

Worldwide Dragonfly Association

Annual Report for end of 2023

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- WDA Biennial Report 2021-2023 as published in Agrion 27(2) July 2023 and presented at ICO2023 in Cyprus June 2023

WDA Biennial Report 2021-2023

Report from the President

As Jessica mentioned in her presidential report in 2021, 2019-2021 was a turbulent time for her and board members. After contract-out with Taylor and Francis, much efforts have been devoted to reforming our community system, for example, resuming handling of membership, searching for a new publisher, upgrading our website, and having more social media presence, etc.

My term as your president started after the virtual ICO meeting conducted avoiding the risk of COVID-19 on July 15 2021. Board meetings had been held every three months and discussed many issues including WDA business, IJO and *Agrion* publications, ICO meeting, website, accounting, etc.

During my term, we made some change of our policy. We started a new publishing model with Wachholtz which includes free open access for members. However, we soon switched to do self-publication of IJO by judging it will be better and quicker than keeping contract with them. We have now a good abundance of articles for IJO in these two years! More detail will be reported by the Managing Editor in this issue.

Membership had dropped to below 100 immediately after we started resuming handling of membership, but we are now up to 153 members including new and old people. Thank you to everyone for supporting WDA, and to the WDA board members working to increase membership value.

We will have a real ICO meeting this summer. ICO2023 will be held in Paphos, Cyprus. The congress venue will be Neapolis University. David and Ros Sparrow have worked hard to organize and reorganize the ICO meeting, and it will be a truly wonderful meeting.

I am thankful to Jessica Ware and Frank Suhling for their guidance over the last two years, and I wish Kendra Abbott a wonderful presidency.

With my best regards
Yoshitaka Tsubaki, Kyoto, Japan

Report from the President Elect

I am excited and honored to be president-elect for WDA. I really enjoy interacting with all the WDA members and helping with the mission of the organization. I may be biased, but think we have one of the most welcoming and wonderful societies. With your help, I am very excited to move the organization forward in the next two years as President.

The first item on my agenda is one that Yoshitaka Tsubaki has been working on and that is to fill several positions on the board. We have board members that have served for many years and would like to step down. I would love any recommendations or volunteers for these positions.

I am also hoping to implement some of the great ideas that came out of the workshop held during the 2019 ICO on making WDA more relevant.

I have a special place in my heart for conservation and I hope to find additional ways the society can contribute to odonate conservation priorities.

Kendra Abbott, Alabama, USA

Report from the Secretary

During the last two years we have ended contracts with Wachholtz and formally ended the relationship with Taylor & Francis (Informa) for the publishing of the *International Journal of Odonatology* (IJO).

We have signed new contracts with Birgit Rödder (Medien Design) and Thomas Ulber (HcrPrint) to assist in the self-publishing of the IJO as outlined by the Managing Editor below.

We have also signed contracts with EBSCO Information Services to allow the open access IJO to be part of their e-journal service for research databases and public libraries worldwide.

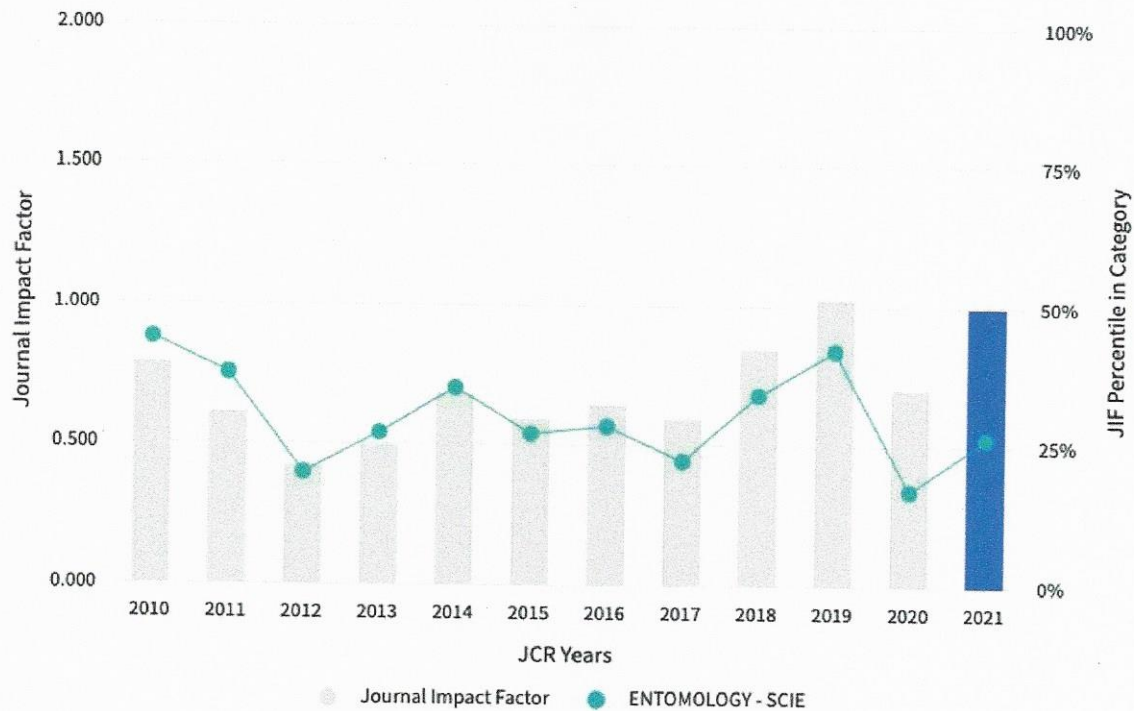
The Secretary & Treasurers roles have been performed by the same person as there is quite an overlap in some areas, however the important role of Secretary must be split out again going forward and the board will ensure that this takes place.

