

ACARI IN A CHANGING WORLD: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 7TH SYMPOSIUM OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF ACAROLOGISTS, VIENNA, 2012

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PREFACE

Ever since founding of the EUROpean Association of ACarologists (EURAAC) in 1987, the EURAAC symposia have been among the prime scientific events for the presentation and communication of research on mites and ticks. The EURAAC symposia are the 2nd largest and 2nd longest-standing series of international scientific meetings dedicated to the Acari, with the series of the International Congress of Acarology (ICA) being number one. The contributions of this *Acarologia* volume represent the Proceedings of the 7th EURAAC Symposium, which took place from July 9 to 13, 2012 in Vienna, Austria. The 7th EURAAC Symposium was well attended by around 180 people from 43 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Americas, and featured 164 presentations (87 oral, 77 posters).

Internationality and openness to all scientific disciplines and fields, promoting multi- and trans-disciplinary thinking, are two of the main assets of the EURAAC symposia. Due to the enormous relevance of mites and ticks as life forms, acarol-

ogists are engaged in both fundamental and applied research in all kinds of disciplines, which was well reflected in the scientific sessions and subsymposia of the 7th EURAAC Symposium (Biodiversity, Conservation and Biogeography; Biological Control; Behavioral Ecology and Life History; Chemical Control and Resistance; Chemical Ecology; Evolutionary Biology and Phylogeny; Forensic Acarology; Genetics and Molecular Biology; Medical and Veterinary Acarology; Morphology, Histology and Anatomy; Physiology; Population and Community Ecology; Systematics and Taxonomy; *T. urticae* Genomics).

Over the years the number of full papers published in the EURAAC symposia proceedings has declined but there seems to be a global trend of scientific meetings not producing or ceasing to produce voluminous full article proceedings in printed books. A likely reason is that printed book or CD only proceedings are less widely distributed, more difficult to access and thus less often read and reflected by the scientific community than articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Therefore, I decided to publish the Proceedings

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of the 7th EURAAC Symposium in a widely distributed and easily accessible peer-reviewed journal. I was pleased that the editors of the oldest journal dedicated to the Acari, the open access *Acarologia*, with its chief editor Serge Kreiter, readily agreed to this idea. This mode of publication required that the contributions have not been published elsewhere, and included rigorous peer review and careful editing. Ten out of thirteen submitted manuscripts made it through the peer review process. Thanks to the reviewers Heinrich Schatz, Marie-Stéphane Tixier, Antonella di Palma, Eric Palevsky, Rostislav Zemek, Sauro Simoni, Andreas Walzer, Gerd Weigmann, Mark Maraun, Agustin Estrada-Peña, Antonio Sabatino, Vladimir Pešić, Peter Martin, Georgios Papadoulis, Tomasz

Marquardt, Wojciech Witaliński, Piotr Skubała, Louise Coetzee, Francisco Ferragut and Maurice W. Sabelis for evaluating the submitted manuscripts. The full articles of the proceedings together with the abstracts of the presentations given at the 7th EURAAC Symposium [openly accessible at (<http://euraac.boku.ac.at/SympVienna/program.php>)] provide a nice glimpse of the current state of research on the Acari. May these publications entice newcomers into choosing the Acari as objects of their scientific desires and stimulate future research on these marvelous animals.

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