

# Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica (SEL)

SEL Society of European Lepidopterists



General Secretary  
Marianne Espeland  
LIB – Museum Koenig  
m.espeland@leibniz-lib.de

14. September 2023

Dear council members,

Please find below the final agenda for the forthcoming SEL council meeting

at Hotel Dupanloup, Rue Dupanloup, 45000 Orléans, start Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 9:30 CET, and continued in the evening of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, the exact time and place to be determined.

## AGENDA

1. Welcome, apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last council meetings in Stuttgart, Germany and on zoom 11th-12th February 2023
3. Matters arising from those minutes.
4. Agenda for the General Meeting to be agreed on (i.e. any variation from that published in News 68)
5. Report of the SEL Council. See report below.
6. Report of the Treasurer for 2022 and the Auditor's report. Report to follow later
7. Report of the membership secretary. See report below.  
Would be good if all council members get an up-to-date list of members before the meeting.  
Adding details about deceased members for the General Meeting.
8. Publications: News. Report by Dominik Wanke. See report below
9. Publications: Nota. Report by David Lees and Théo Léger. See report below
10. Report SEL Website, Richard Mally. See report below
  - a. Producing new logo with the new name? And discussion how to publish about the new name. Press release?
  - b. Update from Social media, promotion team.

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## **Report of the Council of SEL for the period June 2022 – 28 September 2023**

With two congresses in two years due to Covid, it has only been a little more than one year since the last congress, and consequently the number of activities in this short period of time has been lower than between the usual biannual congresses.

### **The XXII Congress of Lepidopterology, 06 June-11 June 2022 in Laulasmaa, Estonia**

The congress was organised by Toomas Tammaru and his team from the University of Tartu. There were 106 participants from 23 countries, with 61 oral presentations and 32 posters.

There was a half-day midweek excursion with a combination of culture and nature along Estonia's West coast, and a conference dinner in a nearby restaurant in Keila-Joa Manor. There was no student competition for best oral presentation or poster. Toomas Tammaru and his team were thanked for a very enjoyable and well-organized conference. Impressions with photographs were published in SELepidoptera News 67. After the congress, it appeared that Covid was not completely over yet: many participants were apparently infected by the virus during the Congress and got ill afterwards.

### **Council**

The general meeting was held on June 9 2022 in Laulasmaa, Estonia, and was reported in SELepidoptera News 67. An important item was the voting on the new Statutes and Bye Laws and the new name proposed by council, "SEL Society of European Lepidopterists", which were both accepted by the meeting.

The terms of treasurer Wolfgang Eckweiler and ordinary members David Lees and Franziska Bauer ended, and Maria Heikkilä retired as editor of Nota. Wolfgang Eckweiler was re-elected as treasurer, David Lees was elected as Editor and Théo Leger, Jadranka Rota, Maria Heikkilä and Richard Mally were elected as ordinary council members, while Theo got the job as Co-Editor in Chief of Nota. Rolf Mörtter was elected as Hon. Auditor to replace Robert Trusch.

The Habitat and Species protection Committee has been discontinued, and now this has been made possible by the new Statutes and Bye Laws, as activities of the commission had almost come to a standstill, except for Gerhard Tarmann's work on the Mals study area. Gerhard will continue this activity, but no longer as chair of the committee.

### **Council meetings**

Council met briefly after the General Meeting in Laulasmaa on 9 June 2022. A council meeting was held on 11-12. February 2023 in a hybrid format, where several council members met in Stuttgart, Natural History Museum, and others joined on the Zoom platform.

### **Membership**

One member unfortunately passed away since the last congress. SEL currently (23.08.2023) has 460 members (419 ordinary members).

### **Publications**

Volume 45 of *Nota* has been published in 2022 with 362 pages. It has been decided that fewer copies of *Nota* will be printed as there is no longer a need for a large stock. Since many members noted that they did not need a printed copy, council proposes to make it possible to have members with and without printed *Nota* for different fees, to be decided in the General Meeting 2023.

*Nota* currently has an impact factor of 0.7 (Clarivate Analytics) which is down from 0.775 in 2021. making it 79 out of 100 in entomology.

