Applications for the Bernhard-Rensch-Prize for Biological Systematics of the GfBS 2027

The Bernhard Rensch Prize is being awarded annually by the Society of Biological Systematics (GfBS, Germany) to a young scientist who has produced exceptional work in any area of biological systematics. The award was launched by the GfBS at the suggestion of the late Prof. Dr. Ernst Mayr (1904-2005), an honorary member of the GfBS, who also helped underwrite the endowment for the prize with a generous contribution. The prize honours the lifelong work of Bernhard Rensch, one of the founders of the 'New Systematics'.

Eligible for consideration is any significant work (e.g., a bachelor`s or master`s thesis, PhD dissertation, or the equivalent) for which the applicant is the sole or primary author. The study can be in any area in which the GfBS is involved, with botanical, palaeontological, and zoological (broadly defined) studies all being equally welcome. All submitted work will be evaluated for its scientific quality, innovativeness and creativity by the Bernhard Rensch Committee, consisting of members of the council of the GfBS and one additional, external jury member. The awardee will present the work at the annual meeting of the GfBS, where he will receive the prize and the Bernhard-Rensch-Medal.

The following is a summary of the key points associated with an application for the prize:

- The prize is open to all members of the scientific community, whether they are members of the GfBS or not
- Candidates can be either self-nominated or nominated by another person.
- The candidate must be either the sole or primary author of the nominated work.
- Only works written in either English or German can, unfortunately, be taken into consideration.
- The nominated work can be in any of the areas of systematic botany, palaeontology, or zoology, each of which will be judged equally.
- The candidates must have defended their PhD no more than three years before the submission deadline.
- Applications must be submitted as PDF files by email to cathrin.pfaff@univie.ac.at (maximum total size: 25 MB). A short summary of the candidate's academic career and any other relevant material, either about the study or the candidate, is also welcome.

All applications must be received by 1 November 2026!