

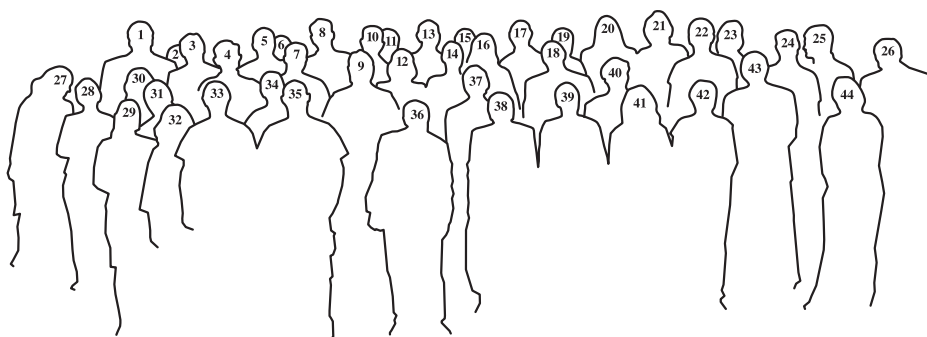
**7th Colloquium on Mites
(7. Milbenkundliches Kolloquium)**

This issue is dedicated to
Emer. Univ.-Prof. Dr Reinhart Schuster, Graz

A tribute to an outstanding acarologist on the occasion of his 80th birthday

Volume editor:
Axel Christian, Görlitz

Editor-in-Chief:
Willi Xylander



Participants of the 7th Colloquium on Mites (7. Milbenkundliches Kolloquium)

1 – M. Skorupski, 2 – A. Friederichs, 3 – D. Russell, 4 – R. Gerecke, 5 – A. Christian,
 6 – P. Bergmann, 7 – G. Raspotnig, 8 – M. Heethoff, 9 – R. Ehrnsberger, 10 – S. Wirth,
 11 – M. Laumann, 12 – L. M. Koller, 13 – G. Andre, 14 – E. McCullough, 15 – M. Więcek,
 16 – B. M. Fischer, 17 – K.-G. Kirstein, 18 – G. Alberti, 19 – C. Vajen, 20 – A. Bładowski,
 21 – J. Mourek, 22 – R. Deichsel, 23 – A. Wierzbicka, 24 – T. Pfungstl, 25 – P. Martin, 26 – J. Dabert,
 27 – M. Schmitz-Kössendrup, 28 – S. Furmaniak, 29 – E. Lewandowska, 30 – D. Brajewska,
 31 – A. Kazmierski, 32 – B. Sikora, 33 – U. Kurz, 34 – K.-H. Schmidt, 35 – S. Schmelzle,
 36 – C. Blaszkak, 37 – A. Shatrov, 38 – E. W. Kitajima, 39 – R. Lehmitz, 40 – G. Weigmann,
 41 – E. Plassnig, 42 – J. Jagersbacher-Baumann, 43 – R. Schuster, 44 – S. Schäffer

7th Colloquium on Mites
(7. Milbenkundliches Kolloquium)

from 16–20 September 2009

at the Collegium Biologicum of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland

During the 6th Colloquium on Mites that was held in Kiel, Czesław Błaszak invited the German-speaking acarologists to Poznań for the next colloquium. After previous colloquia in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, this was the first invitation to a neighbouring country where German is the native language of only a small minority. Since 1983, Professor Błaszak and Professor Dabert, as well as other staff members of the Chair of Animal Morphology at the Institute of Environmental Biology of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (UAM), have intensive contacts with acarologists of the Universities of Heidelberg, Vechta and Greifswald. They have cooperated in many projects and have taken part in all previous colloquia. Because of this longstanding, fruitful cooperation and existing cooperation agreements with German universities, the invitation to Poland was willingly accepted.

