



## SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

# THE 4<sup>th</sup> BIOLOGY OF THE VIPERS CONFERENCE

ATHENS, GREECE

OCT. 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

[www.elerpe.org/viperconf.html](http://www.elerpe.org/viperconf.html)

We are excited to open the 4<sup>th</sup> Biology of the Vipers conference for registration and a call for papers. The due date for abstract submission by presenters and early registration is **August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**.

It is our greatest pleasure to announce that the Plenary Speakers for the conference will be **Göran Nilson** and **Luca Luiselli** who are two world renowned viper biologists in the region and will open each day of talks.

Additionally, we have two field trips plans to some of the most interesting viper habitats in Greece. Please pay for these when you register for the conference:

The first trip will precede the conference and will take place on the **9<sup>th</sup> of October**. It is a one-day trip to **Alpine Meadows** in the **Pindos Mountain Range** where the rarely seen **Greek Meadow Viper (*Vipera ursinii graeca*)** lives. This site offers some breathtaking views of mountain peaks and conifer forests below, and the unique meadows of these “Sky islands” of Greece. This trip will start from the venue hotel (Oasis Hotel) at about 6am on the 9<sup>th</sup> and we will return to the venue hotel approximately 8pm the same day (included in the price is a traditional lunch at a mountain “taverna”, and a bus hire). **Note:** Those who will be joining the above trip should plan to be in Athens from the 8<sup>th</sup> as we are leaving early in the morning.

The second trip will follow the conference and will take place from the **14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of October**. This will be a three night stay on the beautiful and extremely unique **island of Milos** where the endemic (somewhat recently debated) **Milos Viper (*Macrovipera schweizeri*)** lives. This is considered an endangered species and the only insular endemic viper of the Mediterranean Sea. The field trip will also offer an experience of one of the most popular Greek islands with opportunities to see other interesting herps unique to Milos. The trip will start on the 14<sup>th</sup> and we shall return to Athens on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The trip price will include roundtrip ferryboat tickets, accommodation at a hotel/ apartments that has catered to viper researchers in the past (apartments will be shared among the participants), and an arranged island style Greek dinner at a restaurant one evening. **Note: Local transportation will be arranged and paid for at the conference once we have a final number of participants (this will either be a bus hire or rental cars to get to field sites).**

## **REGISTRATION**

The conference registration form has been uploaded to the conference website [www.elerpe.org/viperconf.html](http://www.elerpe.org/viperconf.html). You can also register by clicking the following hyperlink <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=91qni%2AwHXEUmAyhrfFQDpA>. Here you can register for the conference, sign up for field trips and other activities, buy t-shirts, and submit your abstracts. Please make note of what you have opted to buy, participate in, etc. and send your total conference cost including your registration fee (all in Euros) directly to *Societas Hellenica Herpetologica* at the following bank account information. Your registration will not be complete until we have verified payment.

**IBAN: GR91 0172 0120 0050 1201 6061 740**

We desperately tried to arrange an online payment service without increasing the registration fees but this ended up not being possible, so a direct deposit through your bank will be the easiest way. A detailed record of what you signed up for will be sent to the organizers and so we can check the final costs of your selections. Make sure you include a message on the money transfer with your name as stated on your registration form if not already provided by your financial institution.

The Oasis Hotel has been holding rooms for the participants of this conference and has graciously extended that favor to the end of this month (June). We will try to keep those rooms on hold for as long as possible as we know this will be the lowest cost and the most efficient accommodation for the participants. Nevertheless, Greece is a top international tourist destination and this hotel is on the beach which creates a high

demand and early bookings are necessary. Room reservations can be made directly to the hotel through the conference website by clicking the button “Book Rooms”.

If you have any questions about travel, payments, field trips, accommodation or anything else please do not hesitate to contact one of the conference chairs. We are here to make your registration smooth and we want to gather the finest group of viper researchers possible.

**See you in Greece!**

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***Organizing Committee***

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