

Report – SMBE Regional Meeting, Tucumán 2025

SMBE Interdisciplinary & Regional Meetings Grant -Sociedad Argentina de Biología Evolutiva (SABE)

The II Latin-American Meeting of Evolution (II CLEVOL) was held in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, from July 22nd to 25th, 2025. This meeting was jointly organized with the VI Argentinean Meeting of Evolutionary Biology (RABE), the XVII Chilean Annual Meeting of Evolution (RACE), and officially recognized as a SMBE Regional Meeting. Thanks to the generous support of SMBE, this event became the evolutionary biology meeting with the widest geographical reach ever held in Latin America. The meeting built upon the momentum generated by the inaugural I CLEVOL (2021, virtual), which brought together nearly 3,000 registered participants. Unlike its first edition, this second congress was fully in-person, marking a milestone in consolidating the Latin American evolutionary biology community. Moreover, plenary lectures in Tucumán were streamed simultaneously to Guatemala City, where the II Mesoamerican Congress of Ecology and Evolution acted as a satellite venue, expanding the reach of the event.

Participation. In total, the congress welcomed over 333 participants in Tucumán (Fig. 1), from across Latin America and beyond, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty members, and professionals. The diversity of participants reflected both the geographical breadth of the region and the commitment to building a truly international and inclusive evolutionary biology network (Fig.2).

Figure 1. Participants group photography.



Figure 2. Participants geographical precedence.



A rich scientific program was delivered, consisting of: 8 plenary lectures by leading scientists from Latin America and abroad, including the two keynote speakers funded by SMBE (Dr. Adams and Dra. Verónica Di Stilio); 6 symposia organized by thematic groups; 2 roundtables dedicated to research and teaching in evolution; A customized theatrical exhibition of Darwin and evolution (Fig. 3); 1 "Exhibition on inclusive evolution teaching with didactic materials for people with disabilities (Fig. 4); More than 200 oral and poster presentations spanning the full breadth of evolutionary biology; Screening of the Argentine film "Two Apples", directed by Eduardo Raspo, narrating Darwin's journey through Argentina, among other cultural activities. The topics covered included genomic and molecular evolution, evolutionary ecology, evo-devo and epigenetics, human evolution, theoretical approaches, behavior, phylogeography and biogeography, macroevolution and paleontology, and the teaching of evolution.

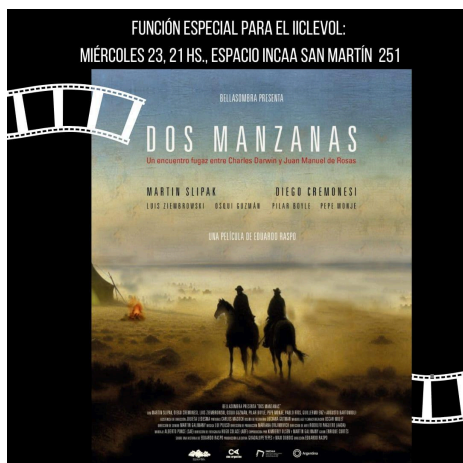
Figure 3. "Darwin's Freak Show Evolution Cabaret" by "Los Cuervos" at "Museo Casa Histórica" (Location where Argentine independence was set in 1816).



Figure 4. Disability friendly didactic exhibition of evolution.



Figure 5. “Two apples” Film by Eduardo Raspo.



Scientific and Social Impact. The event took place in venues provided by the Universidad Nacional de Tucumán: the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences and the Casa Histórica Museum, ensuring accessibility and a close connection with the local academic environment. Despite the challenging national context of underfunding for science and higher education in Argentina, the meeting was organized successfully, with affordable registration fees (with several discounts) and multiple scholarships provided to support attendance. Special support was also available for participants with caregiving responsibilities, in line with our strong commitment to equity and inclusion. The congress was guided by a [Code of Conduct](#), developed with the Gender, Diversity, and Human Rights Committee of the Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, reinforcing a respectful and inclusive environment. This emphasis on community-building and accessibility was repeatedly highlighted in the feedback received from attendees.

Regional Collaboration. The II CLEVOL demonstrated the strength of collaboration among national and regional societies, including SABE (Argentina), SOCEVOL (Chile), COLEVOL (Colombia), SBBE (Brazil), ReMBE (Mexico), ReBOBEL (Bolivia), and MesoEcoEvo (Mesoamerica), together with the “Facultad de Ciencias Naturales e Instituto Miguel Lillo – Universidad Nacional de Tucumán (FCN e IML-UNT)”. This collective effort was instrumental in securing international funding, attracting outstanding speakers, and consolidating an emerging Latin American network in evolutionary biology. Importantly, the congress highlighted the growing leadership of Latin American scientists in the global evolutionary biology community. For many early-career researchers, II CLEVOL was their first opportunity to present their work in an international forum, strengthening academic training and fostering long-lasting collaborations.

Travel Grants, Funds for Students Accommodations, Caregiving economical supports and Awards. A particularly meaningful achievement was that a substantial portion of the funding was allocated to mobility grants, attendance support, discounted registrations, caregiving assistance fellowships and awards. These measures helped reduce the barriers faced by groups traditionally excluded from academic events. The recipients of these grants expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to participate (Fig. 6).

Figure 6. Group photo of participants who received scholarships during the conference, holding their award certificates.



Local Organizer Committee. The members of the Organizing Committee were: Virginia Abdala (President), Gabriela Fontanarrosa (General Coordination), Guillermo Hankel (General Coordination), Santiago Benitez Vieyra, Jessica Fratani, Sebastian Albanesi, Ana Duport Bru, Elisa Fanjul, Ramiro Ovejero, Javier González Raffo, Carlos Molineri, M. Gabriela Nadra, Agustina Novillo, Celina Reynaga, Cecilia Robles, María Sandoval Salinas, and Valentina Segura (Fig. 7). Their collective effort and dedication was fundamental to the success of the congress, ensuring both its academic quality and smooth logistics.

