



# IX Congreso Mesoamericano sobre Abejas Nativas

## IX Mesoamerican Congress on Native Bees

San Cristóbal de Las Casas  
Chiapas, México

Cursos: 20-22 de Abril 2015      Courses: April 20-22, 2015  
Congreso: 23-25 de Abril 2015      Congress: April 23-25, 2015

[www.ecosur.mx/abejas](http://www.ecosur.mx/abejas) - [abejas@ecosur.mx](mailto:abejas@ecosur.mx)



## PRESENTATION

Bees make a fundamental part of Mesoamerican heritage, both for historical and cultural reasons, and for their ecological richness.

Historically, documents dating back over 800 years demonstrate that several species of stingless bees have been cultivated for centuries by prehispanic peoples. As such, stingless bees are an important part of Mesoamerican culture.

Ecologically, the native bees of the American tropics are very diverse, with more than 2,000 species and a considerable level of endemism due to geographic complexity and a diversity of climates.

Economically, some species, like stingless bees, produce high-quality honey, while others, like bumblebees, are of central importance to the pollination and production of key crops.

The purpose of the coming congress is to emphasize the importance of native bees and to facilitate the exchange of information and experiences regarding these species.

In this context, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur would like to extend an invitation to native bee beekeepers, students, and researchers to participate in the IX Mesoamerican Congress on Native Bees.

This event, together with previous courses and field trips, will take place on **April 20-25, 2015, in the city of San Cristobal de Las Casas, in Chiapas, Mexico.**

## OBJECTIVES

The scientific, technical, social, and educational objectives of the congress are as follows:

- To facilitate the exchange of information regarding native bees, with an emphasis on bumblebees and stingless bees.
- To facilitate the exchange of technical skills in the management of native bees, their breeding, and their role as pollinators.
- To support persons interested in raising native bees, both for production and development projects.
- To share information about bees with the general public.
- To promote the value of the honey produced by stingless bees.

## AUDIENCE

Researchers, producers, students, the general public, and all those interested in the conservation and management of native bees are welcome to participate.

## TOPICS

Bumblebees	Biodiversity
Stingless beekeeping	Pollination
Traditional management	Behavior
Technical management	Genetics
Bee products	Pathology
Education	History

## CONGRESS

The congress itself will consist of a forum of presentations in the Convention Center of San Cristobal de Las Casas. Sessions will be organized by topics, with scientists as well as producers, presenting for 20 minutes at a time.

**Simultaneous translation between Spanish and English will be provided throughout the congress.**

Presenters may use a variety of media: a talk, a poster, or a video. Talks may be 1) scientific in nature, or 2) free-form. This last option applies principally to producers so that they can share their experiences in the cultivation of native bees.

## FORMAT FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK

Scientific submissions should be written in third person with a maximum length of 5 pages, written in font Arial, size 10, with one-inch margins on all sides, and in the following order:

1. Title of work
2. Author(s), with last name first and the name of the presenter in bold print
3. Address, telephone number, and email address
4. A summary of 200 words maximum
5. Five key words in bold print
6. Introduction and objectives
7. Materials and methods
8. Results
9. Discussion and conclusions
10. Acknowledgements and bibliography.

## FREE FORMAT PRESENTATIONS

The free-format presentations should be written in a maximum of 5 pages including graphs, drawings, literature, etc. Mainly producers, depicting observations or experiences that arose during their activity, must present such works.

## POSTERS FORMAT

Posters should be prepared to fit within a space of 1.20 m high and 1.00 m wide, and should be readable at a distance of 2 m. The title of the poster, the name(s) of the author(s) and the institution they belong to should appear in the upper part of the poster. The poster should contain a short introduction, the aims of the work, methodology, results (including tables and figures), discussion and conclusions, as well as the literature.

## VIDEO FORMAT

The videos should share the experiences of producers or organizations, on topics related to native bees, with a maximum length of 8 minutes. Those interested in submitting videos should sign up at <http://www.ecosur.mx/abejas> and submit their video in a compact format for viewing and possible selection. For the congress itself, participants should bring a copy of their video in DVD format with maximum resolution, and a backup file in AVI format.

## SUBMISSIONS

Presentations should be sent to [abejas@ecosur.mx](mailto:abejas@ecosur.mx) until **February 28, 2015**. A scientific committee will subject all submitted works to a review process.

## SPACE “CHANUL POM”

*Chanul Pom* is the word for “bee”, in Tsotsil, the most commonly spoken Mayan language in the highlands of Chiapas. Under this name, an educational space will be open to the general public. It will help to transmit scientific information to the public and to raise awareness about the diversity and importance of native bees, and the various challenges they face.

*Chanul Pom* may include a wide range of activities, anything from a workshop on the bees of the milpa, the traditional multi-crop agricultural system, to fun activities such as a sensory space where participants experience the smells and sounds of the colony. *Chanul Pom* may also include opportunities for honey tasting and representations of bees in prehispanic documents.

This proposal is a work in progress. Those interested in participating in some capacity should send an email to [abejas@ecosur.mx](mailto:abejas@ecosur.mx)

## EXPOSITION AND SALE

Participants are welcome to display their products or services related to native bees. Those interested should send an email to [abejas@ecosur.mx](mailto:abejas@ecosur.mx) before February 28, 2015, detailing the products they wish to display, their place of origin, the name of the responsible party, and contact information.

