

## A really good conference

### [Print](#)

Earlier this month, Shinichi and I attended the [13th Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology](#) (ESEB) in [Tübingen](#), Germany. This conference is held every two years in various cities around Europe and usually hosts between 1 and 1.5 thousands delegates, so its rather on the larger side. It is a challenge to organize such a big event, but the Germans stood up to it.

Why was this conference so good? I think there were several reasons (some rather objective and a few more personal):

1. In general, it was really well planned and executed. Everything was on time, and on surprisingly reasonable cost. Food and drinks were good and plentiful (sea of coffee is a necessity). Information for participants was detailed and reliable. We even got free passes for local transport and sightseeing. The list of little good things that made the difference is really long.
2. Very diverse symposia topics, so everybody could find something related to their area of interests but also learn about different stuff. Top people from these research fields attended the conference. It was great to see in person many people we know from the names on the papers and books.
3. Many great presentations (and some not so good ones). Most up-to date science. Fascinating how quickly techniques change - seems like almost everybody now does next generation sequencing.
4. More personally, I haven't been to conference for 4 years and after such break it was very exciting to feel part of the scientific community again and to see what is new and hot.
5. I haven't had a holiday from kids for 3 years and it was awesome to have some rest from them. Just to appreciate them better when coming back. Well, this conference also gave me an opportunity to talk to other mothers of young children who don't want to give up science - and this was very inspiring.
6. Finally, Tübingen is a really pretty old German town and walking its ancient streets was a delight. And the ice cream was so tasty too!

### Details

Written by Malgorzata (Losia) Lagisz

Category: General

Created: 31 August 2011

Last Updated: 03 February 2015

Hits: 1522163