

Preface

The **10th Acarological Colloquium** (10. Milbenkundliches Kolloquium) took place at Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz from 17th to 19th September 2015. Previous colloquia were held in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and also in Poland. The colloquia were held between the years when the ‘International Congress of Acarology – ICA’ and the symposium of the ‘European Association of Acarologists – EURAAC’ took place. After 18 years when the first Acarological Colloquium was held in Görlitz, this meeting of German speaking acarologists had returned to its founding location and acarologists come together to discuss research results and new projects.

To the 10th Acarological Colloquium we hosted 40 participants from 6 countries: Germany, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Russia. All in all, the 22 oral presentations and 5 posters gave an overview on various aspects of ecology and behavior, biogeography, taxonomy and systematics, phylogeny, morphology, ultrastructure and parasitology of mites and ticks. Moreover, the data warehouse on soil animals ‘Edaphobase’ and the project ‘VIRMISCO’, an image database for organisms in permanent microscopic slide preparations, were presented.

The director of the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History, Prof. Dr. Willi Xylander, opened the meeting at the Humboldt-Hall of the Museum with a welcome address and gave an overview of the current scientific research at the institute. In a plenary lecture Axel Christian presented the development of acarology in Görlitz. This looks back on five decades successful acarological research. Already at the start of soil-zoological research at the Museum of Natural History in Görlitz by Wolfram Dunger (since 1959), the acarological topics were of relevance and the first mite collection was established in 1964. After merging the scattered arachnid collections of the museum, the section Arachnida was

founded in July 1990. Today the Acarology in Görlitz consists of the sections ‘Arachnida’, ‘Oribatida’ and ‘Mesofauna’. The acarology collections include more than 1,600 species in approximately 150,000 specimens, including type material of 165 species. The current acarological research fields include ecology, biogeography, taxonomy and parasitology.

Following a good tradition, the acarological colloquium was not only organized to present and listen to scientific lectures and posters, but also for general discussions and to bring acarologists together in an informal atmosphere. For that reason the evening activities and the excursion were a crucial part of the meeting. The participants visited the acarological collections of the museum and attended a wonderful guided tour through Görlitz. The dinners in the evenings were located in restaurants of the historical part of Görlitz. The meeting ended with an all-day bus excursion to the UNESCO Biosphere reserve ‘Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft’, a guided tour in the ‘Confiserie Felicitas’ and the social get-together with dinner at the ‘Erlichthof’ in Rietschen.

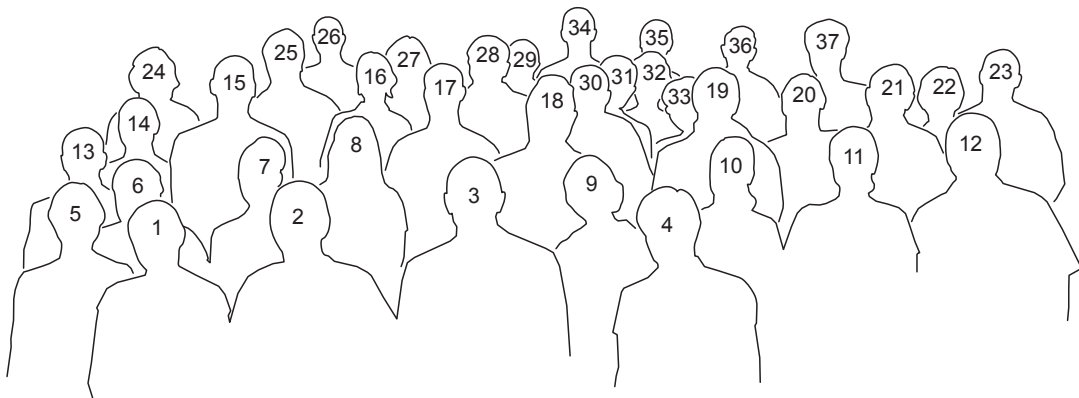
I want to thank especially Kerstin Franke for her support in organizing the meeting. Many colleagues have spent much of their time and helped in different ways. I would like to thank Ricarda Lehmitz, David Russell, Henriette Jechorek, Sebastian Moll, Diana Goernet, Eberhard Lehmann, Thomas Roch, Ekkehard Mättig, Jacqueline Gitschmann and Luise Träger.

For the 11th Colloquium on Acarology in 2017, Heinrich Schatz invited us to the Museum of Nature in Bozen/Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy.

Görlitz in November, 2016

Axel Christian
Senckenberg Museum für Naturkunde Görlitz

Participants of the 10th Colloquium on Acarology (Görlitz 2015)



1 – R. Lehmitz, 2 – G. Krisper, 3 – A. Christian, 4 – K. Franke, 5 – D. Goernert, 6 – H. Jechorek, 7 – P. Opalińska, 8 – S. Schäffer, 9 – S. Ehrnsberger, 10 – A. Lienhard, 11 – J. Jagersbacher-Baumann, 12 – E. Wurst, 13 – K.-H. Schmidt, 14 – P. Bergmann, 15 – J. Hense, 16 – A. Wierzbicka, 17 – T. Pfingstl, 18 – R. Ehrnsberger, 19 – D. Russell, 20 – M. Sebernegg, 21 – G. Alberti, 22 – I. Alberti, 23 – G. Raspotnig, 24 – J. Mourek, 25 – M. Skorupski, 26 – S. Schmelzle, 27 – V. Gergócz, 28 – M. Heethoff, 29 – E. Pastwik, 30 – C. Vajen, 31 – R. Gerecke, 32 – I. Schatz, 33 – A. Obiegala, 34 – A. Piasta, 35 – H. Schatz, 36 – R. Schuster, 37 – A. Brückner

