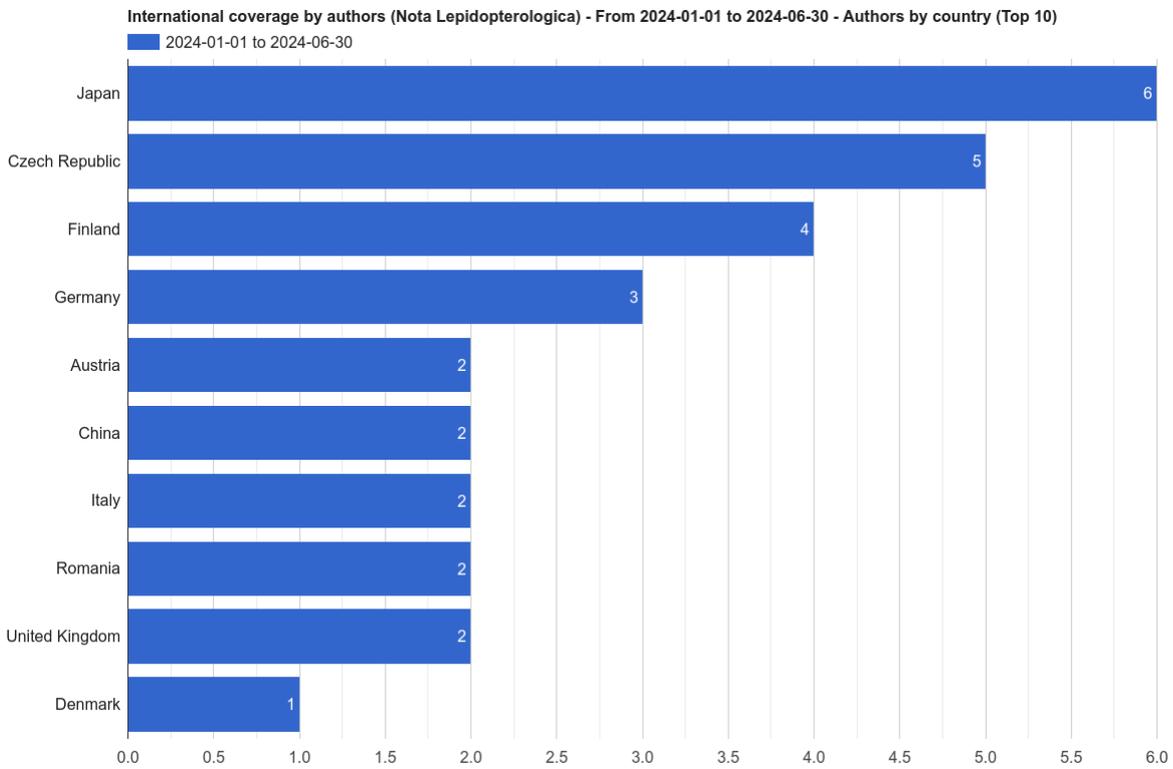


Fig. 6 Individual author coverage by country

Report of the Editor of the SEL website and Facebook page, August 2024

SEL Homepage

The SEL homepage, hosted on the German Strato platform, is running smoothly. It recorded between 178 and 575 sessions per day in the past 10 months (Fig. 1A), while pageviews were between 116 and 375 per day, with peaks of 950 to 1110 pageviews per day in May and July (Fig. 1B).

As in previous years, the majority (73%) of site visitors get there directly, i.e. by typing in our web URL, while 24% access our website through a search engine (Fig. 2).

The old name has been replaced by the new one (Society for European Lepidopterology) on all pages of the website, and the membership rates as well as the council page have been updated after the last SEL congress. We still need to update the linked PDFs of the Statutes (in English, French and German), as these still state "SEL Society of European *Lepidopterists*".

Please share your SEL-related photos with me. The last time photos on the SEL website have been updated is a few years back, and I would like to upload a number of more up-to-date photos.

SEL on Facebook

We currently count 2,230 Facebook followers (as of 2024/07/29), which is an increase of 317 followers in the past 11 months. Female followers further dropped to 27.1%. Compared to the large number of followers, our posts reach on average only 100 to 300 people.

Richard Mally, Prague, 2024/07/29

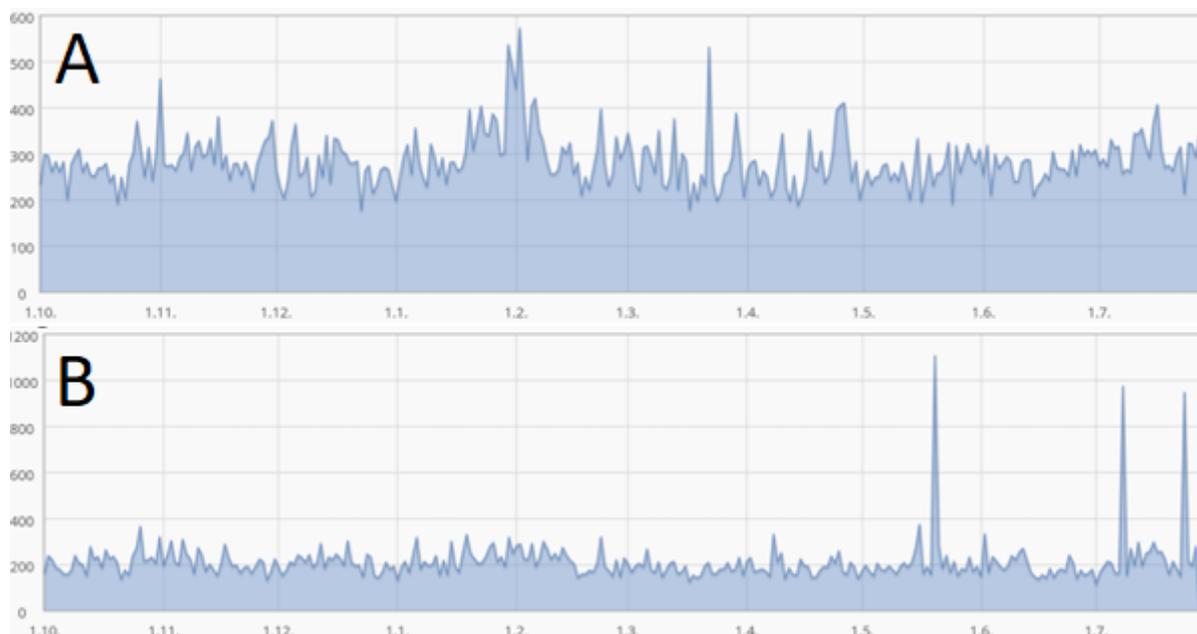


Figure 1. SEL homepage statistics since 2023/10 to till now (2024/07/29). A) sessions per day, B) pageviews per day.

Suchmaschine	24 %
Direkter Zugriff	73 %
Referrer	3 %
Werbung	0 %

Figure 2. Ways of people accessing the SEL website in the past 12 months (in percent): via search engine (“Suchmaschine”), directly (“Direkter Zugriff”), through a referrer, and through advertisement (“Werbung”).