## HONEY EXPO

We invite participants to send samples of native bee honey to be analyzed during the congress. Each participant can submit a maximum of 2 samples of honey per species of bee. Those who wish to participate should:

- Send an email before February 28, 2015 indicating their intention to participate
- Submit the honey samples at an address that will be sent by email. Samples should contain a minimum of 100 ml of honey per sample. Containers should be labeled with the name and email of the participant, species of bee, place of production, and collection date.

## PHOTO EXPO

Participants are invited to send photographs of bees, which will be part of a photo exposition. The top submissions will be recognized with honors. Participants may submit a maximum of 5 photos. Photos should be related to native bees, their cultivation or cultural aspects, or educational projects related to native bees.

Those who wish to participate should:

- Send an email before February 28, 2015, indicating their intention to participate
- Submit photos in an envelope with the name and email of the photographer, on April 23. The envelope should include a sheet of paper for each photo detailing the name of the photographer, the title of the photo, the date and location the photo was taken, and any other relevant details.

## COURSES

Before the congress, various 2-3 day courses will be offered. Courses will take place April 20-22, 2015. Capacity is limited. Only some of the courses will be translated into English. Details will be published soon on the congress webpage. For the time being, the following topics have been proposed:

### ▪ IN TAPACHULA

- Traditional and modern management of stingless bees (Miguel A. Guzmán Díaz). There will be a course before the congress (April 20-21) and another one after the congress (April 27-28).

### ▪ IN SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

- Sensory analysis of honeys (Lucia Piana, Renata González, Isabel May)

- Transformation of stingless bee products (Margarita Medina)

- Bee taxonomy (to be confirmed)

- Pollination (to be confirmed)

- Bees in prehispanic documents (to be confirmed)

- Evaluating the risks to endangered bee species using IUCN criteria (to be confirmed)

- Macrophotography of insects (to be confirmed)

- Bees and education (to be confirmed)

## FIELD TRIPS

Before and after the congress, field trips to stingless bee beekeepers in the Soconusco, Chiapas, will be organized. These visits require travelling to the city of Tapachula, Chiapas, on behalf of the attendees. They are scheduled on dates that allow the visit after the course "Traditional and modern management of stingless bees".

The dates of the trips are:

- April 22

- April 29

## ACCESS

The congress will take place in the Convention Center in San Cristobal de Las Casas. San Cristobal is located in the heart of the highlands of Chiapas, at 2120 meters above sea level, in the southeast of Mexico. It is 50 km to the northeast of the state capital, Tuxtla Gutierrez. It is possible to travel by plane to the airport in Tuxtla Gutierrez (TGZ), which is an hour's drive away. Bus travel is also an option; participants may bus to San Cristobal from various cities in Mexico. San Cristobal is approximately 1000 km from Mexico City and the bus ride takes about 13 hours.

## HOUSING

The city of San Cristobal is a renowned tourist destination, both for national and international travelers. It boasts a great variety of hotels and guesthouses with a wide range of prices. The prices range from 10-150 USD per night. Visit the webpage to download a list of recommended hotels: <http://www.ecosur.mx/abejas>

## COSTOS

The cost of the congress is:

- Up to February 28, 2015: MX\$ 700 (USD 55)
- After February 28, 2015: MX\$ 1200 (USD 100)

This cost includes full-access and proceedings. For those that sign up before February 28, 2015, the mid-day meal, prepared with local organic food and honey, will also be included.

The cost of the courses is

- Up to February 28, 2015: MX\$ 700 (USD 55)
- After February 28, 2015: MX\$ 1200 (USD 100)

Before signing up please verify that there are spaces available (capacity is 25 people per course).

## REGISTRATION

Registration forms for the seminar, courses and tours will soon be available for download in the webpage of the event.

Deposits or transfers in Mexican pesos (MX\$) should be sent to:

Banco: Santander SA  
Titular: El Colegio de la Frontera Sur  
Sucursal: 5004  
Cuenta: 22000337007  
CLABE: 014130220003370075

Deposits or transfers in US dollars (US\$) should be sent to:

Banco corresponsal: JP Morgan Chase Bank  
Banco beneficiario: Santander S.A.  
Cuenta del banco corresponsal: 400047144 BMSXMM  
Código SWIFT/ABA : 021000021  
Ciudad: New York - País: USA  
Ultimo beneficiario: El Colegio de la Frontera Sur  
Nombre del banco: Santander S.A.  
Abonar a la cuenta: 014 130 82500146919 2  
Sucursal: 5004, San Cristóbal de las Casas  
Estado: Chiapas - País destino: México

Please send a scanned copy of both your registration form and your payment receipt to [abejas@ecosur.mx](mailto:abejas@ecosur.mx). If you require an invoice please send your tax information.

## INFORMATION

El Colegio de la Frontera Sur  
San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, México  
[abejas@ecosur.mx](mailto:abejas@ecosur.mx)  
Tel +52 (967) 674 90 22  
[www.ecosur.mx/abejas](http://www.ecosur.mx/abejas)  
[abejas@ecosur.mx](mailto:abejas@ecosur.mx)