Dominic Wanke has continued editing *News*. Two issues of *News* have been published: Issue no. 67 in December 2022 (50 pages) and Issue no. 68 published in July 2023 (16 pages).

### **SEL website**

The SEL website appears to have become a well-known source of information by now, and especially the webpage on SEL congresses has gained interest in the past 12 months. The Facebook account of SEL continues to grow strongly, with currently 1,913 followers; it is our strongest tool to spread information, e.g. of new issues of *SEL News*.

11. Preparation for GM item 7, Council Proposals
  - a. Proposal to change § 1.1 of the Statutes as accepted in Laulasmaa 2022
  - b. A new list of members
  - c. Proposal for the membership fees for 2024
  
12. Elections:
  - a. Conduct of elections: Election leader Suggestions: Gerhard Tarmann, Bernard Landry, Eric Drouët, Nils Ryrholm
  - b. Election of council members: Jadranka Rota (President), Toomas Tammaru as Vice-President, Richard Mally as General Secretary
  - c. Election of Ordinary council members: Marianne Espeland and Zdeněk Faltýnek Fric, re-election Hossein Rajaei, Enrique Garcia-Barros, Carlos Lopez-Vaamonde.
  - d. Election of auditor: Candidates to be suggested
  
13. Future congresses: 2025 Czechia (invite Zdeněk).
  
14. Archive situation.
  
15. Next council meetings: meeting of new Council Friday afternoon
  
16. Any other business.

## **Changes to the list of members – Changements à la liste des membres – Änderungen zur Mitgliederliste (December 1, 2022-September 1, 2023)**

Hossein Rajaei, SEL membership secretary; [hossein.rajaei@smns-bw.de](mailto:hossein.rajaei@smns-bw.de)

### **New members – Neue Mitglieder – Nouveaux membres**

In total during the last 8 months, 20 new members joined the SEL:

- Dirk Maes (Belgium)
- Peter Russell (UK)
- Guilian Hu (China)
- Richard Mandziejewicz (UK)
- Mark Sterling (UK)
- Huw Roberts (UEA)
- Kristian Grell (Czech Republic)
- Jeroen Voogd (Netherlands)
- Carlo Seifert (Germany)
- Ramon Hulsbosch (Netherlands)
- Lorenzo Comoglio (Italy)
- Tatiana Moreira Pinhal (Portugal)
- Daniel Linke (Czeck Republic)
- Sille Holm (Estonia)
- Ida-Maria Huikkonen (Finland)
- Lotta Leinonen (Finland)
- Hugo Benitez (Chile)
- Michael Schlemm (Germany)
- Mathieu Joron (France)
- Pável Matos-Maraví (Czech Republic)

