

REPORT

SMBE Interdisciplinary & Regional Meetings Grant

Sociedade Brasileira de Biologia Evolutiva (SBBE)¹ *

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The **Brazilian Society for Evolutionary Biology (SBBE)** was recently established as a hub for collaboration amongst researchers, educators, students, and anyone passionate about the advancement and dissemination of knowledge concerning *Evolution*. Therefore, our *Society* aims to promote impactful research, host dynamic events, disseminate scientific discoveries, and advocate for public policies that improve societal well-being and support high-quality scientific education in Brazil and elsewhere. The creation of **SBBE** thus marks a significant milestone not only for the scientific community in Brazil interested in *Evolution* but also for the Brazilian society at large.

The **SBBE24** inaugural congress, which was generously sponsored by this **SMBE** grant, successfully took place in Curitiba — Paraná from November 20th to 22nd, 2024. Preceding the congress, on the 19th of November, an 8-hour Galaxy course was conducted for 32 participants by **Prof. Dr. Anton Nekrutenko** (*The Pennsylvania State University*).

In gross numbers, **SBBE24** welcomed **633 attendees** from nearly **90 institutions and universities**, including **163 professionals**, **301 graduate students and postdocs**, and **169 undergraduates** (please notice that

illustrative photos can be found at the end of this report). Noteworthy, we were pleased to see that **SBBE24** had a well-balanced attendance in terms of self-identified gender (48% female, 50% male, and 2% other). Likewise, attendance was also well-balanced regarding career stage (undergraduate 29%, postgraduate 47%, and professional 24%). A remarkable total of **399 abstracts** were submitted from across the country, and with all co-authors included, the event engaged a total of **1,494 participants**. This participation far exceeded our initial expectation of **200 attendees**, demonstrating the strong demand for such events in Brazil. Moreover, the outstanding quality of the presentations left us inspired and eager for future meetings. Given how undeniably fruitful our inaugural congress was, plans are already underway for the second edition with the aim of building on this success. The event also spurred **SBBE** memberships from across the country, strengthening the foundation of our incipient *Society*. A summary of both **SBBE** members and **SBBE24** attendees is given in **Figure 1**. **Against this background, we shall attest our deepest gratitude towards SMBE's pivotal support in making the realisation of the very first SBBE event a concrete reality.**

