



XI International Symposium on Fish Parasites, Mérida, Yucatán – México, 20-24 January 2025
"Fish health, parasites and biodiversity conservation"

Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, November, 2023

The local organizing committee

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Dear Ichthyoparasitologist

As decided in the last ISFP (International Symposium on Fish Parasites) held in Copenhagen when the Symposium was held along with ICOPA (International Congress of Parasitology), the 11th ISFP will be held in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico in 2025. The Symposium will be held from the 20th to the 24th of January, 2025. All ichthyoparasitologists around the world are invited to join our community in the beautiful city of Mérida, a historical heritage enclaved in the Yucatán Peninsula, in a region where the main settlements of the Mayan culture developed centuries ago, just to name some: Chichén-Itzá (<https://www.chichenitza.com/>), Mayapán (<https://mayanpeninsula.com/everything-about-mayan-archaeological-site/>), and Uxmal (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/791/>), all of them, among many others, wonderful archaeological sites in the vicinity of Mérida. Moreover, the city of Mérida, with a population of ca 1,000,000 people, offers delegates diverse facilities for accommodation, and a rich gastronomic offer that includes the highly appreciated traditional Yucatecan food (<https://yucatanoday.com/en/yucatecan-cuisine/>).

The venue will be at the Centro Cultural Universitario of the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY) (<https://www.sg.uady.mx/ccu/>), a colonial building in downtown Mérida that was used as the main facility of the university after its foundation in 1922. Now, the building was renovated and is used as a center for cultural events and scientific meetings.

We all recognize parasites play a major role in structuring ecosystems and communities. **Fish Parasites** besides being fundamental in aquatic ecosystems, may exert a large impact on economic activities such as fish farming and fisheries. Thus, the theme of the Symposium is **Fish health, parasites and biodiversity conservation**. The 11th ISFP will include an exciting scientific program to provide an update on various disciplines within our field of research, giving special importance to the role of parasites in biodiversity conservation initiatives, as well as the conservation of parasites per se. It is our hope that the gathering of fish parasitologists from across the world to discuss different topics will provide the opportunity for the further development of our discipline and will set solid grounds for new future collaborations.

Being the second time ISFP is held in the Americas (the first time was in Chile in 2011), we envision that the conference will attract the attention of numerous Latin American fish parasitologists, and we are confident that fish parasitologists around the world will be interested in participating; Mérida is a convenient location for traveling from all over the continent: besides having connecting flights from Mexico City and four cities from USA, the international airport of Cancún is located 3-4 hours away from Mérida by car. Additionally, by 2025 the *Tren Maya* will be operational (<https://trenmayaa.com/en/>). We are planning a complete program that will include distinguished keynote speakers, oral presentations, workshops, and posters. In addition, several social and cultural activities will be also offered to delegates as well as information for traveling after or before the Symposium providing delegates the opportunity to be immersed in the wonders of the Mayan culture and remarkable natural attractions such as beaches and cenotes.

The local organizing committee will be providing more information during 2024 by email via the fish parasitologists list, and through social media such as Facebook and Instagram.

We look forward to welcoming you in Mérida, Mexico in 2025!!!!!!

¡Los esperamos en Mérida, México en 2025!