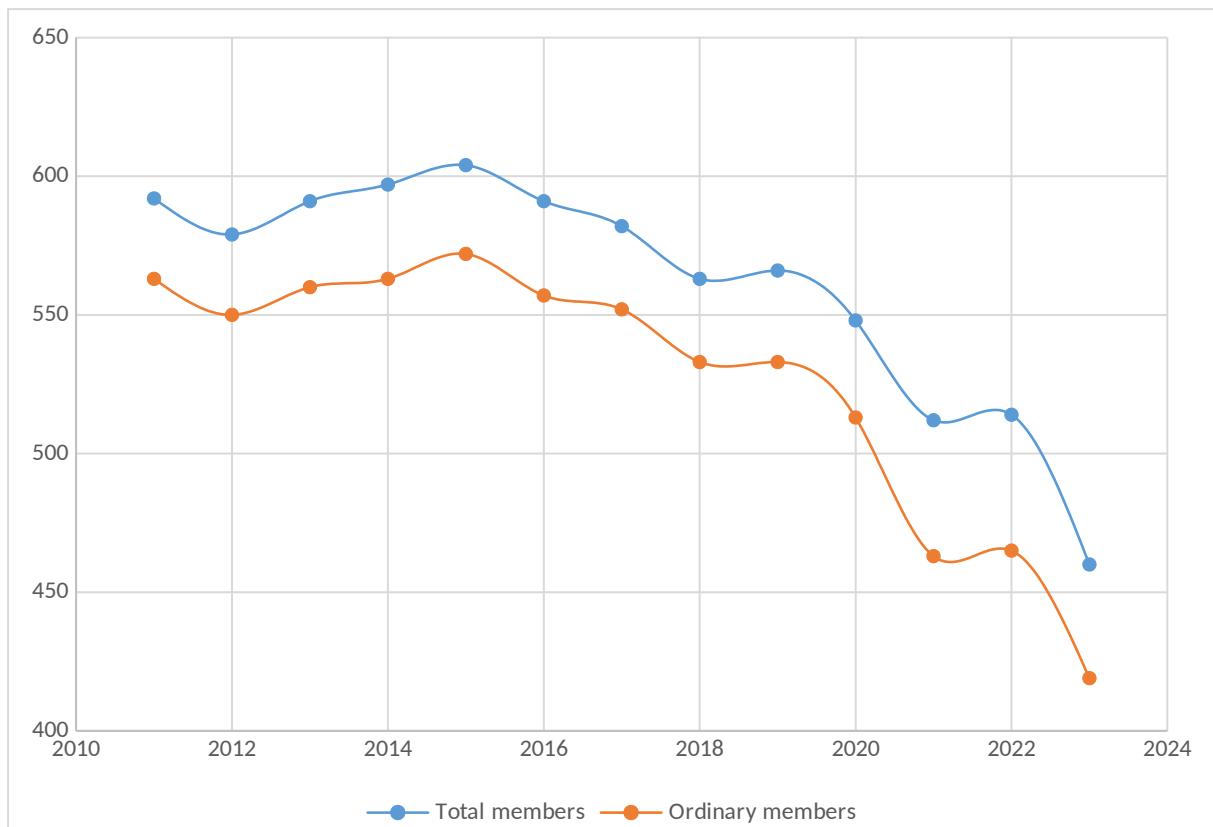
### **Resignations – Austritte – Démissions**

In total during the last 8 months, 7 members left SEL:

- Sylvain Cuvelier (Belgium)
- Sjaak Koster (Netherlands)
- Manuela Pinzari (Italy)
- Francesca Vegliante (Germany)
- Jaan Viidalepp (Estonia)
- Andro Truuverk (Estonia)
- Hermann Heimbach (Germany)

**73 members deleted due to not paying membership more than 3 years (most of them over 5 years).**

**Statistics:** Currently (September 01, 2023), SEL membership is composed as follows:  
**419** ordinary members and a total of **460** members.



Strong drop-down membership graph is due to deleting a large number of members, who didn't pay their membership fees, but benefitted from the society doe several years.

Herewith again I invite all SEL members to introduce the society to their colleagues, students and networks. To keep the society alive, we need to revert the number of our members.

## **SELEpidoptera NEWS Editor´s Report – September 2023**

Since the last SEL general meeting in Laulasmaa, Estonia on June 6, 2022, two issues of SELEpidoptera News were published, Issue 67 and 68. Issue 67 was published in December 2022 with a total of 50 pages, including reports of the SEL Council, impressions from the SEL Congress in Estonia, one obituary, three book announcements and four contributions by SEL members. Issue 68 was published in July 2023 with a total of 16 pages. It included a letter from the President, information on the SEL Congress in Orléans, the invitation to the general meeting, one book announcement and two contributions by SEL members.

## **Nota Lepidopterologica: Editor's Report / Council meeting, Stuttgart, 11 Feb 2023**

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 continue as E-i-C for another year or as long as it takes to get a replacement. Collaboration with Pensoft staff is still going well and they have been very helpful in resolving all problems.