Figure 7. Some Members of the Local Organizer Committee.



Academic Committee and Editorial Considerations. Academic Committee members were: Sara B. Bertelli, Daniel Dos Santos, Daniel A. García López, Norberto P. Giannini, Sergio González Mollinedo, Jimena Grosso, Carolina I. Miño, Carolina Nieto, Mariano A. Ordano, M. Laura Ponssa, Cecilia Robles, Claudia Russo, Romel S. Sánchez, María José Tulli, Alexander O. Vargas, Miriam Vera, and M. Florencia Vera Candiotti. This committee was responsible for evaluating submissions, shaping the scientific program, and guaranteeing the high standards of academic excellence that characterized the meeting. All abstracts were peer-reviewed and officially published in the Special Edition of Acta Zoológica Lilloana, ensuring long-term accessibility and academic visibility. The full collection is available at: <https://doi.org/10.30550/i.azl/s182>. Cited as: Fanjul, M. E.; Fontanarrosa, G.; Gabriela Nadra, M. G.; Sandoval Salinas, M. L.; Hankel, G.; Fratani, J. (Eds.). (2025). Resúmenes del II Congreso Latinoamericano de Evolución, VI Reunión Argentina de Biología Evolutiva, XII Reunión Anual Chilena de Evolución y SMBE Regional Meeting. Tucumán, Argentina. Acta Zoológica Lilloana 69 (Suplemento), 548 pp. Fundación Miguel Lillo, Argentina.

Event Program. In addition, participants had access to a dedicated [website](#) and a [mobile application](#) specifically designed for the II CLEVOL

and RABE. The mobile app was highly valued by the participants. These platforms provided updated information on the [scientific program](#), venues, and social activities, greatly facilitating navigation throughout the congress. Both resources remain available for consultation and will be reused and expanded in future meetings, thus contributing to the long-term sustainability

Financial Balance. A summary description of the II CLEVOL / SMBE Regional Meeting budget is provided in Table 1 and Table 2. Please note that ARS to USD conversions were calculated based on the exchange rates from the international transfer date (April 16th 2025). Importantly, the SMBE grant represented the main source of international funding and was crucial to ensure the participation of keynote speakers and the overall success of the congress. Additionally, surplus funds, primarily generated through registration fees and complementary institutional support, served to support mainly the raimanind speaker other than Dr. Adams and Dra. Di Stilio. Additionally to the financial report presented in tables 1 and 2, the transport and expenses of two of our keynote speakers: Dr. Gabriel Marroig and Dra. Claudia Maturana were afforded and administrated by the SBBE and SOCEBOL respectively. (i.e. without inherence of the local organization committee)

Table 1. Global Incomes

Incomes	USD \$	ARS \$
Memberships Fees (SABE)	1000.00	1144990.00
Registration fees income	5385.54	6166388.00
SMBE international speaker (2 speakers)	6000.00	6869940.00
SMBE regional meeting grant I	23000.00	26334770.00
SMBE regional meeting grant II	2000.00	2289980.00
GEBI grant (ESEB)	2500.00	2862475.00
CONICET grant	2707.45	3100000.00
Ente Tucumán Turismo (Tucuman Turism Board)	960.71	1100000.00
TOTAL	43553.70	49868543.00

Table 2. Expenditure breakdown

Category	Detail	USD \$	ARS \$	FUNDS
Accident insurance for participants	Participant accident insurance	191.23	218959.00	SMBE
Coffee Break	Coffee break service (twice per day) for 4 days	7096.35	8125251.00	SMBE

Event Materials for Attendees	Welcome souvenir, IDs, branded ID lanyard, branded hoodies for event organizers.	1799.24	2060117	SMBE
External Hard Drive	External Hard Drive	139.74	159999.00	SMBE
Financial expenses	International transfer fees	190.22	217800.00	SMBE
Grants & Awards	Grants for Student Accommodation, caregiving support funds, Travel Grants for Latino-Americans evolution societies, awards.	9317.99	10669000	SMBE
Library	Banners, flybanners, posters, print services, batteries, paint, sticky tape, etc.	1743.91	1996756.17	SMBE
App Design and Graphic design I	Graphic design	1150.29	1317072.43	SMBE
Logistic expenses	Fuel, parking fees, etc	86.62	99175.45	SMBE
Organizers and Voluntaries daily expenses	daily expenses for voluntaries and organizers	439.22	502900.00	SMBE
Welcome Feast	Welcome feast service	3707.34	4244869.86	SMBE
Speakers SMBE	SMBE additional funds for lecturers	6000	6869940.00	SMBE
Subtotal SMBE funds		31862.14	36481831.68	
App Design and Graphic design II	App designed for the meeting	3276.28	3751312.50	Registration fees income and Memberships Fees (SABE)
Speakers no SMBE fly tickets	Fly tickets of no SBME speakers	1061.77	1215720.50	CONICET grant
Speakers no SMBE daily expenses	Daily expenses of no SMBE speakers	733.33	839664.00	CONICET grant and Ente Tucumán Turismo
ESEB grant Speaker	European speaker	2500	2862475.00	ESEB
Streaming services	Streaming services	786.03	900000.00	CONICET grant
Total		40219.55	46051011.91	

We are confident that the II CLEVOL / SMBE Regional Meeting in Tucumán will leave a lasting legacy for the evolutionary biology community across Latin America. We look forward to continuing this collaborative path and to exploring future opportunities for partnership with SMBE.