We still need an active increase in both new members and membership renewals and of course thank you for your continued support.

Peter Brown, United Kingdom

Report of the Managing Editor

Since the last report, in 2021, part of Vol. 24 (pp. 37-196), Vol. 25 (120 pp.) and part of Vol. 26 (73 pages) of the *International Journal of Odonatology* were published. Our impact factor, as reported by Journal Citation Reports (<https://jcr.clarivate.com/jcr/home>), was increasing until 2020, when we had a slight dip from 1.0 to 0.7. I am pleased to report that the impact factor increased again in 2021 from 0.7 to 1.0 and I am hopeful that the upward trend will resume once the 2022 numbers are announced. The 10-year trend for impact factor has remained reasonably consistent with a general upward trend in the last few years. The journal has remained steady within the entomology category, ranking 68 out of 105 in 2021.



As reported in the 2021 Biennial Report, the journal went to an online only, open access format and chose Wachholtz to publish the journal. Wachholtz published volume 24 (2021), but with tremendous delays to each article. The overall layout was also generally viewed as not pleasing. As a result, starting with volume 25 in 2022, we went back to a self-publishing model and hired Birgit Rödder (MedienDesign) to do the layout. I'm happy to report things have turned around tremendously. Birgit is a delight to work with and is very communicative and timely. I have received several positive notes on the new appearance of the articles. All articles are now freely available on the *Worldwide Dragonfly Association* website, [<https://worlddragonfly.org/ijo/>]. Thanks to webmaster Will Kuhn for his continued work and time in making the website and IJO pages so user friendly and aesthetically pleasing for readers of IJO.

There have also been a number of changes to the Editorial Board since the last report. We had two retirements, Ola Fincke and Dennis Paulson. Both Ola and Dennis have been long time contributors to making IJO a successful journal and their work is much appreciated. And of course, Richard Rowe passed away earlier this year. He was always helpful and encouraging to me and IJO; he will be missed. Cornelio Bota-Sierra has joined the editorial board. A list of the full Editorial Board is available on the website [<https://worlddragonfly.org/ijo/editorial-board/>]. I very much appreciate the help of this incredibly capable team. Their efforts make the journal the success that it is!

John Abbott, Alabama, USA.

Report from the Newsletter AGRION editorial team

The *Agrion* newsletter serves to promote the WDA's aim to advance public education and awareness of the study and conservation of Odonata and their natural habitats in all parts of the world. During the two-year 2021-23 period *Agrion* received many articles covering many parts of the world, most from Asia and Australasia and the occasional contribution from the Americas and Europe but none during this period from Africa.

In addition to communicating facts and knowledge related to the study and conservation of dragonflies it serves as a forum for news and information exchange between members. It also serves as a valuable resource of archive information by reporting on WDA's main activities.

Keith Wilson and Graham Reels served as *Agrion's* newsletter editors for the period 2021-23 and have now been *Agrion's* editors for a long period of 16 years. Both Graham and I have expressed a willingness to make way for a new editor or editorial team from 2023.

During 2023 Graham was appointed to take on editorial duties for *Notulae Odonatologicae* and following his new appointment has given notice that he intends to retire from the WDA *Agrion* Newsletter editorial team following the publication of the July 2023 *Agrion* issue.

Graham is a meticulous editor and has always completed his review and edits to *Agrion* articles promptly and to a very high standard. His invaluable contributions over many years have been much appreciated by myself and my many thanks to Graham are echoed here by the 2021-23 WDA Board. If anyone is interested in taking on the editorial and compilation duties of producing the *Agrion* Newsletter please feel free to contact the WDA Secretary or myself directly [kdpwilson@gmail.com].