Our board of Subject Editors currently amounts to 12. 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: Erik van Nieukerken (Nepticuloidea; Adeloidea), Carlos Lopez Vaamonde (Gracillarioidea), Jadranka Rota (Choreutidae, Lepidoptera biogeography, Phylogeny, Molecular systematics), Bernard Landry (Alucitidae; Pterophoridae; Pyraloidea), Lauri Kaila (Taxonomy, Systematics), Sven Erlacher and Axel Hausmann (Geometridae), Alberto Zilli (Lepidoptera; Noctuoidea), Thomas Schmitt (Biogeography, Population genetics, General ecology), Zdeněk Fric (Lepidoptera, Taxonomy, Faunistics & Distribution), Roger Vila (Papilionoidea, Biogeography, Phylogeny), and Martin Wiemers (Papilionoidea). Our team of linguistic editors comprises David Agassiz, Stella Beavan, Bob Heckford, Malcolm Scoble, and Sir Anthony Galsworthy and Colin Plant (who had been helping some authors informally) has also joined. DL currently does the final copy editing.

Issue 46 (as of 13/9/23) has eight papers so far published with 144 pp, and four mss are currently active on the system. In Issue 45 (2022), a total of 24 papers with 362 pages were published, considerably more than the previous year, while this year we are on track to have a printing issue of a size that is more affordable to the Society. Issue 45 included two short communications and two obituaries (John Dugdale and Fidel Fernández-Rubio). 14 research articles were rejected, two of which had resubmission encouraged, a rate of 63.2% acceptance (36.8% rejection rate; almost identical to that for 2021 for vol. 44). The median to ms acceptance was 67 days (Fig. 1). Printing was arranged with the assistance of Matthias Nuss as usual in early November 2022, although there was an unfortunate delay until early February 2023 for printing.

According to Scopus, *Nota's* impact factor is 0.85 (although 0.794 according to SCIE/SSCI/WOS; 2021-2022 and 0.775 according to Clarivate) so the trendline has flattened but the cite score increased from 1.1 to 1.4 (Fig. 2). 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 45 we had five papers published with a first author outside the EU (Iran, Ukraine, Russia, Chile, UK). Coverage among all authors as reported by Pensoft is shown in Fig. 3. Total views approach 40,000 per quarter (Fig. 4) and total media mentions are up to 257 per quarter (Fig. 5).

The time maybe comes with the SEL in Orleans in 2023 to put a vote to members/attendees whether to continue or partially abandon the printed model with an option for paid up members who do not want to receive or be posted the hard copy. Naturally the current open access model has great benefits, with the entire issue also freely downloadable. Currently printing per booklet/issue costs us from Pensoft 76 euros (up from 58 euros in 2021), so the SEL continues to provide great terrific value for money to members as well as the 25 pp. free allowance per year for first or submitting authors.



