

Chapter 13

Entomologists Preserving Biodiversity: XXI International Congress of Entomology, Foz do Iguaçu, 20–26 August 2000

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In 1992, Brazil had the unique opportunity to hold the Convention on Biological Diversity in Rio de Janeiro, a milestone for sustainable conservation of the Earth's genetic resources. A great deal of the world's biodiversity and endemism is found in the Neotropical Region in tropical rainforests.

The Entomological Society of Brazil (SEB) was growing and becoming noticed as one of the largest entomological societies in the world. Flávio Moscardi, the then-president of SEB and an ICE Council member, organized the preparation of the Brazilian bid to host the International Congress of Entomology (XXI ICE). This bid was accepted by the Council in 1996, and the planning started in Brazil at that time. The focus was to be on insect biodiversity and conservation.

This was the first time a South American country had been chosen to hold an ICE. At that time, the SEB headquarters were in Londrina, in the state of Paraná, and the town of Foz do Iguaçu was selected as the ICE site. This is a special place that links the sub-tropical forests of three countries—Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina—near the Iguaçu National Park, with its wonderful Iguaçu Falls or “Cataratas do Iguaçu” (Fig. 13.1)—a perfect place to discuss entomological biodiversity and its conservation.

The Brazilian host organizations were the SEB and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa). The congress president was Décio L. Gazzoni (Fig. 13.2). Flávio Moscardi was the Scientific Committee chairman (Fig. 13.3); his committee members are listed in Table 13.1. President of the Supporting Committee was Plácido de Olivera. The treasurer was João Armelin, and secretary was Suzette Prado. Gazzoni was also editor of the two volumes covering the congress that were available for participants at the start of the congress.