



Brazil, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

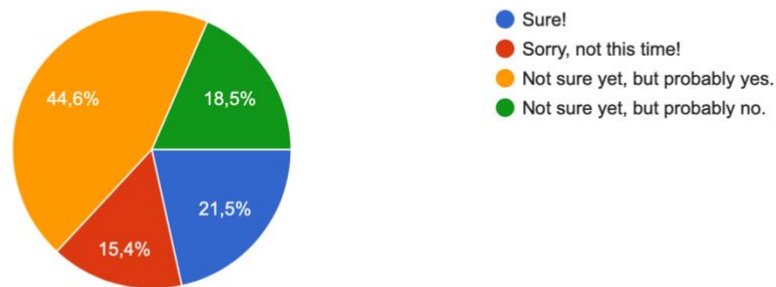
Dear ICHNIANS,

Thank you very much to those who took the time to answer the poll to measure the intention to participate in person in ICHNIA 2022. We sent the enquire to the **266 e-mails** in the ICHNIA 2022 e-mail list. It became open for four weeks, and now is time to resume. During this period, only **66** of you (one colleague answered for him and his wife) shared your decision and expectations to come to Brazil for ICHNIA 2022 next April.

Based on the answers, we could see that **a third** of these 66 people decided not to come (red and green slices in the pizza graphic), and most of them do not feel confident traveling or being part of a meeting due to Covid-19. The other **two-thirds** that are decided or are planning to attend the meeting in person sum 44 people.

### Are you coming (in-person meeting)?

65 respostas



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were aware that ICHNIA 2022 would be smaller than the previous ones. Even that, we are more than happy to organize this mini-ICHNIA. However, such a small public brings us a problem: we need to fill a minimum accommodation capacity at the hotel (~80 people at least) to guarantee that it will not accept other guests than the ICHNIA participants. To have the hotel exclusively for us is crucial for sanitary safety. If the hotel welcomes guests apart from our group, we risk sharing space with asymptomatic people infected with Covid. And we cannot take such a risk.

The Covid variants, especially Delta, still impose travel restrictions on our colleagues from Asia, the USA, India, and some countries from Europe to travel to Brazil for now. Due to these factors, half of those committed to keynote talks, short courses, and workshops declined to participate in person. And many cannot wait until next year to see what happens and plan their trip. We also cannot wait to see what happens shortly to launch the meeting. We need to open the abstract submission asap to have enough time for evaluation and acceptance by the scientific committee, especially for the students that will apply for IIA and IAS travel grants. We also must sign a contract with the hotel up to November 2021, which imposes a fine for meeting cancellation after this period.

Although the pandemic situation in Brazil is much better than before and the Delta variant still has not impacted our health system in the same way that the Gama variant did in March to June, all the remarkable epidemiologists that are following the pandemic evolution in Brazil and sharing their weekly reports are skeptical about this apparent resistance, based on what happened in other countries, like Israel. It is true that vaccination went fast in the last two months and that most Brazilian adults are immunized with at least one shot and will complete their vaccination soon. However, many people refuse the vaccine, making it difficult to control the virus dispersion. And new outbreaks are expected.

Thus, considering all these aspects, we do not see an option other than to cancel ICHNIA 2022. A full online ICHNIA, as some suggested, is impossible due to the different time zones around the world. And we do not have the infrastructure to make live sessions and recorded sessions available to participants simultaneously, as in GSA


Annual Meeting or AGU Fall Meeting. To postpone it again to 2023 is not fair, as it will collide with the SLIC 2023 – The Latin American Symposium on Ichnology, in Mexico. Thus, we prefer to keep ICHNIA in 2024 to preserve the original four-year calendar. We will be more than happy to organize ICHNIA 2024 in Brazil if the ichnocommunity wishes. But we will also understand if other colleagues would like to propose another place to celebrate 20 years of One Ichnology! Thus, it is up to you and the International Ichnological Association Board of Directors.

We apologize for not being able to offer you the ICHNIA we planned! We feel very frustrated! We worked hard to give you a nice meeting and an exciting Brazilian experience, but the pandemic was bigger than us. To compensate for the ICHNIA 2022 cancellation, we will offer an “ICHNIA Week” on April 4-8, 2022, with a two-hour window each day for online interactions in the topics originally planned to be discussed in the meeting.

We are in debt to Al Curran, Andy Rindsberg, Alfred Uchman, Chuck Savrda, Conrad Labandeira, Giuseppe Leonardi, Karen Chin, Koji Seike, Laura Piñuela, Luis Buatois, Ricardo Melchor, Silvio Casadío, Tony Martin, and Zain Belaústegui for their generosity to accept be part of the ICHNIA 2020-2022 program as keynote speakers, short course teachers, and workshop leaders. ICHNIA hopes to count on you in the future, if in Brazil or any other place. Thank you also to all that accept to compose the Scientific Committee.

For those who had paid the subscription fee in 2020 and opted to keep it to 2022, we will be reimbursing the amount paid in Brazilian Real in the following days. We will contact you individually.

Best wishes,



Renata G. Netto, and the

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