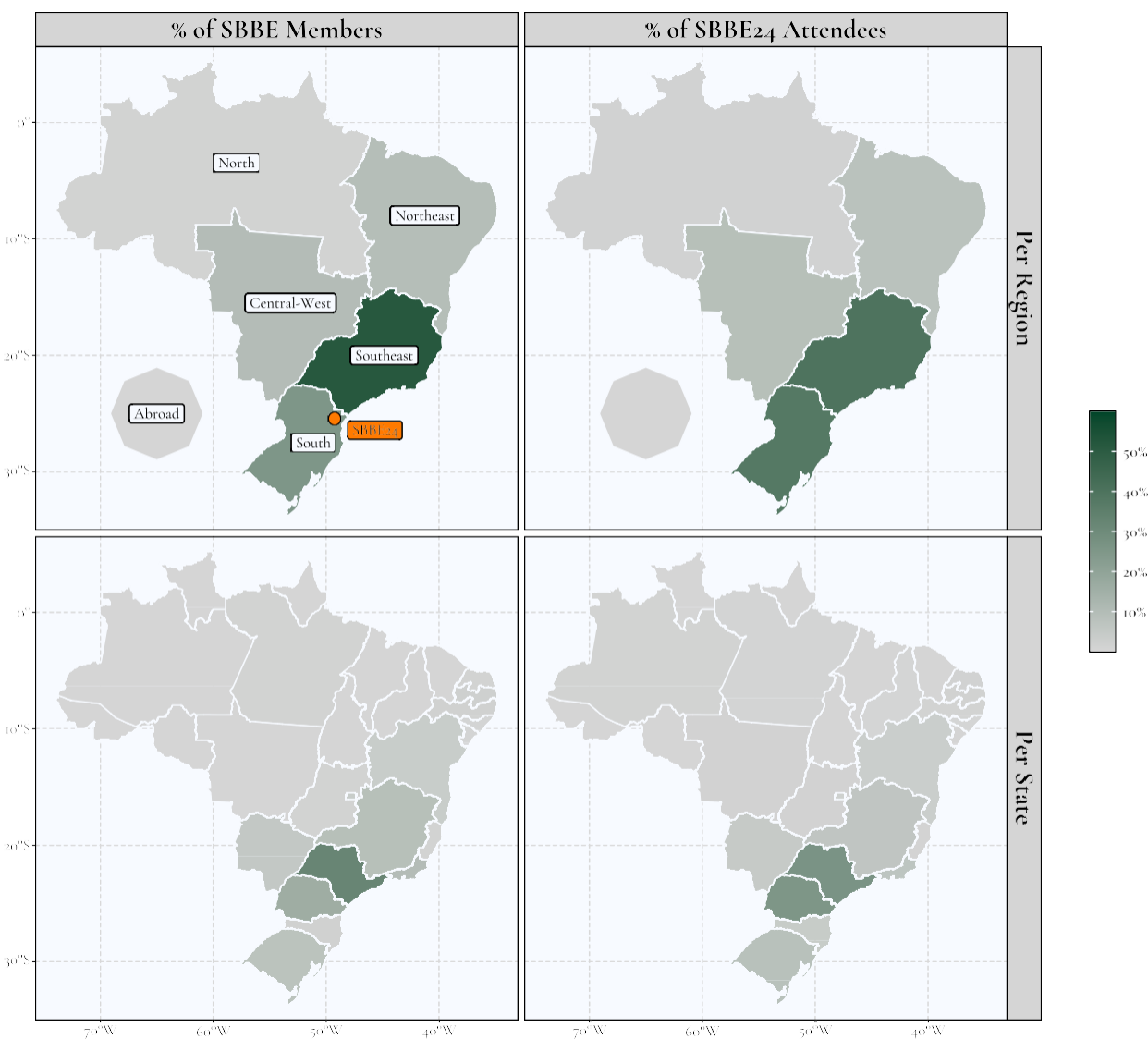


Figure 1. Illustrative maps depicting the percentage of **SBBE** members and **SBBE24** attendees categorised by the Brazilian regions and states. The orange point indicates where **SBBE24** took place.

SBBE24 was organised by independent *Committees*, which are described below. To converse across these groups, we held weekly one-hour virtual meetings on Thursdays at 1 p.m. besides maintaining continuous communication via a *WhatsApp* group to speed up simple decisions.

SBBE24 Organizing Committees: responsible for decisions on the main line-up, symposia, funding, and payment of airfare (whenever needed). The final programme of **SBBE24** can be consulted [here](#), and a summary of the programme is found in **Table 1**. **Members: Fabricius Domingos, Fernanda Caron, George Pacheco, Marcia Beltrame, Mariana Vasconcellos & Matheus Salles.**

Advisory Committee: actively participated in meetings and provided important support to various *Committees* throughout the event planning process. **Members: Adrian Garda, Ana Paula Assis, Clarisse Palma-Silva, Claudia Russo, Daniel Bruschi, Felipe Torquato, Júnior Nadaline, Sávio Farias & Waldir Miron.**

Local Committee: responsible for the structural organization and logistical requirements of the event, including reception, auditoriums, meals, transportation, etc.). **Members: Alexandre Varaschin Palaoro, Daniel Bruschi, Desirré Alexia Lourenço Petters Vandresen, Fabricius Domingos, Fernanda Caron, Fernanda Freitas de Oliveira, Iris Hass, Júnior Nadaline, Kaleb Pretto Gatto, Karla Magalhães Campião, Lupe Furtado Alle, Marcia Beltrame, Marcos Soares Barbeitos, Matheus Salles, Ricardo Lehtonen Rodrigues de Souza plus 35 facilitators (UFPR undergraduate and graduate students).**