More than 50 acarologists from the following countries took part: Germany, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia and Brazil. Those who travelled the longest distance were Andrew B. Shatrov from the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg and Elliot W. Kitajima from the Departamento de Fitopatologia e Nematologia of the University of São Paulo in Piracicaba.

The colloquium was organised in a professional and excellent manner by Ms Bożena Sikora, the main organiser. In addition, she prepared the conference folders, arranged accommodation for the participants and organised the social programme. She was supported by her colleagues Jacek Dabert, Andrzej Kaźmierski, Jerzy Michalik, Anna Labrzycka, Eliza Lewandowska and Izabela Łaniecka. The sessions took place at the premises of the Collegium Biologicum which was opened five years ago on the UAM Campus in Morasko. With spacious, bright and friendly rooms, the Collegium Biologicum is perfectly suited to host conferences. Feedback from colloquium participants was positive and enthusiastic, reporting that they felt very comfortable. The museum of the Collegium Biologicum was also highly appreciated and admired. The very interesting tour of the Institute of Environmental Biology, guided by Director Prof. Dr Jacek Dabert, left the participants impressed by the high standard of research activities.

The colloquium took place under the auspices of the Rector of the Adam Mickiewicz University, Prof. Dr Bronisław Marciniak, and benefited from the financial support of Vice-Rector Prof. Dr Jacek Witkoś. The colloquium was also sponsored by the Voivodship Wielkopolski as well as by the companies Olympus Polska Sp.ZOO and Carl Zeiss Sp.ZOO. Thus it was possible to ensure that the colloquium was free of charge for the participants.

On the evening of the day of arrival (16 September 2009), the participants met at a

restaurant. The next day, the colloquium was officially opened by the Vice-Rector of the Adam Mickiewicz University, Prof. Dr Andrzej Lesicki (Animal Physiology). He gave insights into the historical background of the university and wished the participants a successful meeting. Prof. Dr Bogdan Jackowiak (Botanist), Dean of the Faculty of Biology, presented the development of Biology at the University in Poznań, mentioning the numerous cooperations and honours. Afterwards, Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Czesław Błaszak, for many years the director of the Chair of Animal Morphology, informed about the long and extensive history of Acarology in Poznań, which in its beginnings was greatly influenced by Prof. Dr Jan Rafalski. Professor Dr Reinhart Schuster from the University of Graz, the most senior member present, then chaired the colloquium.

Twenty-six scientific papers were presented during the conference. The papers were grouped into six thematic sessions that were chaired by the Chairmen Axel Christian from Görlitz, Rainer Ehrnsberger from Vechta, Peter Martin from Kiel, Günther Raspotnig from Graz and Gerd Weigmann from Berlin. The presentations were well attended and intensively discussed. Discussions were often continued in coffee breaks and evening events.

The social programme included a visit to the Botanical Garden (where also papers were presented) and to the beautiful historic centre of Poznań (including the cathedral). The very interesting guided tour provided insights into the city's history, culture and attractions.

In the poster session on Friday, eleven posters were presented by the authors and discussed with the colloquium participants. Then the most interesting poster was determined by vote, and that presented by Eliza Lewandowska was chosen.

On 19 September 2009, there was a bus tour. The participants were particularly interested in the Palm Garden in Poznań which is famous for its old trees and large plants. The highlight of the excursion was the visit to Wielkopolski National Park (Jeziory), including the Nature Science Museum and the Environment School. The day ended with a walk to the lake and a barbecue in the park. On this occasion, the participants expressed their thanks to the organisers for the very successful conference and emphasised how impressed they were by the generous hospitality. Afterwards, the arboretum and the water castle in Kórnik were visited and the tour guide explained the historical context. Back in Poznań, the participants had the opportunity to take a look at an impressive model of Poznań's historic centre.

At the invitation of Dr Heethoff and Dr Gerecke, the next Colloquium on Mites is planned to be held in Tübingen, Germany.

Vechta in January, 2010

Rainer Ehrnsberger

University of Vechta
Driverstr. 22
49377 Vechta
Germany