Keith Wilson, United Kingdom

Report from the International Symposia Committee

ICO2023: We are looking forward to meeting soon, from 25th to 30th June 2023 during the ICO2023 in Paphos, Cyprus. Originally Paphos was supposed to be the venue of the ICO2021. Unfortunately, the conference had to be postponed due to the Corona Pandemic, first to later in 2021 and with ongoing problems in Europe it was decided to postpone it to 2023. We thank David and Rosalyn Sparrow and the whole Cyprus Dragonfly Study Group for their flexibility and their willingness to postpone and reorganise several times.

ICO2021: In 2021 a virtual WDA event & Biennial General Meeting was held on 15th July to bridge the long gap between the ECO2019 in Austin, Texas and ECO2023 in Paphos. The program of the virtual ICO2021 included six plenary talks about work being done around the world. The plenary speakers represented North America, Africa, Australasia, Asia and also two speakers gave globally focused presentations; one from the IUCN Dragonfly Specialist Group Co-chairs and one from the GEODE Project. Following the plenary presentations there was a screening of Georg Rüppell and Dagmar Hilfert-Rüppells' film: *My Dragon River*. During the event there were two breakout sessions where members could link up and socialize on various odonatological topics of interest to them and talk directly to other members in the chat session.

In my perception the virtual meeting was clearly a success being attended by a surprisingly high number of persons. And still being a fan of personal meeting during conferences I could imagine that the format of a virtual ICO may be something we could possibly organise as well as another opportunity to meet in between the live ICOs

The future: Some more future venues for ICO have been proposed and a schedule has been further developed. The ICO2025 will be held in Boyacá, Colombia. Organiser will be Melissa Sanchez Herrera. Details of the ICO2025 will be announced during the meeting in Paphos. Proposed venues for the further future are Brazil in 2027, by Rhainer Guillermo Ferreira, and in 2029 in New Zealand, by Milen Marinov.

Frank Suhling, Germany, Congress Coordinator

Report from the Webmasters and Social Committee

Despite the social media team being short-handed during this period due to conflicting work schedules, we have seen gradual but steady increases in our followership on the different social media platforms. On Facebook, we are currently at ~2200 followers (up 587 since our last evaluation in 2021), on Twitter ~700 followers (up 213 since our last evaluation in 2021), and on Instagram which is our newest platform - over 300 followers since its inception in March 2021. One of our main goals is working on converting these numbers into WDA memberships.

Overall, we're in desperate need of more hands and if anyone would like to join the team, please contact the WDA secretary or Rhema Uche-Dike [rhemadike@gmail.com] directly.

Rhema Uche-Dike, American Museum of Natural History, USA

Report from Acting Webmaster

Membership on the website has increased since we took over from Taylor & Francis, which had dropped to below 100. We are now up to 153 members.

William Kuhn has stepped down from webmaster and Kendra Abbott has been helping to maintain the website until a new webmaster is in place. Cyprus ICO and the IJO are hosted on the website, which has been successful.

Kendra Abbott, Alabama, USA

Report from the Treasurer

In November 2010 the European symposium deposited a fund of €7,980 with the WDA for safe keeping. They were originally in a WDA Euro account but when this was closed due to administration costs, the funds were transferred to the main WDA Lloyds bank account. Since moving to the QuickBooks accounting system, they have been accounted for by the provision of a Restricted EUR Funds account so that they are not included in the main WDA Accounts. In September 2016 €2,300 was drawn down to assist the Swedish ECOO leaving a remainder of €5,680. This balance was transferred to Sonia Fernandes in March 2022 so that the European symposium can administer their own funds independently.

As interest rates have improved for deposits, two new WDA Lloyds Bank accounts have been set-up to earn interest to try and offset the increase in bank charges due to currency payments required to the IJO self-publishing service suppliers. One is instant access and the other requires notice (but is also instant access with the loss of any interest).

We still experience some attempts at testing stolen credit card information criminal have gleaned from elsewhere on the internet. Since the end of 2020 when this first happened, no further attempts have been successful, but our Credit Card processing system is extremely vigilant and may refuse Credit Card payments for our legitimate users. If you do experience card processing issues, please contact the Treasurer.

The WDA QuickBooks accounting system contains all historical financial transactions dating back to January 2015 and current transactions have been entered and reconciled against the relevant bank accounts until the 1st June 2023. There are still checks and balances to perform to ensure that all receipts and expenditure are accounted for in the correct category and class.

As the WDA provides the initial funding and administers some of the ICO financial transactions, income usually exceeds the Charity Commission auditing threshold during ICO years. The delegate fee income is healthy, but of course this is offset by the considerable expenses.

We currently have a cash balance of £54,478 which excluding contingent liabilities, leaves an available balance of £46,858. We made a loss at the end 2022 of £4,418 but this includes the initial funding for ICO2023 of £1323 (£1500) and the difference between membership subscription income and the cost of self-publishing the IJO, of approximately £2,500.