Communication Committee: responsible for the **SBBE** social media (*Instagram, Bluesky & X*), photography, e-mail and website. **Members: Fernanda Caron, Júnior Nadaline, Jean Carlo Pedroso de Oliveira, Juliana Rosa Matias Ciccheto, Carolina Martins da Silva, Josué Anderson Rêgo**

Azevedo & Raíssa do Nascimento Rainha.

Scientific Committee: Responsible for evaluating abstracts by area (to select oral presentations, posters and oral presentations to select the award winners. The student who received the award for best oral presentation will receive financial support from the **SBBE** to represent our *Society* at the **II Congresso Latinoamericano de Evolución.**

Students Affairs Committee: Responsible for deliberating attendance fee discounts for vulnerable groups. In short, **225 discount coupons** were generated (**167 effectively used**) for vulnerable groups (Indigenous, LGBTQIA+, mothers of children up to 12 years old and/or caregivers of dependent people, brown, black and/or *Quilombola* communities, people with disabilities, people in financial vulnerability, public school teachers); **21 students received an event fellowship** (total investment: 17,000 BRL / 2,750 USD) to present their research at **SBBE24** (priority was given to researchers from regions historically under-represented in Brazilian scientific events, namely Central-West, Northeast and North); a bus to serve **28 students** from the Rio Grande do Sul state (this locality experienced **severe floods in 2024**) was fully paid for by **SBBE** (total investment: 9,000 BRL / 1,455 USD). **Members: Matheus Salles, George Pacheco, Sávio Farias & Waldir Miron.**

SBBE24 Financial Balance: A summary description of the **SBBE24** budget is given in **Table 2**. Please notice that BRL to USD conversions were based on exchange rates from 26/12/2024, except for the first 90% of the total amount requested during the tender application, which has already been sent to us by **SMBE**. Additionally, we included an additional fee in the registration for participants who opted to join **SBBE**, and this will be the foundation for our *Society's* initial cash flow (approx. 42.025,00 BRL). Finally, **Table 3** presents an overall breakdown of all **SBBE24** expenses.

Table 1. SBBE24 Pramme Summary.

Event	Number
Keynote Talks	11
Oral Presentations	65
Poster Presentations	331
Symposia	05

Table 2. SBBE24 Budget.

Income	BRL	USD
Registration + Galaxy Workshop	41.299,70	6.952,92
SMBE - 2X International Speaker*	36.916,20	6,000.00 (up to)
This SMBE Grant (90%)	114.344,95	20,880.00
This SMBE Grant (10%)	14.274,26	2,320.0
TOTAL	206.834,91	36.152,92

*This amount will be paid directly to the speakers by SMBE and does not contribute to the event's cash flow. The total excluding this amount is 169,918.71 BRL (-28,606.33 USD).

Table 3. SBBE24 Expenditure Breakdown.

Expense	BRL	USD
Hotel Accommodations: Speakers / Honorees / Organizers	30.184,00	4,905.81
Flight Tickets: Speakers / Honorees / Organizers	34.551,41	5,615.65
Transfers: Speakers / Honorees / Organizers	4.400,00	715.13
Travel Aids	22,450.00	3,648.80
Infrastructure: Poster Area / Reception / Entrance	27.000,00	4,388.31
Printing Service	11,382.35	1,849.97
Coffee Breaks	28,847.98	4,688.67
Photographer	450.00	73.13
Ambulance	3,750.00	609.48
Cleaning	2,690.69	437.31
SBBE Honorary Plaques	1.459,00	237.13
SBBE24 Celebration	9.680,00	1,573.2
SBBE24 Store	3.522,00	572.43
Others	240	39.00
TOTAL	180.607,43	29,354.17