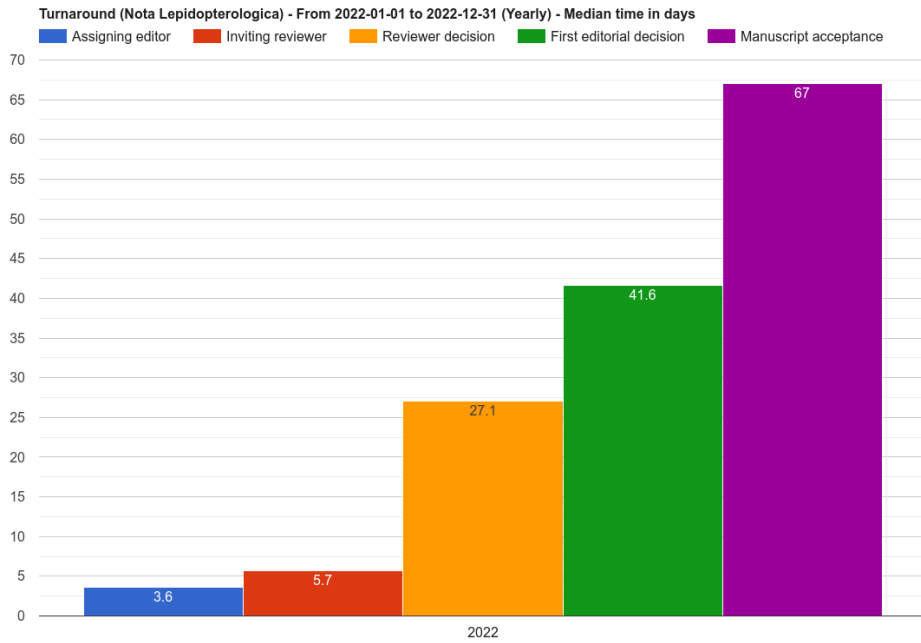


Fig. 1 Turnaround in days

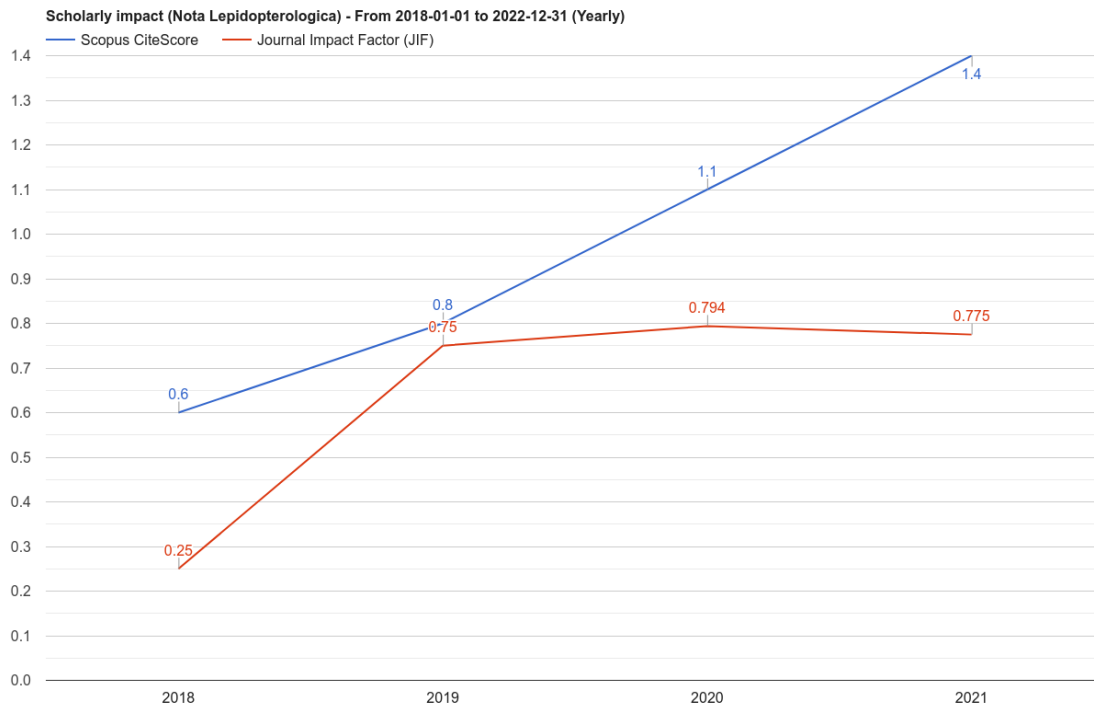


Fig. 2. Journal impact factor and cite score (Clarivate)