This situation was anticipated but the good news is that membership numbers are rising and so the losses will reduce. Our available funds allow us to continue offering grants and self-publishing the IJO, for the immediate future, but we do need to attract new members and of course retain existing members.

The accounts during the first half of an ICO year do not show the true picture until the ICO has completed and the books balanced, so we expect this to take place very soon.

Peter Brown, United Kingdom

Report from the chair of Conservation and Funding

During the first year when the world was still in the pandemic, nothing was happening considering grants. However, during 2022 and 2023 there have been applications for the Philip Corbet Grant and grants for attending ICO in Cyprus that are being taken care of [at the time of compiling this report in mid-June 2023].

The Richard Rowe Grant for assistance to attend ICO2023 in Cyprus

This year grants were pooled from WDA, DSA and GdO. This resulted in the ability to collectively assist four participants to attend the congress, namely:

Daniela Ayala Sánchez, Instituto de Ecología A.C de México, Mexico (originally from Colombia). "Taxonomy and phylogeny of the genus *Euthore* Selys 1869"

Daniel Schönberger, Lund University, Lund, Sweden (originally from Germany). "Metabolic allometry in Odonata"

Ojonugwa Ekpah, University of Lagos, Nigeria. "Status and distribution of Nigerian Odonata from confirmed county-level data for two decades"

Diagal Wisnu Pumungkas, Indonesia Dragonfly Society, Indonesia. "Distribution records of Javan endemic Odonata with notes on habitat characteristics for *Heliogomphus drescheri* & *Rhinocypha heterostigma*"

Philip Corbet Grant

The successful applicants will be notified soon regarding their applications for grants to attend ICO 2023 in Cyprus.

Göran Sahlén, Sweden

The 2023-2025 WDA Board of Trustees

President: Kendra Abbott, University of Alabama, Department of Biology & Communication and Information Science.

President-elect: Melissa Sanchez, University of Alabama, Museum Research and Collections.

Immediate Past President: Yoshitaka Tsubaki, Kyoto University, Japan.

Secretary/Treasurer: Peter Brown, email: [wda.secretary at gmail.com].

Managing Editor, *International Journal of Odonatology*: John Abbott, Museum Research and Collections, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA, email: [jabbott1 at ua.edu].

Congress Coordinator: David Sparrow, email: [davidrospfo at hotmail.com].

Editor, *Agrion* Newsletter: Keith D.P. Wilson, Brighton, UK, email: [kdpwilson at gmail.com].

Trustee: Christopher Beatty, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA.

Trustee: Kehinde Kemabonta, Department of Zoology, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria.

Grant Coordinator: Vacant.

Social Media Coordinator: Rhema Uche-Dike, American Museum of Natural History.

Social Media Team: Kendra Abbott – interim webmaster & Ethan Tolman, American Museum of Natural History, twitter: @EthanTolman.

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- 2023 Annual Accounts Profit & Loss Report

Worldwide Dragonfly Association

Profit and Loss

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Income	
ICO Income	2,285.66
ICO Accomodation	24,526.76
ICO Conference Dinner	2,065.00
ICO Extras	99.00
ICO Mid/Post Conference Tour	4,576.50
ICO Misc Income	78.00
ICO Registration	17,050.29
ICO T-shirt & Mug Sales	400.00
Total ICO Income	51,081.21
Member Subscriptions	100.00
Website Subscriptions	5,723.55
Total Member Subscriptions	5,823.55
Received Interest	55.64
Services	535.00
Unapplied Cash Payment Income	0.00
Total Income	£57,495.40
GROSS PROFIT	£57,495.40
Expenses	
Accounting Software Charges	129.60
Bank charges	
Stripe Fees	934.10
Wire Transfer Fee	255.06
Total Bank charges	1,189.16
ICO Expenses	
ICO Accomodation	24,499.17
ICO Attendance Grants	1,062.68
ICO Bags Notebooks Mugs	402.72
ICO Bank Charges	82.70
ICO Bus Hire	2,883.67
ICO Catering	14,127.93
ICO Miscellaneous Expences	273.84
ICO Programme Printing	1,017.97
ICO Refunds	132.40
ICO T-Shirt Printing	654.70
ICO Travel Expences	1,272.82
ICO USB Devices	37.83
Total ICO Expenses	46,448.43
IJO	
IJO Publishing Expenses	8,936.26
IJO Publishing Software Services	6,675.68
Total IJO	15,611.94

Worldwide Dragonfly Association

Profit and Loss

January - December 2023

	TOTAL
Software Services	2,115.27
Total Expenses	£65,494.40
NET OPERATING INCOME	£-7,999.00
Other Expenses	
Exchange Gain or Loss	28.15
Total Other Expenses	£28.15
NET OTHER INCOME	£-28.15
NET INCOME	£-8,027.15

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REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK

FOR THE YEAR 1900

BY THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD