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## Announcement

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*XVII International Rotifer Symposium, 4-8 August, 2025, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Dear Rotifer family,  
We invite everyone to attend the XVIIth International Rotifer Symposium, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from August 4th to 8th, 2025. A team from Brazil (Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, State University of Maringá), Argentina (INALI), Venezuela (University Central de Venezuela), and Uruguay (University of La Republica) are organizing the meeting.

However, for the first time the symposium will be held in the Southern Hemisphere. The theme of IRS XVII is "Challenges for the study of rotifers in the Southern Hemisphere." Brazil is the largest tropical country in the world, harboring a remarkable freshwater biodiversity. Given that the Neotropics is among the least-studied major ecoregions of the world, many challenges exist for study of its biodiversity. These include aquatic ecosystems with different characteristics such as (1) the large Amazon basin, (2) the Pantanal, (3) other large rivers, (4) forest and temporary rivers, and (5) coastal lakes and lagoons. Since the last century

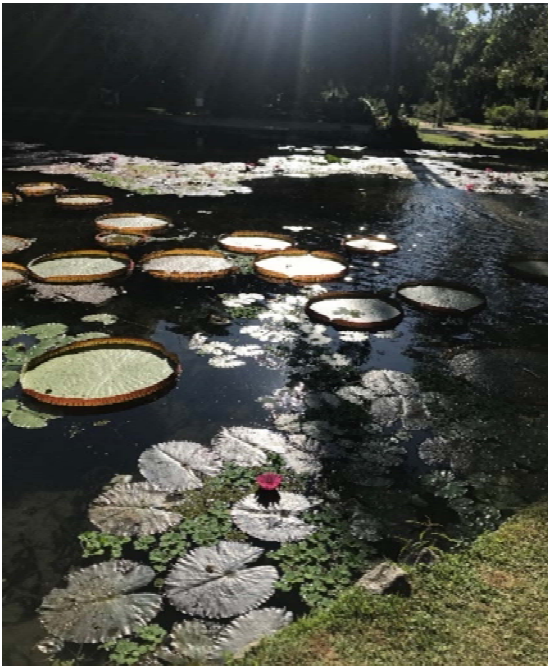


Photo 1a (left): The giant waterlily, *Victoria regia*, in a local botanical garden; 1b (right): View of the Christ from the Botanical Garden.

This symposium continues the decades-old tradition of gathering rotiferologists from around the world to attend a weeklong congress.

several rotiferologists have explored localities in Brazil; these researchers include Bonecker, Dumont, José de Paggi, Koste, Murray, Segers, and

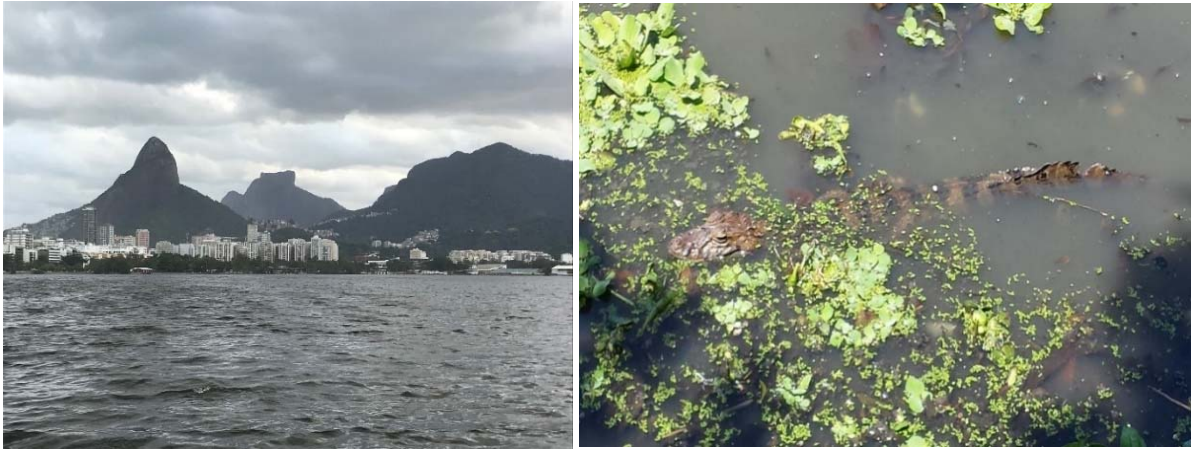


Photo 2a (left): Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon; 2b (right): Natural fauna and flora in the lagoons of the Baixada de Jacarepaguá

Turner. Nevertheless, despite their efforts extensive surveys are lacking, and major waterbodies remain essentially unexplored.

The XVIIth International Rotifer Symposium will be at the Rio Othon Palace Hotel, located in Copacabana beach, in a very pleasant area of the southern part of the City of Rio de Janeiro. It will be wintertime in Rio, and based on the tourism score this is the best time of year to visit the city. The region favors clear, rainless days with temperatures ranging between 65° and 80° F. We are planning middle conference excursions “from rainforest to coastal lagoons” (Photos 1-2), as

well as excursions before or after the event. Because several interesting sites are located close to the city of Rio de Janeiro, we anticipate being able to offer a few round-trip options lasting two or three days.

We invite all to participate in symposium activities. Applications for Workshops, special sessions, and pre-conference courses will be welcome. More details will be added in July 2024.

Christina Wyss Castelo Branco  
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