1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):
The International Bioacoustics Congress is a biennial meeting to present the current work about animal acoustics and communication around the world, but mainly in Europe. This year it included plenary talks, oral presentations, posters, a workshop and interactive activities with the host institution. The workshop was titled “Acoustic Analyses in R” and consisted in theory-practical use of R software and specific a package and its possible application to diverse projects.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.
During the workshop, I learnt the application of a series of coding to access online databases, download and process files. Even though this was in order to continue with an acoustic signal processing, this type of coding/programming skills can be used in different situations and are highly important currently for researchers as most, if not all of the data is contained in digital form. Also, during the oral presentations and posters, I learnt about new methods and approaches to respond scientific questions and it helped me to broaden my knowledge in other bioacoustics topics.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.
The workshop has helped me to understand the use of R software for different analysis that I can use for my own present and future research. At the same time, attending the conference allowed me to network with a wide range of researchers working on bioacoustics that could lead to establish new links and collaborations.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials).
The participants in the workshop came from different backgrounds related to bioacoustics. One of the things that most people agreed was that the use of these commands in R (assuming familiarity with R software and/or programming) can be used in a wide range of species and studies that not only are related to acoustics. The main example used was about birds communication, because that is the field of the instructor, but most of the commands that allow programming loops of certain functions, like multiple measurements or access to internet databases can be applicable to any other database type.
The main information of the acoustics package can be found in:

https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/warbleR/index.html

This is a link to a database of birds recordings that is continuously growing with public help: http://www.xeno-canto.org/. This type of acoustic databases exist for other taxa and modifications in the package could be linked to those or even to websites with other type of files.

This is the link to the instructor’s website Marcelo Araya, where it is possible to find more information about how he uses R and warbler in bird projects: http://marceloarayasalas.weebly.com/

6. Tips/experience learned from the event

Programming is a very useful skill, especially when we work with large amount of data, as it occurs for acoustic analysis. This workshop help me to understand the use of different functions in R I have not used before and how to take advantage of loop programming. In addition, it is important to be update on the research from colleagues in other institution and to build links with other students in a similar field, as well as being exposed to different ways that conferences are organised.

7. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

This workshop is not taught commonly anywhere. Therefore, it was a fantastic opportunity to learn a new technique to use R software, especially because it is free software accessible to anyone and it is used by a wide range of researchers around the world.

8. I give permission for my report to be uploaded to the CAPOD Funding Website:

Yes ☑   No ☐

Report submitted by: Braulio Leon-Lopez
Date: 16/October/2015