



### **First Circular Letter - XV Portuguese-Spanish Herpetology Congress and XIX Spanish Congress of Herpetology**

The **Spanish Herpetological Association (AHE)** and the **Portuguese Association of Herpetology (APH)** are organizing the XV Portuguese-Spanish Congress of Herpetology and XIX Spanish Congress of Herpetology under the motto **Biology and Conservation of Herps in the Anthropocene**, which will take place in Salamanca, Spain, from 5 to 8 September 2018.

The City of Salamanca was selected to organize this new edition for several reasons. One is that the University of Salamanca is celebrating its 8<sup>th</sup> centenary in 2018, and the city is receiving great media attention and hundreds of congresses will be held there at international, Latin American, European, Iberian and Spanish levels. It is also an important source of expertise and experience in herpetology for the Iberian Peninsula for decades; it is 31 years since the AHE congress was held in Salamanca in 1987, with a very large attendance. The Congress has the financial support of the Junta de Castilla y León, the City Council of Salamanca and the Salamanca University Commission for the VIII Centenary.

The organizers hope that the University of Salamanca will become a great forum where scientists, conservationists, students and those interested in the world of Iberian herpetology, share their experiences, show the results of their research, contribute with new ideas, propose solutions to the problems that drag the Iberian herps, look for synergies and strengthen ties. All united in the goal of herpetological conservation. The main themes of the Congress are the natural history of herpetological species and communities, the effects of climate and global change, the effects of pollution, biodiversity and biogeography, and the management of invasive species.

During the Congress a Meeting of Constitution of the Spanish Group of Sea Turtles will be held. The main challenges for its study and conservation will be evaluated and an Action Plan will be designed. More detailed information about this meeting will be provided in future communications.

The Congress will include plenary lectures, scientific sessions (orals and posters) and workshops. To complement the program, there will be a field trip to Arribes del Duero and/or Peña de Francia, and cultural activities in the city of Salamanca.

Furthermore, the ordinary and extraordinary general meetings of both herpetological Iberian societies will also be held.

The languages of presentation of oral presentations and posters will be indistinctly spanish, portuguese and english.

The congress website (url: [www.herpiberica2018.usal.es](http://www.herpiberica2018.usal.es)) will soon be fully operational. There you will be able to follow the news on the congress, send your communications and make registration and payments. For communication with the organizing committee use the email **herpiberica@2018.es**

**Key dates:**

- *Workshop proposals:* Until March 15th
- *Submission of papers:* Until May 30th
- *Communication of acceptance:* Before June 15th
- *End of reduced registration fees:* Until June 30th

Your participation is essential for the success of the event, so we encourage you to present your herpetological contributions at the Congress.

We look forward to seeing you all in Salamanca!

The Organizing Committee