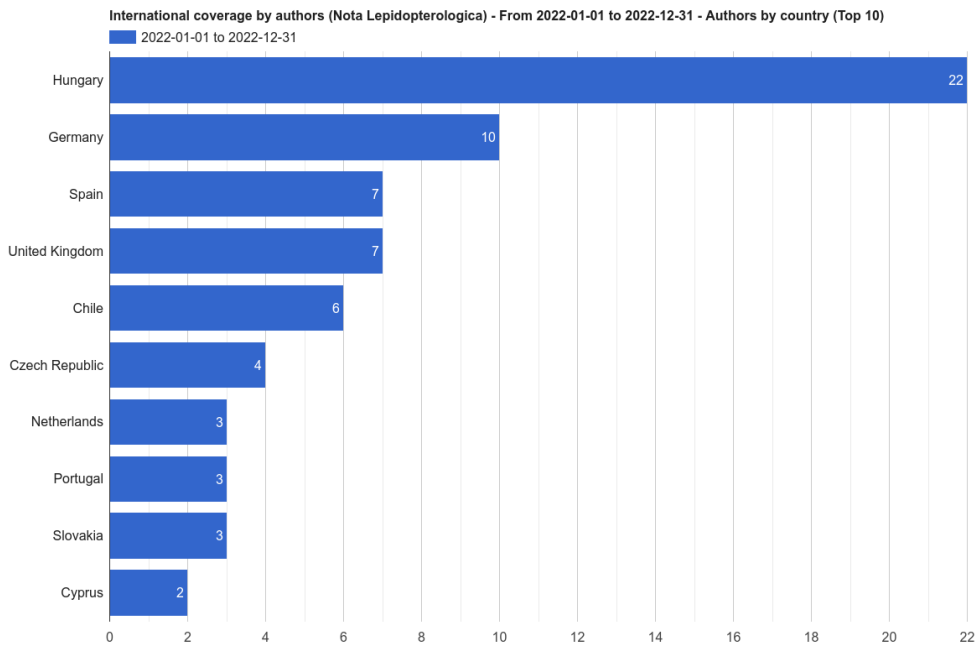


Fig. 3 International coverage by authors

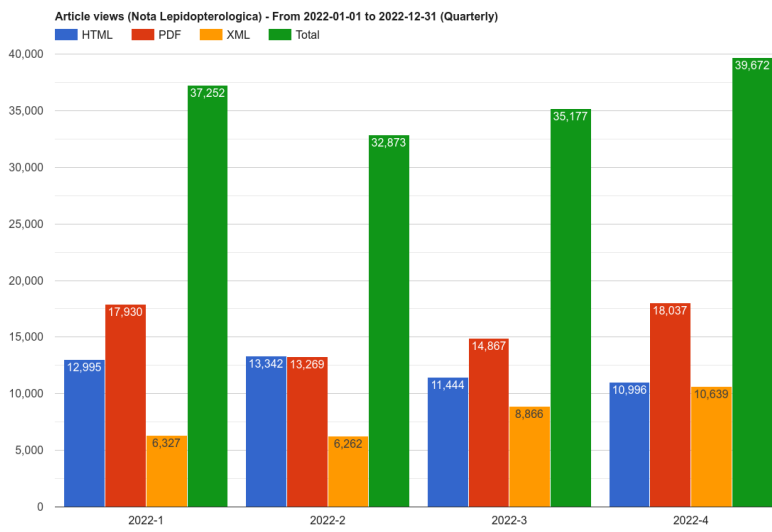


Fig. 4. Article views

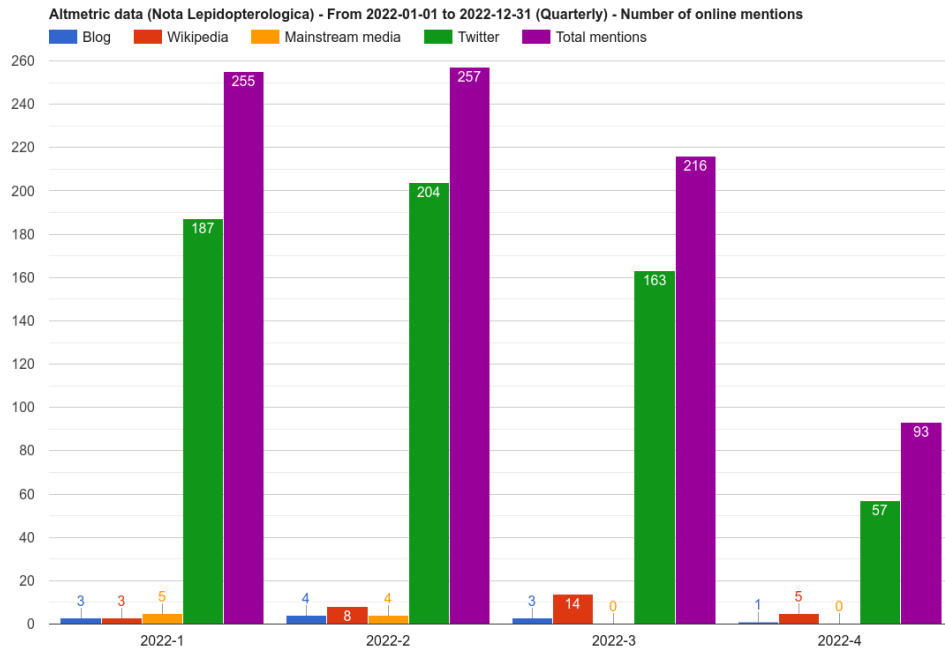
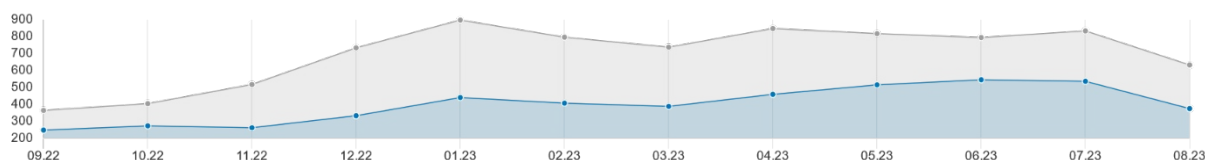


