

Participation and Representativeness of Women in the Brazilian Society of Ichthyology

Aiming to evaluate the female contribution to the Brazilian Ichthyology, we designed this study to access the number and representativeness of such contribution, and how it has developed in the last decade. A survey of gender data in the Brazilian Ichthyology was initially based on the list of affiliated researchers (past and present) to the Brazilian Society of Ichthyology (from Portuguese, SBI) with gender declared, and which are Brazilians or researchers in Brazil. To address aspects on that proportion in scientific meetings, we investigated the invited speakers in Brazilian Ichthyology Meetings (Encontro Brasileiro de Ictiologia, EBI) from the last decade, produced by SBI together with local institutions, and also the announced speakers of the I and II International Symposia on Phylogeny and Classification of Neotropical Fishes. The gender data from EBI was obtained from Scientific Programs, and Symposium data from "Speakers section" at the Meeting's website to date. Speakers of EBI were counted regarding their number of presentations, separated in the following categories: Plenary conferences and Lectures; Discussion tables; Workshops; and Symposia. All the speakers listed on the International Symposia were counted. From a total of 1220 affiliated researchers to SBI and meeting above criteria, 739 were designated as males (60.6%) and 481 as females (39.4%). The number of affiliated researchers to SBI almost doubled in the last 10 years (from 682 to 1220), being 59.4% of males and 40.6% females. The proportion of females as invited speakers at EBI increased from 21.7% in 2007 to 31.7% in 2011 (year with the highest female participation) and then decreased to 21.7% in 2013, 27.9% in 2015, and 22.6% in 2017. It corresponds to a total increase of 10.5% from the year with the least to the most representativeness. The proportion of female speakers in the International Symposium was 19.8% in 1997, and of 13.7% in 2017, a decrease in representation of 6.1%. Therefore, female representation still falls short of the proportion of women in the SBI (39.4%). Those results led us to address important questions on why gender inequality in speakers still exists, and why there is a gender disparity in the Brazilian Ichthyology comparing to the society in general. Detailed data will be presented regarding publications; leadership roles; and financial support; as well as the Systematics area profile. Affirmative policies to reduce this bias in the Academy and Scientific Meetings will be presented, as also ideas to the Brazilian Ichthyology scenario.