Fig. 5. Online mentions

# Report of the Editor of the SEL website and Facebook page, August 2023

## SEL Homepage

The SEL homepage, hosted on the German Strato platform, is running smoothly. It recorded 250 to 550 visitors per month in the past year (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Numbers of page accesses (grey) and visitors (blue) of the SEL homepage in the past 12 months (2022/09 to 2023/08).

The majority of visitors accessed the 'Home' website, followed by the pages on Congresses and Membership (Fig. 2). Compared to the last report from May 2022, the page visits of the 'Congresses' webpage tripled, presumably reflecting an increased interest in SEL congresses and participation. Since May 2022, 12 people applied for SEL membership through the membership form on the website.

Home	2888
Congresses	1425
News	572
Membership	377
Journal	288
Nota archive	251
Council	220
Contact	145

**Figure 2.** Number of website visits on the SEL homepage in the past 12 months (2022/09 to 2023/08).

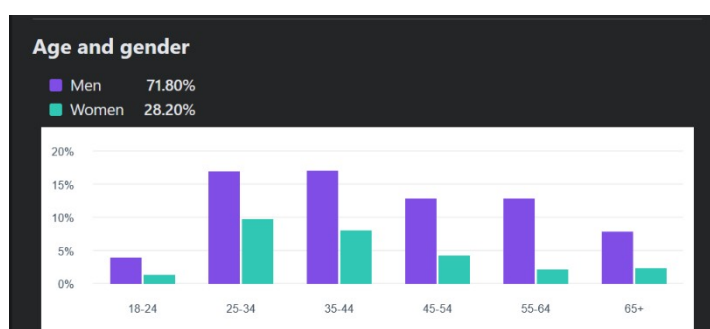
The SEL website now has pages for the site notice (imprint) and for the privacy policy, which can be accessed at the bottom of each page. The pages on the three SEL study areas continue to require further work, both in terms of description of the localities and in illustration with photos.

We were made aware of an issue of security of personal information by an SEL member contacting HR in May 2023 after the member encountered that their personal data (private address and phone number) was publicly available on Google. It turned out that Google had extracted this information from the PDFs of older SEL News that we had linked on the SEL website. Names, addresses and other contact data were commonly included in the announcement of new SEL members, and once available in digital/digitised format online, these data are available for web harvesting. RM has consequently removed the links to all PDFs of SEL News prior to issue 56 from the SEL website. Although we do not share this detail of information about new members in our publications any longer, the council should pay particular attention to the issue of data security in the future.

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## SEL on Facebook

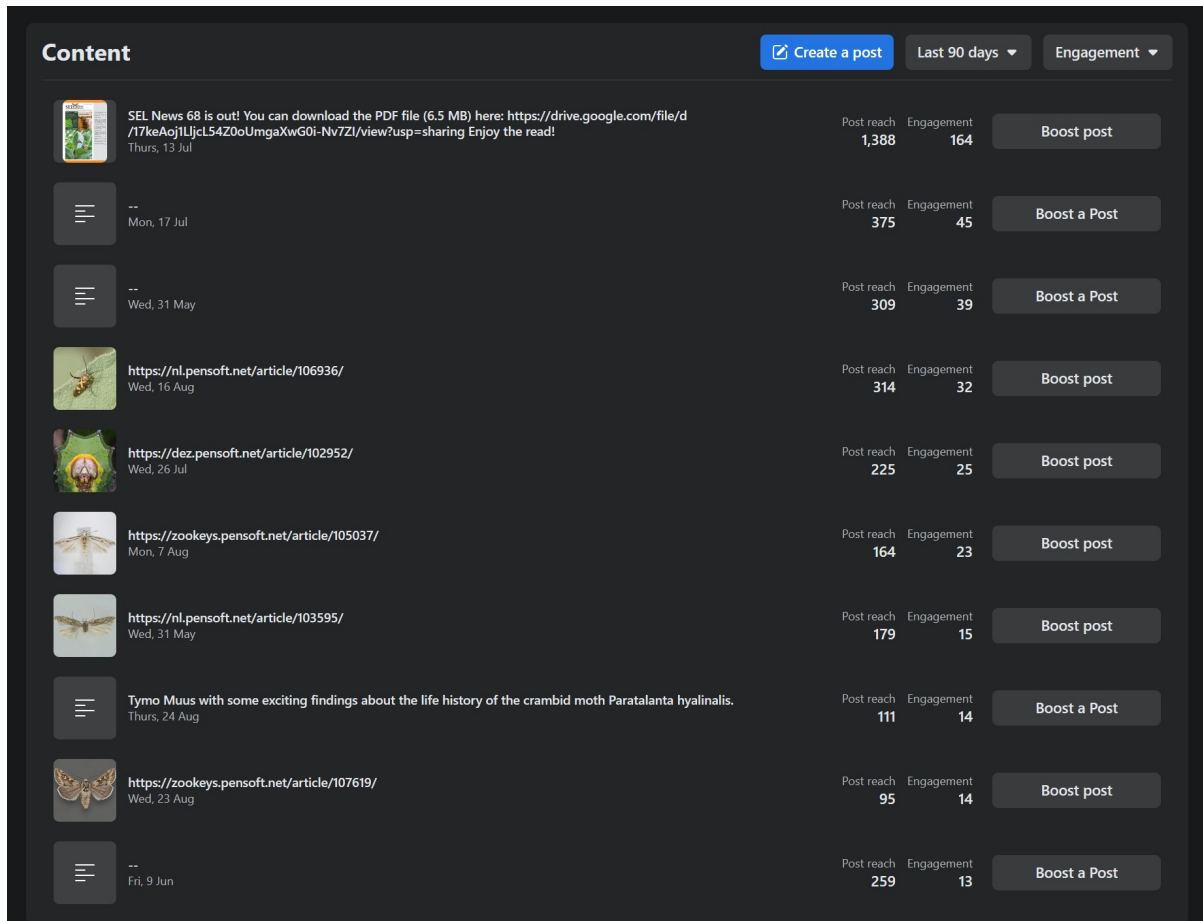
We currently count 1,913 Facebook followers (as of 2022/08/26), an increase of 592 followers since May 2022. In that time, the fraction of female followers dropped by almost



**Figure 3.** Composition of the audience of followers of the SEL Facebook account.

2% to 28.2%, with an equal increase in male followers (71.8%). The lowest interest appears to be among people 18 to 24 years of age, whereas the majority of followers is in the range of 25 and 44 years of age (Fig. 3).

The Facebook page continues to be an excellent platform for announcements, and especially for SELepidoptera News, with the announcement of issue 68 on 2023/07/13 reaching 1,388 people (Fig. 4).



**Figure 4.** SEL Facebook posts of the past 90 days (as of 2023/08/26) sorted by decreasing number of engagements.

Richard Mally, Vlkaničice, 2023/08/26